

MEMORIAL PRESS

December, 2011



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SESSION NOTES

Michael E. Grimes,

Clerk of Session

Your Session met on Tuesday evening November 15, 2011 and during the meeting the Elders:

- Noted that the Town of Dayton has erected our new sign on the west edge of town
- Learned that the Sunday School Christmas Program scheduled during worship on December 18 has been chosen
- Approved subscribing to PresbyterianLeader.org
- Approved taking up the Christmas Joy offering on December 18
- Learned that the Installation Ceremony for Pastor Justin will be here on January 15 at 3:00 p.m.
- Approved having a presentation from the Gideon's on Sunday, February 26, 2011

Heard a report on the graduation ceremony for the latest class of the Training Program for Commissioned Ruling Elders, of which our own Elder Joe Pease was a member.

Michael E. Grimes, Clerk of Session

Pastor's Epistle

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

*"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:*

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

Mark 1:1-3

I'm not ready for Christmas.

Ok, I know Christmas is still over three weeks away by the time you'll be reading this, but as each year rolls around and comes to a close there never seems like there's enough time to prepare for Christmas. For instance, did you know that for the last few years Advent has begun on the first Sunday immediately following Thanksgiving?!? For goodness sake, good ol' Tom the Turkey hasn't even been completely eaten when the church launches into the liturgical season that anticipates the birth of our Lord. Thank God that next year there's a whole week between Thanksgiving and the beginning of Advent, but that's next year, first let's see if I can survive this year! Which brings me back to my original statement; I'm not ready for Christmas!

The good news is that you, and I, don't really have to be ready for Christmas, because Jesus Christ, is ready for us! The house doesn't have to be in perfect order or immaculately decorated in order for Christmas to arrive. Preparations for the Christmas dinner needn't be painstakingly planned out or even all that accurately executed in order for Christmas to appear. We don't have to be all that ready at all, because Jesus Christ is ready for us, just as ready as he was for those in the world two thousand years ago. No one except a few shepherds even had an inkling that Jesus had been born, much less understood exactly who he was at the time or who he would grow up to be. And that was ok, because he was ready for those in the world long before they were ready for him, just as unready to appropriately celebrate the miracle of his birth that many of us feel we are today. But Jesus is indeed ready for us, and the true meaning of Christmas says that our Lord is already ready, and waiting, for you and for me!

I'm still not ready for Christmas, but I know the miracle of Christmas is ready for me, and I thank God for this.

Merry Christmas, and peace to God's people on earth,

Pastor Justin

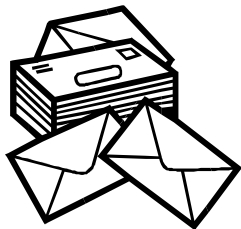
Church Nursery

We staff the nursery every Sunday with 2 adults from about 10:15 am until the end of the worship service.

Come, share a little of your time with our wonderful youngsters. Thank you.

December Nursery Helpers:

- Dec. 4 Cathy Bowlin
Judy Ryan
- Dec. 11 Hillary Basden
- Dec. 18 Kayla Fields
Stephanie Valenta
- Dec. 25 Hillary Basden
Gabby Basden



CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2012 Regular Church Offering envelopes are in the parlor. Please be sure to stop and pick them up at your earliest convenience. If you don't find your name and want the envelopes, please contact Patty Hicks.

*Who refreshes others will be refreshed.
-Proverbs 11:25*



New or gently used donations of FALL and WINTER clothing is being accepted, sizes new-born through girl's junior and young men's *and* maternity wear.

A **HUGE** "Thank You" to all who gave of their time and sorted clothing in November .

Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you to everyone who donated coats! We had close to 200 coats donated. The families are so appreciative and the children have been overjoyed at having a new coat to wear this season!

If you've never come to a 'sort', please come join the fun in being God's hands in action! For questions, please call Julie.

God bless,

Kid's Closet Committee

Important Dates:

Jan. 9, 2012 Clothing Sort 10 am—noon and 6-8 pm

Jan. 28, 2012 Distribution and Sort 10 am—noon

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ronald Kelley and Ivamarie Kelly - Crossroad Bible Institute Instructors for 10 Years! We are very proud .



