

SignPosts

November 2012

Volume 1 Issue 10

SignPosts Editorial Team:

Pastor Greg: Cheer Leader

Beth Nutter: Grammar/Punctuation Queen

Cindy Meyer: Computer Geek

From The Pastor's Study

October, November and December are my three favorite months of the year. The changing of the leaves, the cool weather, and the excitement of Advent and Christmas combine to create a lot of excitement and joy. It can also be a time when folks experience a lot of stress, especially between Thanksgiving and December 31.

As you journey toward the end of 2012, here are two suggestions that can help you experience the presence of Christ along the way.

Be Intentionally Thankful

Every year in the evening on Thanksgiving day, I take time to list everything I am thankful for. I write them down as they come to mind, and offer a prayer of thanks to God for each one. While most folks will offer a prayer of thanks right before the turkey dinner, taking time to write or speak or create some type of art for things that you are thankful for adds a deeper meaning to the day, and can help you remember that all good gifts are from the Father above.

Find A Spiritual Routine for Advent

Advent is always busy. Shopping, parties, family traditions and school events all add up to a full to-do list before December 1 arrives. Fortunately, there are lots of resources that can help you reflect on the meaning of Christ's birth and His

presence in our world. Take a few moments in November and decide what you will do for your soul this Advent season. There are lots of good devotional books for Advent ("Watch For The Light" is the one I read every year) that offer a brief reading for each day of Advent. Reading and reflecting on Matthew and Luke's account of the birth of Jesus is also a great way to focus on the spiritual meaning of the season. Other folks read or sing a Christmas or Advent carol each day, create a piece of art for the season, have an Advent wreath at home, or do an act of service each week for others. It doesn't have to take a lot of time, but reflecting on the spiritual truths of Advent will make the season more meaningful.

And one more idea: Make sure you jump in a big pile of leaves, ideally with a bunch of kids. That really gets rid of stress and encourages a lot of laughter. Can't find a kid? Give me a call and I'll find one and join you.

On the journey together,

Greg

Ministry & Mission

Deacon Election

The election for new deacons will be on Sunday, November 18 following both worship services.



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Being Baptist: Traditions and Doctrines of The Baptist Faith

Hymn Singing

Singing has not always been a part of Baptist worship. Some early Baptists forbade singing in worship because they felt it was frivolous or distracted from the preaching of the Word. As Baptists expanded west and the revival movement became an important part of Baptist life, the songs of the revivals found their way into Baptist churches. Today most Baptist churches incorporate some type of music in their worship, and hymns remain the most popular form of singing in our churches.

Thinking Theology: What Those Words Mean

Agapha: Term used for the words and sayings of Jesus not contained in the Bible. This can refer to collections of sayings attributed to Jesus but not included in the Bible or to the words of Jesus that were not recorded anywhere.

Alienation: The idea that each individual is separated from God and that only God can bring humanity back into right relationship with God.

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 November we will be reading John 8-14. Take a few minutes and read with us, and join us at 7:00 pm on November 15th for our group discussion. Please note that this is on the third Thursday due to Thanksgiving.

Quarterly Business Meeting On November 11

Our Quarterly Business Meeting will be held on November 11 at 7:00 pm. If you or a committee you serve will be bringing a motion, we ask that you send it to the church office so we can publish it before the meeting. Any items of business can come to the floor without prior notice, but we appreciate your help in keeping the congregation informed.

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.

Missions With Josh Hearne in Danville

Our missions committee is planning a missions event with Josh Hearne in Danville. Final details were not available in time for this edition of SignPosts, but be watching and listening for details.



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Day of Prayer November 19

Join us as we pray for one another! Starting November 4, please sign up for a 30 minute time slot on November 19 to pray. We are asking each church member to take 30 minutes and using your new church directory, pray for each member of CBC. Help us fill the day with prayer

Celebrating Thanksgiving

We have two opportunities to give thanks this year. On Monday November 19th we will have a community thanksgiving worship service at Jamieson UMC starting at 7:00 pm. On Wednesday November 21st we will have our annual community thanksgiving dinner at the community center. Come and join us as we give thanks to God and serve others in Christ's name.

Astronauts and Aliens November 30

You don't want to miss this! Children and youth of all ages are invited to join us at the church at 9:00 pm on November 30 for a game of skill, strategy, and lots of fun. Wear running shoes and dress for the weather. We'll have pizza and sodas, so invite a friend and come join the fun.

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 12th 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.

Sending Blessings From My Path To Yours!

Submitted by: Suzi Moore

Yes, I am quite blessed! Surely we all wear different hats or shoes as we journey along our paths in life, and some of us also answer to different names or titles at different stations along those paths. Such is the case with me. All of my Clarksville friends know me as Suzi Moore, wife of Handy. And I will tell you that **Suzi Moore is quite blessed.**

Shortly after moving to Clarksville, I was invited to Clarksville Baptist Church (CBC) by three wonderful families: the Burnett's, the Tucker's, & the Meyer's. It did not take me long to realize that CBC would become my "home church". For that, **I am quite blessed.**

Many of you may not be aware that cancer took the life of my previous husband, Bruce. I must admit that since Bruce's death, there have been moments (which have led to days and nights and weeks and months and years) when I have wondered if I would ever function beyond the horrendous grief that I bore after watching him suffer and fight for his life on earth to continue. I truly thought I had lost my zest for life and it certainly did not take my health long to fall to a critical state, leading to my early retirement from teaching. Throughout my agonizing



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grief-stricken state, I always knew that I was still being rocked in the arms of God. I always knew that I was still quite blessed.

