



The Courier

Our Vision: To become known as the Church where you experience Christ.

Cypress Lake
Presbyterian Church

January
2012



Spaghetti Dinner

Save The Date
for the Presbyterian Women's
Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner!

Friday, January 20th, 2012

Dine In 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Take Out - 5:30-6:30 pm

Come join us and bring your friends on Friday, January 20th for our spaghetti dinner. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10. Tickets will be on sale Sundays in the Narthex or during the week in the church office.

YOUTH CAR WASH



Thank you to everyone who helped at the Youth Car Wash on December 11th. We raised \$674 to help fund a trip to Busch Gardens in January.

Thank you for your support!



Linus Blanket Project "Make A Difference Day"



Saturday, January 29, 2012
9 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Fellowship Hall

All ladies are welcome to come and see all the beautiful blankets and quilts that will be given to the Children's Hospital and other organizations in Lee County. Coffee and cookies will be served. A representative, Carolyn Poole from the Children's Hospital will be there along with several other groups that receive Linus Blankets. We will have all the local Linus Blanket groups with over 500 blankets. It will be a "shower" of color and design. Come and enjoy our fellowship.

New Members

Please welcome our newest members!

Dinah Allison
47 Logo Court
Ft. Myers, FL 33912
239-288-6351
allison1now@gmail.com

Nancy Schiller
10600 Clear Lake Loop
Apt. 176
Ft. Myers, FL 33908
nerschillern@yahoo.com

Stacia Kiss
9380 Gladiolus Preserve Cir.
Ft. Myers, FL 33908
239-433-3553
macaalta4@rocketmail.com

Dottie Leupold
13383 Sylvan Ave.
Ft. Myers, FL 33919
239-433-4357

The Courier

Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church
8260 Cypress Lake Drive
Fort Myers, Florida 33919
Phone: (239) 481-3233
Fax: (239) 481-5198
E-mail: mail@clpc.us
Web site: www.clpc.us

Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Clinton C. Cottrell
clint@clpc.us

Pastor of Visitation Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Harold Simones

Director of Worship & Music

Rachel Carrier
rachel@clpc.us

Director of Praise

Stephen Gardner
steve@clpc.us

Christian Education Director

Ginny Canning
ginny@clpc.us

Office Manager

Karen May
karen@clpc.us

Director, Safe Haven Christian School

Julia Neal
julia@clpc.us

Sexton

Charles Barnhill

Staff Musician

Douglas Parker

Nursery Attendant

Lidia Lion

Clerk of Session

Bobbi Bancroft

Presbyterian Women Moderator

Doris King

Moderator of Deacons

Betty Ann Kelly

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00-3:00P.M.

Editor's Note: Some articles may be edited for space. Some are left intact by request of their authors.



Presbyterian Women

January 2012

1st		Happy New Year!
9th	9:30 am	Project Linus Blanket Work Day <i>(Library)</i>
	1:00 pm	Executive Board Mtg. <i>(Library) Report from Search Moderator & Committee</i>
10th	9:30 am	Martha Circle
	12:30 pm	Esther Circle <i>(Fellowship Hall)</i>
12th	7:00 pm	Eve Circle
15th		Blankets & Tools of Hope Sunday <i>Offering taken at 8:00, 9:00, & 11:00am Services</i>
20th	5:30 pm	Spaghetti/Meatball Dinner <i>(Fellowship Hall)</i>
28th	9:00-1 pm	Make A Difference Day (Linus Project)

CYPRESS LAKE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MISSIONS



One of our ongoing missions is Immokalee Friendship House. We collect all kinds of things for them. Hygiene items like travel size soaps and shampoos, toothpaste and toothbrushes, food-staples and canned baby food, paper towels and toilet tissues. We also collect clothes for men, women and children and single size bed sheets. The one thing we would ask of you is that everything is clean, repaired if necessary, and folded and put in a box rather than in a plastic bag. This way everything is kept nice and is easier for us to transport to Immokalee. All of your donations can be placed in or around the wicker basket in the Church Office. If you have any questions, please call Nan Read at 481-2955. There is also a list available of all the needs of our friends in Immokalee. If you would like one, please call Nan Read.



What is going to happen in 2012? Every year people try to make predictions of the future be it someone reading a horoscope or even a former president and his wife contacting Jeanne Dixon. People want to know the future and WOW is 2012 full of predictions!!! Consider:



The Mayan prophecy about the end of the world (I am not planning on running up a credit card bill just in case!!!)

