

# SignPosts

December 2012

Volume 1 Issue 11

**SignPosts Editorial Team:**

**Pastor Greg: Cheer Leader**

**Beth Nutter: Grammar/Punctuation Queen**

**Cindy Meyer: Computer Geek**

## From The Pastor's Study

Whatever else you do between now and December 26<sup>th</sup>, make sure you sing. On the night Jesus was born, Luke tells us that one angel showed up and began to explain to some shepherds what had just happened. Prose couldn't contain the message, and the one angel was suddenly surrounded by thousands of others. It was as if heaven broke open with joy, and the only way the angels could communicate the miracle of Love taking on human form was to sing with celestial voices that echoed through the entire creation.

Singing is a spiritual activity, especially with Christmas Carols. When we sing the old carols, we are repeating words and notes that have been sung for hundreds of years by those who passed the faith on to us. We sing and we connect with heaven in a powerful way, where music is constantly before the throne of God. So, sing with the congregation. Sing by yourself in the car. Sing with people who love you. Sing the hope of the season:

*Joy to the world, the Lord has come!*

*O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel*

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining.*

*Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!*

*The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

Now, I know some of you are thinking, "I can't sing." Well, find a place where it is just you and sing to the One who created you with that unique voice. Sing to the Lord who loves to hear the redeemed rejoice. Who cares what another human thinks! Let your Advent offering be that moment of joining in with what the angels began so long ago. And sometimes when you stop singing, if you listen really closely, you can hear an echo of that glorious angel chorus, still singing after all these years.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

May your Advent be full of promise and hope.

On the journey together,

Greg



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## Thinking Theology: What Those Words Mean

**Alpha and Omega:** The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They are used in the Bible as a symbol of God's eternal nature.

**Altar:** In the Old Testament, a place (usually raised) where sacrifices were offered. In churches, the altar is usually a table at the front of the sanctuary where the bread and cup are served for communion.

**Altruism:** In Christianity, a commitment to serve others in the name of Christ.

*Got a term you hear in church but wonder what it really means? Send Pastor Greg a note and he will feature it in an upcoming Thinking Theology.*

## Newsworthy

### Mark Your Calendar!

#### Journey Through The Gospels

The four Gospels are the foundational documents of our faith. During 2012 we are reading through the Gospels together, and during the month of December we will be reading John 15-21. Take a few minutes and read with us, and join us at 7:00 pm on December 20 for our group discussion. Please note that this is on the third Thursday due to the Christmas holiday.

## Results from the Quarterly Business Meeting

Dr. Randall was approved as a messenger to the 2012 BGAV meeting. The job description for the new Minister of Students was approved and the church directed the MRC to form a search committee to fill the position. The MRC's recommendations for the 2013 church committees were approved. The 2013 budget was approved.

## Shoe Box Drive

The Mission Sparks are collecting items for our shoebox drive. We will again give shoeboxes to children in need at Clarksville Elementary to make their Christmas a little brighter. Questions? See Alyson Elliott, Kathy Barretta, Stephanie Gordon, or Sheila Shanklin.

## Christmas Eve Service

Many folks say that the Christmas Eve service is their favorite service of the year. Join us in the sanctuary at 10:30 pm for a brief service of candlelight and communion. Feel free to dress casually and invite a friend for this wonderful time of hope and peace.

## Christmas Cantata December 23

Our choir will be presenting "A Celebration of Carols" during our 11 am service on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. This beautiful cantata combines the traditional Christmas readings with familiar carols and new songs. We will not have ARISE service that morning, so join us for a time of celebration in the sanctuary beginning at 11 am.



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## Dude, You Hear What I Hear?

What if everything you knew about Christmas was learned in a department store? Come and join us on Wednesday night December 12<sup>th</sup> as we take a fun look into a department store after it closes and the mannequins try to understand the real meaning of Christmas. We will have our traditional Christmas dinner at 6:00 pm and the presentation will begin at 7:00 pm.

## Advent Is Coming!

Take a moment and note our celebrations of Advent below. As always, we are working and planning a great time of worship and celebration together and we hope you will join us and invite your friends.

## Arise Praise Band

The Arise Praise Band is on Facebook and Twitter! Be sure to like/follow us to stay up-to-date with the latest in news, events, photos, and much more from not only the band but also from Clarksville Baptist Church. Visit us online at <http://www.facebook.com/arisepraiseband> or <http://www.twitter.com/arisepraiseband>.

## Coming Up At CBC:

- December 2: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Children's Choir at 11 am
- December 9: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Pre-School Children Sing
- December 12: Presentation of "Dude, You Hear What I Hear?" Last Wednesday Night dinner of the year.
- December 16: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Service of Remembrance

December 23: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. Christmas Cantata at 11 am, no ARISE service.

December 24: Christmas Eve Service

December 25: Christmas Day

December 30: Gideon Speaker at both services

## Did You Know?

We fed 1515 people at our Community Thanksgiving Dinner?

