

1st Presbyterian Church of Greenfield, Indiana



December 2011

From the Pastor,

Black Friday!

Cyber Monday!

Welcome to Advent 2011!

Advent is no longer the property of Christians as we wait to celebrate the birth of the Christ child once again. Jesus' birthday, and the five weeks leading up to it, have become almost a feeding frenzy for retailers, both in storefronts and on-line.

Our culture has embraced the Advent season as its own. It starts on Black Friday, continues through Cyber Monday, and keeps on rolling along until the stores close on Christmas 'Eve (if they even do this year.)

Here are the "words of Advent" as our culture sees them:

Asking...here is my Christmas list

Wanting...I want item g1245 on page 62 of the Justice catalog.

Wishing...I wish I could get everything.

Expecting...I certainly expect the presents I have asked for..not just what you want to get me.

Anticipating...all those gifts under the tree on Christmas morning.

Spending...credit cards, debit cards, even loans to get what "they" want

Decorating...flashy. At night, blow-up Santa's that light up the neighborhood and droop to the ground in the morning.

Shopping...

pushing others away.

Using pepper spray.

Got to get it today!

So it won't get away!

Of course Christians also get involved in all of the above. Sometimes it is for us, sometimes for others, sometimes it is to charities like Mental Health or Westminster.

We also have words of Advent that we either add to the above or substitute for some of them. Here are some of the Christian words of advent:

Thanking...God for all God does, has done, and will do for us.

Praying...for ourselves and for others

Worshipping...getting together with other Christians to worship God.

Praising...God loudly and proudly.

Sharing...what God has given us with others.

Anticipating...the wonderful Christmas 'Eve service and the glorious hymns and carols that praise God and welcome Jesus into our world and our lives.

Giving...from the heart, freely.

Helping...others in need.

Waiting...for Christ's second coming

Watching...as we wait for Christ, wanting to be found blameless on that day when he arrives.

Confessing...our sins.

Accepting...God's forgiveness, and forgiving ourselves and our neighbors as well.

Hoping...with the hope that can only come from having God and Jesus in our hearts and knowing the promises are for us!

Anticipating...spending eternity with God and Jesus!

Remember, as you ask, and want and wish and expect and spend and decorate and shop, that there is much more to Advent than just what our culture values. There is the birth of Christ to anticipate and Christ's return as well.

With less than 4 weeks to go until the big day,
take some time every day to pray and thank God.

See you in church,

Pastor John

LETTER FROM THE ELDER OF THE MONTH – Katherine Harper

Dear Friends,

Below is a quote from a poem I found in
an Ideals book printed in 1951.

"December takes on festive airs,
Angels walking unawares,
In and out our common doors,
Christmas carols in the stores.
Bright-eyed children gaily clad,
Being, oh, so nice to dad.

Christmas concerts in the church,
Glowing logs of oak and birch
Burning in the polished grate;
Shiny apples on a plate,
Popcorn balls and taffy squares,
Loops of tinsel on the stairs."

Looking at the stanzas one by one, I can't
help thinking of how it really is in 2011.

I think we still have angels walking
unawares in and out our common doors.
After that the scene changes as follows. No
carols in the stores if they know what's good
for them.

Bright-eyed children clad in used coats
donated by these angels, hoping they will
see dad sometime this Christmas. There
are still Christmas concerts in the church.

As for what burns in the grate depends on
whether there is any assistance for utilities.

What appears on the plate also depends on
what the food pantry can offer.

There might be tinsel hanging on the stairs
that was purchased when their parents still

had jobs and were together.

I guess by now you get the picture, it just
AIN'T LIKE IT USED TO BE.

So when you feel you have been dunned
by every charity there is, remember to try
and give just a little bit more because –**You Still
Have Some Of What "It Used To Be" in 1951.**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Katherine Harper, For your session.

ATTENTION ALL SESSION MEMBERS

The December Session meeting is
Thursday, December 8 at 7 p.m.



Char's

The Christmas Season is once again rapidly
approaching. For us as Christians, it is again time to
celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the
Christ. I don't know about you, but music speaks to
me, not only in the words, but the music itself. As you
reflect and prepare your minds for the celebration of
this season, let the songs of Christmas and the
traditional "Christmas Carols" as we know them,
speak to your hearts.

On Sunday December 18th, please come and
worship with us as our choir retells the Christmas
Story in song entitled; I Heard The Bells –A Mini-
Musical for Christmas arranged by David Culross.

I would personally like to wish each and every one of
you a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year!

Name Those Christmas Carols!!!