Perhaps some Nostradamus followers claiming the end of the world.

A Presidential election that will determine a lot nationally...one person said President Obama will win by a landslide...another had predicted Herman Cain

(ouch, that one got cut short) and everything from Mitt Romney being the President to Ron Paul. I will go out on a limb...SOMEONE will be elected President next November!

The folks in the "Occupy" movement are making all kinds of predictions!

There are some REAL challenges that will need addressing.

The United States Post Office is experiencing the problems of a down economy combined with the near elimination of traditional mail! Will the post office really close so many facilities and offices and deliver only 5 days a week?

The national budget will sooner or later need to be REALLY addressed!

Yet, there are also some incredibly blessings that we look forward to:

Many of us will see ourselves, our children or grandchildren graduate from school or get married or give birth to a baby.

Some are looking forward to retirement (I look in our Presbytery and we expect that 16 of the 39 churches will be looking for a new pastor, many as a result of retirements).

At CLPC we are looking forward to an expansion of the fellowship hall and the formal home of South Fort Myers Food Pantry.

Some of us are most excited and are looking forward to a trip to the Holy Lands!

So, what WILL the future bring??? Really, truly, only God knows! Even Jesus acknowledged in Matthew 24:36 that neither the angels nor he himself knew the future, only God the Father. We plan, we devise, we organize, and all of that is so very much needed and appropriate, yet in the words of Robert Burns, "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men often go awry." So how are supposed to live into the future?

In his sermon on the mount in Matthew 6 Jesus said, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." In short, we are called each day to **first** seek to live the way God would have us to live...seeking God's kingdom and God's way of life. That way no matter what happens, our lives are in order and we will find that we can trust that God will provide no matter what!

Who is going to win the Presidency? I have no clue! What is going to happen with the stock market or property values or interest rates? Again, I have no clue! Will the "Occupy" movement transform Wall Street? Doubtfully but again, I have no clue! But of this we can be assured in 2012, that Jesus is Lord and in the words of Romans 8, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him." Have a wonderful new year's celebration and may you find yourselves filled with the presence of the Lord throughout 2012!

Blessings,

Pastor Clint

Life Line Screening's Mobile Health Testing Units Are Coming

Where: Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church

When: Thursday, January 12, 2012



Stroke and other serious problems can be avoided and treated before they become life threatening. That's what makes Life Line Screening such a valuable service. Over 5 million Americans have already taken advantage of these important screenings—and with good reason. 80% of strokes are preventable. –Source: *National Stroke Association 2007*

Cardiovascular disease is the #1 killer in the United States and a leading cause of permanent disability. The National Stroke Association states that your risk of stroke doubles each decade after age 55. Unfortunately, many significant vascular problems go undetected until it is too late. Now you have the opportunity to screen for potential strokes, aneurysms and heart disease before they become life-threatening.

Stroke/Carotid Artery Screening - Ultrasound evaluation of the carotid arteries that screens for buildup of fatty plaque – leading cause of strokes.

Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation) - Painless 6-lead EKG that can detect an irregular heart rhythm. Atrial fibrillation increases the risk of stroke 5 times.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening - Ultrasound is used to screen for the presence of an aneurysm in the abdominal aorta that could lead to a ruptured aortic artery.

Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening - Evaluates for peripheral arterial disease (plaque buildup) in the lower extremities. It is 4-5 times more likely you will die from heart disease if you have peripheral arterial disease.

Life Line Screening will complete all 4 vascular screenings for only \$139. Add an osteoporosis screening for only \$10 more. To compliment their ultrasound screenings, Life Line Screening now offers finger-stick blood tests for Cholesterol, Glucose, and Liver Enzymes.

You may think that your physician would order these screenings if they were necessary. However, insurance companies typically will not pay for screenings unless there are symptoms. Unfortunately 4 out of 5 people that suffer a stroke have no apparent symptoms or warnings signs. That is why having a Life Line Screening is so important to keep you and your loved ones healthy and independent.

Life Line Screening now offers *6 for Life*—a disease risk assessment that predicts your risk in the of developing 6 chronic conditions: heart disease, stroke, heart failure, type 2 diabetes and if a smoker... lung cancer and COPD. The test includes finger-stick blood work for complete lipid panel and glucose levels and simple biometric screenings. Add to any Vascular Screening Package for \$70.

Pre-registration is required. Space is Limited!

