



GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

The Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury

December 21, 2011
Volume 51, Issue 7

Christmas Day **December 25, 2011**



11:00 A.M.
WORSHIP SERVICE

NO CHURCH SCHOOL

1st Sunday after Christmas **January 1, 2012**

9:30 A.M.
Worship Service
Communion

11:00 A.M.
NO CHURCH SCHOOL

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the Chapel. Please pick up your box. The first offering envelope in the box is for the Per Capita offering. This offering of \$37.00 per person (\$74.00 per couple) helps offset the Per Capita Apportionment. If each member donates their share, over \$16,000 would be freed up for church programs and Mission use.

YEAR-END GIVING: Any offerings received after December 31 will be credited for 2012 income tax purposes. If you desire yours to be counted for 2011, please make sure the church receives it by Saturday, December 31. Thank you.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on December 26, 30, and January 2.

CHRISTMAS JOY

Recently I had a friend exclaim, "They say this is the most wonderful time of the year. I think it's the worst". How many of us have had this sentiment at some point during our hectic holiday season? It has become the mantra that folks use in casual conversation during the mad rush toward Christmas. It seems to be the common thread that binds us together.

Yet we are told in Scripture that this is a time to stop and prepare. We need to be focused on the true message of the season. Certainly these other distractions take us away from the true meaning of Christmas. I'm sure most of you have heard the recent controversy in the news with the Knights of Columbus sign which adorns downtown Pitman, "Keep Christ in Christmas". How can this be a matter of conflict? What if we said, "Keep Memorial in Memorial Day", would that cause a stir? As a colleague said during our recent Staff meeting, "This is our holiday"! It appears that we need to reclaim the season and continually remind people that "Jesus is the reason for the season". Since the recent public issue, signs have been popping up in many peoples lawns throughout Pitman that just restate the obvious, to keep Christ as the center of our Christmas.

So perhaps instead of joining in the chorus of "woe is me, I have so much to do", we should all proclaim our excitement and joy in the anticipation of the coming of our Savior. After all, the message is of love and peace, something that we all need. We have the best message of all, let's not be afraid of living the Word.

May you all have the most joyous Christmas.

Gloria in excelsis...He is born!

Jack Hill
Minister of Music



Christmastide

December 24
Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m.

Family Worship Service

8:00 p.m.
Candlelight Worship Service



December 25
Christmas Day
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

January 1
1st Sunday after Christmas
9:30 a.m. Worship with
Communion

CHRISTMAS JOY

The Christmas Joy Offering supports a variety of needs: the Board of Pension's income supplement; nursing home care assistance and emergency need grants for retired church workers; the Racial-Ethnic Schools and Colleges of the Presbyterian Church (USA); and our church's special interest missions in Honduras, Nepal and Haiti. You can use the Christmas Joy envelopes found in the pews. Checks should be made payable to our church. Please give with joy!

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the
*Church Staff: Phil, Milt, Judy,
Jack, Melody, Alison, Kathi, Jan,
Jane, and Beverly!*



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christmas Eve: Children are encouraged to come to the Family Service at 4:00 P.M. and the worship service on Christmas Day at 11:00 A.M.

There will be no Church School on either Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Church School will resume on January 8, 2012.

New Year's Eve: Come to the church after your dinner and before your countdown to the New Year to PRAY. We'll Praise God with singing; we'll Remember our past year (some of which we will need to Repent). We'll Ask God's blessings on our church and families; and we'll allow some time to be Yourself before God. *8:00-10:00 P.M. in the Chapel on Saturday, December 31.*

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES:

Sunday Mornings:

- **Bible Basics:** Discussion class led by Charles Miller on Romans. The class meets in room 1.
- **Feasting on the Word:** The Bible passages from the Sunday sermon enhanced, enlarged, and discussed. Each Sunday is a standalone lesson, so come when the sermon passage challenges or confuses you. Led by Milt Fredericks, Laraine Knauss, Phil Oehler, and Judy Platt in rotation. The class meets in the Prayer room (#16).
- **Foundations of Faith:** A DVD-based study of the geography, history, and theology of the Book of Romans entitled, *A Letter that Changed the World*, led by David Platt. The class meets in the Lounge.
- **Bi-Monthly Small Group:** Meets in Room 13 and is led by Wally and Marge Minnich.

WINTER 2012 SMALL GROUPS: You are invited to a six-week Christ-Centered Small Group Study beginning the first week of January. There are several different groups available: Tuesday morning and evening groups, Wednesday evening, and Thursday afternoon and evenings. You can also choose from several different topics some of which are: Excellence, Prayer, Acts, Joseph: Facing Life's Challenges. There is something for everyone. There is a sign-up on the board in the Chapel. We hope to see you ALL there!

MEN'S SMALL GROUP will be studying the book of Hebrews on the first and third Thursdays from 7:30-9 P.M. beginning January 5, 2012. All men are invited. Call David Platt for details (848-2964 or dplatt6@verizon.net).

IN MEMORIAM

William W. Miller

December 23, 1921 – December 11, 2011

"I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord."

ANNUAL REPORTS: The Annual Congregation/Corporation Meeting of The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury is scheduled for Sunday, January 29, 2012. One of the purposes of the Meeting is to receive the Annual Reports from all the ministries of the church. A compilation of these written reports will be available for the Meeting. If you were given a memo about submitting a report, we need it **NO LATER than Friday, January 6.** You can forward a Word document to church.office@pcwoodbury.com.



COLLEGE SKI RETREAT – All current college students and high school seniors are invited on a College Ski Retreat Jan. 6-8 in the Poconos. Cost is \$50 plus money to ski. Talk to Melody if you are interested.

THANK YOU to all who donated cookies and other treats for the Choral Arts Concert held at our church on the 19th!

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Hap Cunningham (12/25) and Bernie Carlson (1/2)

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: The Edick Family upon the death of Jesse's father; Doug Lewis in Underwood Hospital, Emma Mustard at home; Woody Backensto in Manor Care; Joe Welch, Beverly Rosell, Sue Speers, and Irene Banks. A reminder to keep our military personnel in your prayers, including JJ Cunningham, Wesley Tatham, Nathaniel Bratt, Rob Chance, Dave Wietz, and Clayton Kelly.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 25 - 31, 2011

Christmas Sunday	11:00	AM	Worship Service/Communion
Monday:			Church Office Closed
Friday:			Church Office Closed
Saturday:	8:00	PM	N.Y.E. Prayer Time

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: JANUARY 1 - 8, 2012

New Year's Day:	9:30	AM	Worship Service/Communion
Monday:			Church Office Closed
	7:00	PM	Task Force Chairpersons Meeting
	7:30	PM	Task Force Meetings
Wednesday:	5:30	PM	Club J & Sr. High Youth Group
Friday:			College Ski Retreat
Saturday:			College Ski Retreat
Sunday:	9:30	AM	Worship Service
	10:45	AM	Children's Choir
	11:00	AM	Church School for all ages

HAPPY NEW YEAR