1. Quadruped with crimson proboscis:

2. Eight P.M. to six A.M. without noise:

3. Minuscule hamlet in the near east:

4. Ancient benevolent despot:

5. Adorn the vestibule:

6. Exuberance directed to the planet:

7. Listen, aerial spirits announcing:

8. Trio of monarchs:

9. Yonder in the hay rack:

10. Cherubim audited from aloft:

11. Assemble, everyone who believes:

12. Hallowed post meridian:

13. Fantasia of a colorless December 25:

14. Tin tinniculations:

15. A dozen twenty-four hour yule periods:

16. Befall during the transparent bewitching hour:

17. Homo sapien of crystallized vapor:

18. Desire a pair of incisors on December 25:

19. I spied on my maternal parent osculating:

20. Perambulating through a December solstice
fantasy: _____

(Please bring this sheet with you to church on Sunday,
December 18th as answers will be revealed)

Results: 15-20 correct; don't need any yuletide spirits!
10-14 correct; you could use something in your
stocking!
5-9 correct; are you sure you have the right holiday?
1-4 correct; surely you a jest!!!!!!

Char 

GREETERS FOR December – Roby and Susan Hott

Elder on Call for December
Jill Lyon - 894-1648

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING

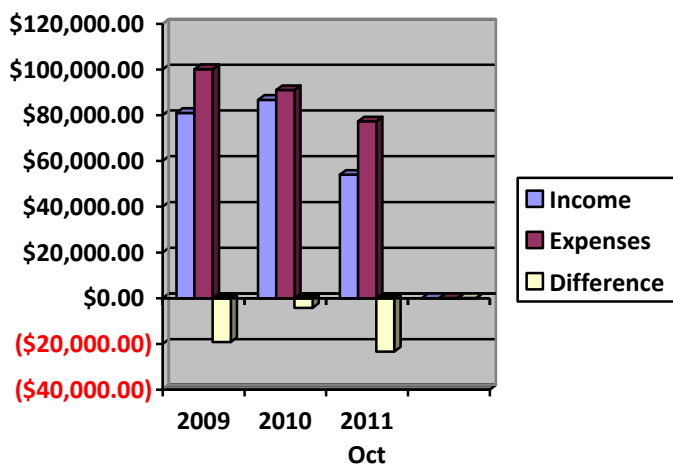
	Attendance	Offering
Oct 30	Attendance 41	Offering \$ 555.00
Nov 6	Attendance 46	Offering \$ 2053.53
Nov 13	Attendance 36	Offering \$ 1387.75
Nov 20	Attendance 50	Offering \$ 1324.00
Nov 27	Attendance	Offering \$

Total offering \$ 5320.28

**In order to meet our budget, our monthly
offering needs to be a bit over \$ 7,500.**

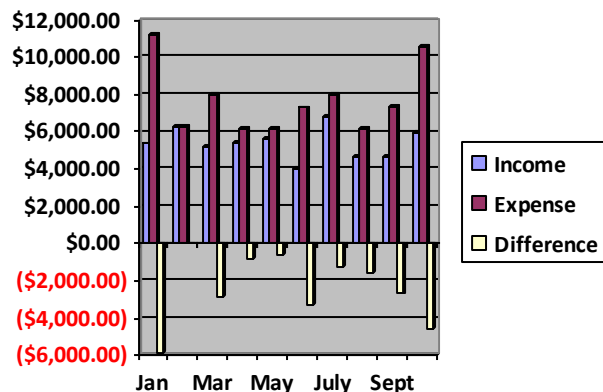
FINANCIAL NEWS

The first chart is the totals for 2009, 2010 and as
of the end of 2011 October.



As of the end of October 2011 our income is \$53,970.25 and our expenses are \$77,305.17 for a deficit of \$23,334.92.

The second chart shows monthly income and expenses and has the same color code.



STEWARDSHIP - 2012 Pledging

Our 2012 stewardship drive is behind when compared to previous years. We currently have 21 pledges for a total of \$55,700, compared to 26 in 2011 for a total of \$61,420, and 33 in 2010 for a total of \$74,200. For the past few years, the expenses for running the church have been about \$93,000.

If you have not returned your pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so as soon as possible.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

December Birthdays

12/08 Dave Huffman
 12/17 Susan Terheide
 12/19 Melva Smith
 12/25 Karen Huffman
 12/29 Susan Hott
 12/30 Dennis Cozatt

December Anniversaries

12/12 Roby and Susan Hott
 12/21 Kim and Jean Garvey
 12/21 Larry and Susie Circle
 12/23 John and Patricia Paulson

MENS' BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast will be held on December 3rd at 8am. Kim Garvey will be providing food and Richard Terheide has devotions. All men are welcome.

Youth Group News

Our youth group will meet on Wednesdays the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th as we continue our look through the Bible.