Schedule your appointment by calling 1-800-324-1851 or by visiting

www.lifelinescreening.com/cormmunity-partners Use Priority Code HSC3215



Presbyterian Women's Bakeless Bake Sale

Thank you to everyone for making the Bakeless Bake Sale a huge success!! The total donations received were \$850.00!!

Thank you for your support!

Tuesday
January 10th



**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**

7:00 am at Sunflower Cafe

Chancel Guild

January 2012 Schedule

- 6th** Audrey Wilson
Jean Shell
- 13th** Jackie Oestriech
Dorothy Troy
- 20th** Doris Houston
Rebecca Potts
- 27th** Irene Thiessen
Betty Schaarschuch

If you can't work your day, swap with someone or call me. Thanks for your continued help.

Irene Thiessen, Chancel Guild

COMMITMENT TO WORSHIP

Chair - Dee Jordan
Member - Brian Granstra
Member - Gavin Dougherty
Member - Bobbi Bancroft
Member - Marietta Meacham
Support Staff - Rachel Carrier



CHURCH & COMMUNITY

Chair - Tom Huntington
Member - Ken VanSwearingen
Member - Rob Coe
Support Staff - Julia Neal

DISCIPLEMAKING

Chair - Sarah Otenti
Member - Jaime Hill
Member - Karen Grabia
Support Staff - Ginny Canning

SUPPORT

Chair - Gordon Coffman
Member - Bob O'Neill
Property - Walt France, Rich Meacham
Treasurer - Rich Meacham (Interim)
Asst. Treasurer - Dolores Warren
Disaster, Preparedness - Sandy Wharton, Dolores Warren
Personnel - Sandy Wharton, Julie McFadden
Bldg. Chair - Rich Meacham, Gordon Coffman
Support Staff - Karen May

Ministry Teams meet the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Youth Center. All are welcome to attend these meetings.

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on January 10th at the home of Pat France. Our Bible Study will be Chapter 5 of our Beatitudes Lesson book. Please call Pat at 561-3085 for directions.



Elders

Bobbi Bancroft
Gavin Dougherty
Jaime Hill
Marietta Meacham
Dolores Warren
Sandy Wharton
Rob Coe
Gordon Coffman
Brian Granstra
Karen Grabia
Ken VanSwearingen
Dee Jordan
Sarah Otenti
Bob O'Neill
Tom Huntington

Deacons

Cathy Andersen
Barbara Pappalardo
Amy Cottrell
Eleanor Bartoe
Bari O'Neill
Hannah Cho
Audrey Coe
Betty Ann Kelly
Leslie McGargle
Lisa Kendall
Cheyenne Otto
Betty Schaarschuch
Skip Webster




Blood Drive Success!

On December 4th, the Florida Blood Centers mobile collection vehicle registered 16 donors and collected 14 units!

Every donation potentially saves up to 3 lives and stays in our greater Lee County community. Thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of this program.

The next blood drive will be February 5th, 2012!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 One Blended Service 10:00 a.m. No Kids Worship No Sunday School No Puppet Rehearsal	2 Happy New Year! Office Closed Food Pantry 11-1 & 6-8 pm	3 9:30 am Safe Haven Class 6 pm Piano Recital 7 pm Ministry Teams	4 9 am PIP 10:15 am Children's Chapel 7 pm Gloria Choir 7 pm Boy Scouts	5 6 pm Lutheran Services Class 7 pm Building Committee	6 3 pm Organist Practice	7 1-4 pm Organist Practice	
8 No Puppet Rehearsal	9 9:30 am Project Linus 12 pm Staff Mtg. 1 pm PW Exe. Bd. Food Pantry 11-1 & 6-8 pm	10 7 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Martha Circle 9:30 am Safe Haven Class 12:30 pm Esther Circle 6 pm Voices in Bronze 7 pm Condo. Assn. Mtg.	11 9 am PIP 10:15 am Children's Chapel 5:30 pm Youth Group 5:30 pm Angels Rock! 6 pm WW-Children's Program 7 pm Gloria Choir 7 pm Boy Scouts	12 8-5 pm Lifeline Screening 6 pm Lutheran Services Class 7 pm Eve Circle 7 pm Building Committee	13 7 am Real Estate Breakfast 3 pm Organist Practice	14 1-4 pm Organist Practice 5 pm Wedding-Renewal	
15 Blankets and Tools of Hope Sunday Courier Deadline	16 12 pm Staff Mtg. Youth Trip-Busch Gardens Food Pantry 11-1 & 6-8 pm	17 9:30 am Safe Haven Class 6 pm Voices in Bronze 7 pm Session Meeting	18 9 am PIP 10:15 am Children's Chapel 10:30 am Investment Comm. Luncheon 5:30 pm Youth Group 5:30 pm Angels Rock! 6 pm WW-Children's Program 7 pm Gloria Choir 7 pm Boy Scouts	19 12-5 pm Spaghetti Dinner Set-Up 5 pm Safe Haven Board Mtg. 7 pm Building Committee	20 Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 pm—8:00 pm 3 pm Organist Practice	21 1-4 pm Organist Practice	
22 2 Cents a Meal	23 12 pm Staff Mtg. Food Pantry 11-1 & 6-8 pm	24 9:30 am Safe Haven Class 6 pm Voices in Bronze	25 9 am PIP 10:15 am Children's Chapel 5:30 pm Youth Group 5:30 pm Angels Rock! 6 pm WW-Children's Program 7 pm Gloria Choir 7 pm Boy Scouts	26 7 pm Building Committee	27 7 am Real Estate Breakfast 3 pm Organist Practice	28 Project Linus Make A Difference Day 9 am - 1 pm 1-4 pm Organist Practice	
29 Five on the Fifth	30 12 pm Staff Mtg. Food Pantry 11-1 & 6-8 pm	31 9:30 am Safe Haven Class 6 pm Voices in Bronze 7 pm Food Pantry Mtg.					<u>Sunday Worship Schedule</u> 8:00 am Prayer Celebration 9:00 am Praise Celebration 9:15 am Kids Worship 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Celebration 12:45 pm Puppet Rehearsal