Our Advent theme is based on the song "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

That our new church van seats 12 people comfortably and you can stand up in it?

Our congregation led the Concord Baptist Association in giving to the Lottie Moon offering last year?

That Dr. Randall was the featured preacher at the fall CBA meeting?

The youth and children have formed a new band called V.O.W (Voices Of Worship)?

That the sanctuary is absolutely beautiful during Advent and Christmas?

That 2012 has been a great year for CBC?



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## Laughter is Good for the Soul

Submitted by Betty Rodenhizer

Charlie was in front of Fred coming out of church one day. The preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed Charlie by the hand and pulled him aside. The Pastor said to him..."You need to join the Army of the Lord".

Charlie replied..."I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor". The preacher said..."how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" Good 'ole Charlie replied with a whisper..."I'm in the Secret Service".

## Conversations With My Father

Submitted by Cindy Meyer

I lie here in the darkness listening to the rhythm of my life beat in my head. In the silence I wonder how you could love me, Father. The question lingers and awakens me making it impossible to fall back asleep. I know it was You who stirred me, yet I resist and toss and turn pleading for rest. Oh, but you are a mighty God and will have Your word with me. So, with a sigh of surrender I leave the comfort and warmth of my bed and enter another room of the house to listen. It wasn't necessary to turn the lights on. My path was lit and while I told myself it was because of the full moon, I knew the moon was overhead and not shining in the windows. I went outside to confirm the position of the moon and the angle to the windows. Oddly, I felt as warm staring up at the night sky as I had moments ago beneath my blankets. Your light cast a

glow and warmth that surpassed my ability to logically explain away so I retreated indoors and awaited the answer to "how could You love me". A few short moments passed and I understood there was no question after all. It's not about how or why You love me or any of us. It's that You love us in spite of ourselves. Yours is an enduring love to be embraced with joy. Happy that I had caught on so quickly, I stood with plans of returning to bed. But, no sooner had my feet hit the floor, You told me I missed the point. How wonderful it is that You are a patient God. But, really, Father I couldn't help but wonder why this could not have waited until morning. Immediately, I knew you were displeased. You were there, listening to my selfish thoughts of returning to bed and I was ashamed. How easy it is to forget that You see everything, that You hear everything. Every action we take as well as every good action we fail to take, every word we speak as well as every unspoken word is known by You. We can fool others by our actions and spoken words, but we can't fool You, Father. Oh no, we sure can't fool you. You chose to wake me because You know me well and knew You would have my undivided attention and not be distracted by daytime commotions. Just You and I and I finally got the point. I felt you smile as I began to acknowledge my unspoken words of yesterday; the ungrateful thoughts, selfish thoughts, critical thoughts.....unloving thoughts. And my actions; not the ones I did but the ones I should have done. And when I confessed the last transgression, You underscored the night's lesson by telling me that I could not fix something if I did not take the time to learn it was broken. The act of admission left me feeling all the more grateful for Your enduring love, Father and I wandered off to bed. Sleep found me quickly and I know that was your gift to a selfish child who had pleaded for rest.



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## The Work of Christmas

Submitted by Evelyn Allen

**When the song of the angel is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their  
flock,**

**The work of Christmas begins:**

**To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.**

**Howard Thurman**

## Recipe Box

Submitted by Evelyn Allen

### CHOCOLATE PIE

**4 tablespoons cocoa  
5 tablespoons flour  
1 cup sugar  
1 can (12 ounces) evaporated milk  
1 cup water  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
3 egg yolks (use whites for meringue)  
1 tablespoon butter  
Dash salt  
Baked pie shell**

**Mix all ingredients and cook in a double boiler until thick. Pour into baked pie shell, cover with meringue, and bake at 350 degrees until lightly brown – 13 to 15 minutes.**



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Note* Every Sunday</b>            9:00 <b>ARISE</b>            9:45 Sunday School            11:00 Worship</p>			<p><b>Note* Every Wed</b>            6:30 Mission Sparks            6:30 Mission Friends            6:30 Adult Bible Study</p>			1
<p>2            8:00 Brotherhood Breakfast</p>	<p>3            5:45 Children's Committee Meeting             7:00 Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>4            6:30 Youth Committee Meeting</p>	<p>5            12PM Advent Lunch at House of Prayer</p>	6	<p>7 Pearl Harbor Day</p> 	8
<p>9 Hanukkah            11:00 Children Sing             Christmas Party</p>	<p>10            6:00 Rosa Liipfert Circle Party</p>	<p>11            6:30 WHM Meeting</p>	<p>12            12PM Advent Lunch at CBC             7:00 Christmas Play             LAST WND for 2012</p>	13	14	15
16	17	<p>18            12PM Prime Time Luncheon             Nancy Rice Birthday</p>	<p>19            12PM Advent Lunch at St Matthews</p>	20	<p>21 Winter Begins</p> 	22
23	<p>24 Christmas Eve            Margie's Birthday</p> 	<p>25 Christmas</p> 	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29
30	<p>31 New Years Eve</p> 					



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