We have started a new series looking at the Bible through some different eyes. Each week our study begins with an artist drawing the complete story....in about a minute and a half. Fast paced, this study brings the Bible to life. Literally. Part of each week involves the kids acting out the story and really getting involved in what the Biblical characters were involved in.

We will also do something special during Christmas break. Maybe Ice Skating or Incredible Pizza, or ????. We'll let the kids decide.

See you in Youth Group

Pastor John



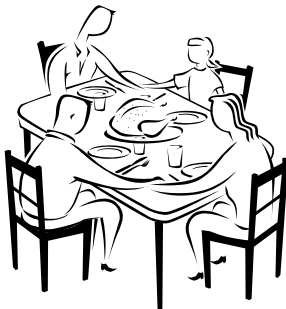
Breakfast With Santa

December 10th at 9 a.m. Santa will arrive in the church basement.

After breakfast, we will have some Christmas crafts, lots of singing and fun, and a chance for everyone to have a visit with Santa.

Bring your children, grandchildren and your neighbor's children for a special time at First Presbyterian.

CHRISTMAS DINNER



December 18 after worship service. Come one, come all and enjoy a delicious dinner. Nothing to bring but a gift for the church. This could be paper towels, toilet rolls, windex, dish soap - I think you get the idea. Hope to see you there for good fellowship and a good meal. Please bring a guest to share this time with us.

WOMENS MEETING

December 17 9:00 a.m.

It would be grand if all the women in the congregation and their friends could attend this meeting. There will be a breakfast with a holiday flair. Please bring a friend and be prepared to share a nice Christmas memory. It will be a time to reflect on all the good things God has given us through the years. See you there.

Worship Notes

Paul Enyart, assistant Chaplain at Hancock Regional Hospital, will preach on Sunday, December 4th

We will celebrate Holy Communion on December 11th as we light the third Advent candle.

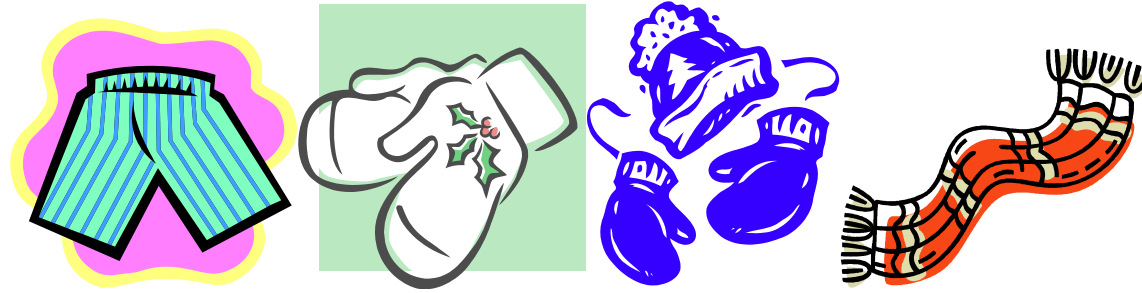
On December 18th,
We will have a Christmas Dinner right after church

Our Christmas 'Eve service of lessons and carols will be on December 24th at 7 p.m.

On Christmas morning,
December 25th
we will welcome Jesus into our world once again with a traditional worship service filled with scriptures and carols.

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 8am Men's Breakfast Food – Kim G Devotions – Richard T
4 9:15 Adult S.S. 10:30 Worship	5 4–9pm Tri Kappa	6 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30-7pm GS Mtg	7 5:30pm Bible Study 5 pm Youth Group 7 pm Choir Practice	8 Session Meeting 7 PM	9	10 9am – 10:30am Breakfast with Santa 12-4pm Private Party
Communion 11 9:15 Adult S.S. 10:30 Worship	12 5:30 – 8:00pm GS prep and meeting	13 9:30 a.m. Bible Study	14 CHILI DAY! 5 pm Youth Group 5:30pm Bible Study 7 pm Choir Practice	15	16	17 9 am Women's Group
18 Choir special – I heard the bells 9:15 Adult S.S. 10:30 Worship Christmas Dinner	19 4-9 pm Tri Kappa	20 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30-7pm GS Mtg 7:15-9pm GS Adult Service Team	21 5 pm Youth Group 5:30pm Bible Study 7 pm Choir Practice	22	23	24  Christmas Eve Service 7pm
25  Happy Birthday, Jesus 9:15 Adult S.S. 10:30 Worship	26	27	28 5 pm Youth Group 5:30pm Bible Study	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Welcome 2012



WESTMINSTER GIFT BASKETS

Starting January 2012

*BOX WILL BE LOCATED IN THE SELMAN ROOM YEAR
ROUND!*

*THIS WILL GIVE EVERYONE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE
WHENEVER IT IS CONVENIENT!!!*