1st	Susan Lisich	17th	Kay Slusher
3rd	Chris Weber		Pamela Simones
4th	Connie Hope		Anne Burley
5th	Ethelyn Garrard	18th	Carolyn Hornung
	Jim Warren		Brett Pappalardo
6th	Walter Goff	19th	Betty Symes
7th	Richard Meacham	20th	Cammara McQuilkin
	Ann Sims		Matthew Weber
8th	Grace Pollock	23rd	Elizabeth Schaarschuch
	Sharon Werner	25th	Richard Florka
9th	John Nance		James Sharpe
	Sam McGargle	26th	Ashley Winstel
10th	Beverly McFedries		Nancy Rose Knoll
	Shelley Kenney	26th	Talia Vechazone
	Kaitey Allen	29th	Audrey Wilson
11th	Mildred Kling	31st	Mildred Poland
	Gene Witney		Elba Ocando
13th	Harold Gerhardt		
14th	Irene Thiessen		
	Carol Howe		



3rd	Don & Barbara Tschanen
8th	Robert & Eileen Coe
8th	Bob & Bari O'Neill
9th	Robert & Bonnie LeSage
13th	William & Barbara Bancroft
26th	Ron & Melissa Wisniewski
27th	Harold & Rachel Carrier
28th	Ray & Shelley Kenney



Many thanks to Pastor Clint & Amy, staff, members and friends of CLPC, Drama Troupe, Angels Rock (and their parents), Gloria Choir for your support, love, and constant prayers during the entire time of our untimely trip back to Ohio to have a service for our deceased son, Bryan. A chunk of our hearts is one with him, but his smile and willingness to help those who were hungry or need clothes was as huge as God himself. If you would like to help, please send money to the South Fort Myers Food Coalition in Bryan's memory.

Love to you all,

Harold, Rachel, Alan, and Jacqueline Carrier



Start up rehearsal times for the Music Dept. in January 2012 are as follows:

**Gloria Choir Wednesday rehearsal
January 4 7:00pm Sanctuary**

**Voices in Bronze Tuesday rehearsal
January 10 6:00pm Sanctuary**

**Angels Rock! Wednesday rehearsal
January 11 5:30pm Music Office**

Looking forward to our return from a much needed rest and as always, God and the church are always looking to have old and new members join any of these musical groups. Could this be the year that God is calling you to use your gifts in music? Will you answer His Call?

Contact: Rachel Carrier 239-481-3233 ext. 24

GIN... and other "spiritual" matters.

New Year, 2012, Resolutions!!! The first equals parties and football and food; the second means we have to concentrate when writing checks, memos, etc. lest we write 2011; the last means promises we make to ourselves to "better ourselves or our lives".