Our Heavenly Father has truly breathed a new life into me here at Clarksville Baptist Church. And with that new life, has come the realization that although Bruce's life here on earth has finished, my life continues. I am walking upon the path that God chose for me. Once again, I have enthusiastically answered His call to teach little ones the joys found in reading and writing. How blessed I am.

In April of this year, shortly after joining CBC, I learned that our Deacon Ministry is focused in five areas: Hospital/Shut-in Visitation, Nursing Home Visitation, New/Inactive Members, Prayer, and Grief/Comfort Ministry. I felt a distinct call to join the CBC Grief/Comfort Ministry Team. Deacon leadership for this team is from Mona Moody and Larry Lenhart. The main focus is upon providing comfort and assistance to our church families during times of emotional stress due to the loss of a loved one, long term or critical illness, and uncertain family situations. This team also maintains close contact with Pastor Greg to assist in providing care to our church families during times of personal crises. Being a part of this ministry has been a true blessing to me.

As I prepared for the recent quarterly meeting of our CBC Grief/Comfort Ministry Team, I realized that I had undoubtedly reached a new vantage point along my life's path. I had three questions for God: *How was it that my personal grief was no longer immobilizing me? *Why did I have such a calling to minister to those whose paths had been blocked by the crashing blow of grief? *Was I truly healing?

I felt guided by the Holy Spirit to ponder over some specific scriptures in my quest for specific answers. Initially, I read MATTHEW 5:4: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Throughout my life, when I had turned to the "beatitudes" & read, I had assumed that Jesus meant that those who mourn would be comforted in heaven. Reading God's word last week, I realized that my first question had been answered long ago. Although I had not yet entered Heaven's gates, I had indeed been blessed with His comfort, which terminated my immobilization.

I enjoy welcoming each day with the reading of a devotional by Sarah Young entitled Jesus Calling. Sarah wrote daily entries by translating selected scriptures into first person; each entry is read as though Jesus is speaking directly to the reader. As I read the entry for October 16th, which is based upon 2 CORINTHIANS 1: 3-4 and PSALM 34: 4-6, I found the answers to my second and third questions. "When you need comfort, I love to enfold you in My arms. I enable you not only to feel comforted but also to be a channel through whom I comfort others. Thus you are doubly blessed, because a living channel absorbs some of whatever flows through it." Yes, indeed, I have been doubly blessed.

Should you be led to become a part of this Grief-Comfort Ministry Team or either of the Diaconate Ministry Teams, please contact our church office or either of the diaconate leaders. Whatever path upon which you may be called to travel, may God bless you and rain His soothing balm upon your soul. And may you know that I welcome you to join in with me (from my path to yours) saying, "Thank you, Heavenly Father! I am truly blessed".



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Coming Up At CBC:

- ❖ **November 1: MCC Meeting**
- ❖ **November 4: DST Ends (Fall Back!), Brotherhood Breakfast**
- ❖ **November 8: CBA Fall Meeting**
- ❖ **November 11: Pre-School Children sing at 11 am, Business Meeting at 7 pm.**
- ❖ **November 13-14: BGAV Meeting Roanoke, VA**
- ❖ **November 15: Gospel Study, John 8-14**
- ❖ **November 19: Day of Prayer, Community Thanksgiving Service at Jamieson UMC**
- ❖ **November 21: Community Thanksgiving Dinner**
- ❖ **November 22: Thanksgiving**
- ❖ **November 25: Christ The King Sunday**
- ❖ **November 30: Astronauts vs. Aliens at 9:00 pm**
- ❖ **December 2: 1st Sunday of Advent**
- ❖ **December 9: 2nd 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: 3rd Sunday of Advent, Service of Remembrance**
- ❖ **December 23: 4th 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?

- **The ARISE band was the featured band at a youth event in South Hill?**
- **We raised \$1200.00 for feed the need from "Eats and Treats?"**
- **We had 44 people for our youth nerf tag game on October 26?**



- **Our missions team, grief team and several other teams gained new members through our ministry fair?**
- **You can still sign up to read or be a lunch buddy at CES?**
- **That our Advent theme this year is, "Do You Hear What I Hear?"**
- **We have over 30 people working together on our children and youth musical?**
- **That Dr. Randall is the featured preacher for the Concord Association Fall Meeting?**
- **That if you seek God, you will find God?**



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Laughter is Good for the Soul

Submitted by Betty Rodenhizer

HUMOR FROM WINSTON CHURCHILL....

Winston Churchill vs a member of Parliament.

Member: "Mr. Churchill, must you fall asleep while I am speaking?"

Winston Churchill: "No, its purely voluntary"

Winston Churchill vs Lady Astor.

Lady Astor: "Winston, if you were my husband, I'd put poison in your coffee".