How many of you will make New Year's Resolutions? More to the point, how many of you will keep them...for a week, for a month, all year? I make them every year: I'm going to lose 25 lbs. by Easter, I'm going to ride my bike every day, I'm going to eat much healthier, I'm going to be more diligent about my daily devotions, I'm going to pray more earnestly, I'm going to be more pleasant more of the time and not gripe or grouse behind anyone's back, I'm going to have my Courier articles finished early so Karen can get the newsletter out at the appropriate time etc., etc., etc. Come on, now...fess up, does that sound like you?

The issue with resolutions, whenever we make them, is that we probably don't keep them for as long as we should. It takes determination and grit and just plain singlemindedness to really fulfill them. We have the best of intentions...to lose weight, stop smoking, spend more time outdoors, contact friends more often, be nicer to people even if they're not nice to us. These are all very good resolutions and more often than not made with sincerity and moral conviction.

The question becomes shouldn't we, as Christians, be doing these things all the time? We make promises to care for our bodies as holy temples (weight, health, smoking, drinking, sitting in front of the TV); living a Christ-like life (being more cheerful/pleasant, helping without being asked, helping when asked, listening more/advising less, just caring); keeping our spiritual lives "full" (devotions daily/maybe more than once, praying more, Christian reading material/movies, attending a Bible study or discussion). This is not to say we can't have fun. Jesus laughed and enjoyed people and ate heartily at weddings and dinners. I'm convinced he wants us to enjoy life. He wants us to be "Little Christs" and enjoy our world, Him, and His people forever.

Please have a great New Year's Day...eat, drink, and be merry...all the time remembering to whom we belong and that we are examples to all we meet that day and everyday. Ginny

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The ground breaking ceremony for the SWFM Food Pantry addition that was held recently was a success. The next step in the renovation plans will be the raising of the "Big Top" Tent, which will become a part of the Pantry's facility of operation during the construction period.



Because of the increasing number of clients, a proposal for a new computer software system (which is designed for Food Pantries) is being considered for future use. A workshop on the use of this new system will be given by the owner of the software.

A big thank you to Jim Wilson for once again making new plastic number cards. Also, thank you and Happy New Year to ALL the VOLUNTEERS, who devote so much time and effort to this successful and blessed operation.

Elly Bartoe, Deacon

**CYPRESS LAKE
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
ATTIC TREASURE SALE**



Start to clean out your closets and the garage for articles that we can sell. The trailer will be here on Wednesday, January 4th and it will be open each Saturday during January and February from 9 A.M. to noon and Sunday during church. We will collect household items, electrical appliances, toys (with all parts), baby items, furniture, jewelry, sporting goods, books, linens, baskets, dishes, and tools. All must be in working order and clean. Due to the reduced space that will be available, we will not accept any clothing or Christmas items. For large items, call Matilda Wilson at 489-3582 to arrange pickup on Saturday, February 25th ONLY.

**THE SALE WILL TAKE PLACE ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD FROM
7 A.M. TO 1 P.M.**

Several people have suggested that we take a cruise next year. In doing a lot of research, I have found a Holland America cruise for 11 days, starting on Monday, March 5, 2012 from Fort Lauderdale. Ship is the



Noordam which has a maximum of 1900 passengers, so it would be a medium size. Travel to St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Barbados, Martinique, Domica, St. Thomas, and Half Moon Cay in the Bahamas, and three days at sea.

Price for a veranda (Category VF) is \$2300.00, or an ocean view at \$1500.00 plus \$93.40 taxes, and \$140.00 insurance for each person. Affordable Tours offers a small discount. Please call Neil at 800-814-8381, extension 151. He will need you make a complete payment for the cruise.

The only additional cost will be the bus from Fort Myers to the ship, which runs \$75.00 each unless we get a bunch of people and it would drop, but I do not know how much. If you are interested call Neil (he works Thursday thru Monday) or maybe find a better deal some place else. If we get a good crowd, everyone will get a discount.

Best regards, Matilda & Jim Wilson



**BY A 15 yr. OLD SCHOOL KID
who got an A+ for this entry..
(TOTALLY AWESOME)!**

**Since the Pledge of Allegiance
And**

The Lord's Prayer

**Are not allowed in most
Public schools anymore**

Because the word 'God' is mentioned.....

A kid in Arizona wrote the attached

NEW School prayer:

"New Pledge of Allegiance"

~~~~~  
**Now I sit me down in school**

**Where praying is against the rule**

**For this great nation under God**

**Finds mention of Him very odd.**

**If scripture now the class recites,**

**It violates the Bill of Rights.**

**And anytime my head I bow**

**Becomes a Federal matter now.**

**Our hair can be purple, orange or green,**

**That's no offense; it's a freedom scene...**

**The law is specific, the law is precise.**

**Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.**

**For praying in a public hall**

**Might offend someone with no faith at all...**

**In silence alone we must meditate,**

**God's name is prohibited by the state.**

**We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,**

**And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks...**

**They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.**

**To quote the Good Book makes me liable.**

**We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,**

**And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.**

**It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,**

**We're taught that such 'judgments'**

**do not belong...**

**We can get our condoms and birth controls,**

**Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles**

**But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,**

**No word of God must reach this crowd.**

**Its scary here I must confess,**

**When chaos reigns the school's a mess.**

**So, Lord, this silent plea I make:**

**Should I be shot; my soul please take!**

**Amen**



## CEDARKIRK NEWS — Two incredible experiences at Cedarkirk.

1. A volunteer work retreat, "Labora". This event is to help us keep the facilities in good condition, while keeping our costs for guests as affordable as possible. Some of the service projects that you may help work on include clearing brush, roofing cabins, and freshening things up with a new coat of paint. There will be time to sit by a campfire, experience devotions, and fellowship with new friends. A great way to "give to God" without affecting your tight budget. RSVP @ [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org) or see Miss Ginny and she will register you. Registration is necessary so they know how much food to prepare, and, oh yes, so the staff are able to put your skills to their best use.
2. A "Mission: Encounter". This retreat is on Sun. and Mon., Martin L. King holiday, Jan. 15-16. The cost is \$60/person. This is for youth groups/or individual youth. Learn to do good... Seek justice...Help the oppressed...Defend the cause of orphans... Fight for the rights of widows. See what the Bible says about living a life of service to others. You can register @ [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org) or with Miss Ginny.



### Christian Education Current Events

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** — No SS on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> or Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>...one worship service at 10:00 AM both those Sundays. On Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> we begin again with SS at 10:10 am., after the Praise Service. We are still looking "eagerly"

for two/three teachers. We need one for the Pre-School class and one so we can split the Middle School and Sr. High class. A team for the older two classes would be great...for sanity sake, if nothing else. They are wonderful kids, but having a "team" for just trading off, subbing for each other, and...as stated before, sanity would be ideal. Please prayerfully consider these opportunities.

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS** — WW will start up again on Jan 11<sup>th</sup> with programs for the children/youth only. Angels Rock and the Youth Group begin at 5:30; Dinner for everyone at 6:00; Programs for elementary and youth continue at 6:30, ending at 7:30. The elementary children will be studying the Parables of Jesus. We have dinner for Jan. 11 (Cottrells) and Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> (Wilsons, Sr.) taken care of...but need help with the rest of the schedule. You can talk to Miss Ginny or simply sign up on the schedule on the bulletin board outside the CE office. Thank you!

### KEEP TUNED, INFO COMING LATER..

1. Dates for VBS: June 11-15,  
2012

2. Time and Dates for  
Confirmation Class



### The Holy Alphabet

A lthough things are not perfect  
B ecause of trial or pain  
C ontinue in thanksgiving  
D o not begin to blame  
E ven when the times are hard  
F ierce winds are bound to blow  
G od is forever able  
H old on to what you know  
I magine life without His love  
J oy would cease to be  
K eep thanking Him for all the things  
L ove imparts to thee  
M ove out of "Camp Complaining"  
N o weapon that is known  
O n earth can yield the power  
P raise can do alone  
Q uit looking at the future  
R edeem the time at hand  
S tart every day with worship  
T o "thank" is a command  
U ntil we see Him coming  
V ictorious in the sky  
W e'll run the race with gratitude  
X alting God most high  
Y es, there'll be good times and yes some  
will be bad, but...  
Z ion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

So when life throws you a curve remember that  
the shortest distance between a problem and a solution, is  
the distance between your knees and the floor.  
The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything!  
Amen.

***Little Boy's Explanation of God -- Fabulous!!!-***  
***Out of the mouths of the Babes--***  
***I certainly don't think an adult could explain this more beautifully!***

It was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista , CA . He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to 'explain God.' **I wonder if any of us could have done as well? (and he had such an assignment, in California , and someone published it, I guess miracles do happen!)**

**EXPLANATION OF GOD:**

'One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.'

'God's second most important job is listening to prayers An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime.. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'

'Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista .. At least there aren't any who come to our church.'

'Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.'

'His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.'

'You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.'

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

'If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

'But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in God.'