Winston Churchill: "If you were my wife, I'd drink it"

Conversations With My Father

Submitted by Cindy Meyer

Okay, Father, it's time for a serious discussion about the Tooth Fairy, Santa Clause and the Disciples. About your disciples, Father; I know you heard me all those countless times I read the Gospel and was convinced those guys had to be dumber than dirt. I mean, just how many miracles did they have to witness before they questioned you no more. How many times have I smugly thought that, had I been there, had I been in your presence, I would have immediately seen You for who You are and believed. After all, with all the advances since their time, I am certainly smarter than they. So, about that Tooth Fairy; how many years was I convinced that little Fairy flew the globe delivering coins for teeth. Just what the heck did that Fairy want with all those teeth anyway? How smart was that, Father? Yet I believed and taught my

own child the truth of the Tooth Fairy. I smiled and laughed each time his face burst with joy after a visit from the busy little Fairy. And Santa Clause; an even more incredulous legend of a portly man clothed in a red suit steering a sleigh led by flying reindeer of all creatures, happily sliding down filthy chimneys to deliver toys. And this he did in a single night for every single child (of all ages!) in the world. Oh, but I believed, Father. For years I believed and my child believed. Again, I smiled and laughed each time my child's face burst with joy at finding that very special gift left by Santa Clause. Dumber than dirt, Father. I believed in the Tooth Fairy and Santa Clause and could not, did not believe in that hand that held mine when I needed strength. I could not, did not believe in the arms that held me and shielded me from pain and hurt. And then it came to be in a magnificent surge of truth, knowledge so firm, so deeply embedded in my soul that it WAS Your hand that had held mine and it WAS Your arms that had shielded me. You had been with me all that time, helping me, protecting me and saving me. I witnessed each act and had still not believed. Dumber than dirt, Father. No smarter, no better, no different than the Disciples. I would like to believe you smiled and laughed the day Your child received Your gifts. Oh, Father, how you must laugh each time I exclaim after the fact: "huh, that was a Godly thing". Message after message, sign after sign, miracle after miracle and I am still surprised by Your gifts. Led by innocence I believed in the Tooth Fairy and Santa Clause. Led by innocence and love I believe in You. Once a child, always a child. Your child, Father. I may be dumber than dirt, but the joy of finding You each day refreshes my soul and I pray, Father, that I bring you more laughter than sorrow.



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We Remember Them

Submitted by Evelyn Allen

In the rising of the sun and in its going
down,
 we remember them.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill
of winter,
 we remember them.
In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of
spring,
 we remember them.
In the blueness of the sky and in the
warmth of summer,
 we remember them.
In the rustling of the leaves and the beauty
of autumn,
 we remember them.
In the beginning of the year and when it
ends,
 we remember them.
When we are weary and in need of
strength,
 we remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart,
 we remember them.
When we have joys we yearn to share,
 we remember them.
So long as we live, they too shall live,
for now they are a part of us, as
 we remember them.

---Gates of Prayer

Recipe Box

BERRY FOOL

**1 pound strawberries, raspberries,
blackberries, or blueberries**
1 cup sugar
½ teaspoon lemon juice
3 cups heavy cream (or 5 – 6 cups Cool Whip)
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

**Pick over berries, discarding those that are
bruised or moldy: remove strawberry hulls or
stems from other berries.**

**Place fresh fruit in a large, heavy-bottomed
saucepan and cook over low heat until
berries are soft and mushy. Use the back of
a large spoon to mash the fruit and extract
more juice.**

**Add the sugar and lemon juice and cook a
few minutes more, until sugar is dissolved.
Using a blender, food mill, or fine-meshed
sieve, puree the fruit. Refrigerate until well
chilled.**

**Beat the cream in a large bowl until it forms
stiff peaks; then add the vanilla.**

**Use a spatula to fold the chilled, pureed
berries into the whipped cream. Fold slowly
and carefully until ribbons of color – a
marbleized appearance – is achieved. Serve
immediately in parfait glasses or small glass
bowls.**

**(The sauce is good on pancakes, waffles, or
ice cream.)**



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Note* Every Sunday</i> 9:00 ARISE 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship</p>			<p><i>Note* Every Wed</i> 6:30 Mission Sparks 6:30 Mission Friends 6:30 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>1 7:00 MCC Meeting</p>	2	3
<p>4 Daylight Savings Time Ends  8:00 Brotherhood Breakfast</p>	<p>5 5:45 Children's Committee Meeting 7:00 Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>6 Election Day 6:30 Youth Committee Meeting</p>	7	8	9	10
<p>11 Veteran's Day  11:00 Children Sing 7:00 Quarterly Business Meeting</p>	<p>12 7:00 Rosa Liipfert Circle Meeting</p>	<p>13 12PM Prime Time Luncheon 7:00 WHM Meeting</p>	<p>14 Church-wide Thanksgiving Dinner</p>	15	16	17
18	<p>19 Day of Prayer</p>	20	<p>21 Community-wide Thanksgiving Dinner</p>	<p>22 </p>	23	24
25	26	<p>27 Road Runners Event</p>	28	29	30	



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