Staying in the *Word* Together – December 2011

Join Christians throughout North America as they read together – each Sunday – the scriptures for the week. Known as the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), the collections of readings is organized so that after a three year cycle, members of churches will have read through the majority of the Bible. In our church, our Sunday school curriculum follows the RCL.

As a church and denomination, we use the RCL and provide these to the pastors for direction on the order of worship and for guidance in Christian Education. A guest pastor may choose not to use the scriptures, but we are providing them to the congregation as a means of ***Staying in the Word Together***. Traditionally, there will be an Old Testament, Psalm New Testament and Gospel reading. For additional readings go to <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>.

<p><u>Second Sunday of Advent</u> December 4, 2011</p>	<p>Isaiah 40:1-11</p>	<p>Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13</p>	<p>2 Peter 3:8-15a</p>	<p>Mark 1:1-8</p>
<p><u>Third Sunday of Advent</u> December 11, 2011</p>	<p>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</p>	<p>Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55</p>	<p>1 Thessalonians 5:16-24</p>	<p>John 1:6-8, 19-28</p>
<p><u>Fourth Sunday of Advent</u> December 18, 2011</p>	<p>2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16</p>	<p>Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26</p>	<p>Romans 16:25-27</p>	<p>Luke 1:26-38</p>
<p><u>Nativity of the Lord - Proper I</u> December 24 & 25, 2011 <i>Christmas Eve & Day</i></p>	<p>Isaiah 9:2-7</p>	<p>Psalm 96</p>	<p>Titus 2:11-14</p>	<p>Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)</p>
<p><u>New Year's Day</u> January 1, 2012</p>	<p>Ecclesiastes 3:1-13</p>	<p>Psalm 8</p>	<p>Revelation 21:1-6a</p>	<p>Matthew 25:31-46</p>



2011 Smorgasbord and Bazaar – Thank you for your support!!

On Saturday, November 5 we were very blessed with nice weather, a great turn-out, and the generous support of our congregation and community.

We served 215 hungry people and cleared a combined total from the bazaar and smorgasbord of \$2232.00!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL for your prayers and generous contributions of time and food...and appetites!!

BLESS YOU ALL!

Phyllis Hill, on behalf of the Dayton Presbyterian Women



December Breakfast Host:

John & Lois Campbell

December Deacon

Matthew Campbell, Capt.

Communion Preparer

Paul Houser

December Elder

John Campbell

FOOD PANTRY

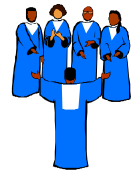
We still need your help and support. Especially some people to work at the pantry on Friday mornings. The sign-up sheet is in the parlor. Thanks so much.

Food Pantry Committee



CHANCEL CHOIR

Our choir practices on Thursday nights at 7pm. You are most welcome to come and join with their beautiful voices.



CHRISTMAS JUBILEE—DECEMBER 10, 2011

If you haven't signed up and would still like to help, please contact Cindy Bull
The rewards are worth your time and effort.

Youth Group News



Thank you! Thank you to everyone who helped with the Youth Group Lock-In. We had a wonderful turn-out...17 youth and 7 Adults! Thank you also to everyone who donated supplies. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful congregation that supports our kids. Thank you to everyone who joined us for evening praise worship service. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Hanging of the Greens!

Coming Up! We need help with the annual Christmas Program Sunday December 18th. If you are a youth group member and you are available we need all the help we can get...we need some speakers, some actors, and some behind the scenes navigators, set designers, and audio/visual people!

NOTE: There will be NO Evening Praise Worship in the month of December! We will resume our normal schedule in January.

We still need volunteers to provide meals for evening praise worship services...the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside Pastor Justin's Office.

On a personal note thank you for the visits, cards, emails, texts, and phone calls regarding Gabby's illness. We appreciate all of our church family and thank you from the bottom of our hearts. She is feeling much better and hopefully will be well enough to sing for Christmas. Thank you to Janette for filling in on such short notice. Thanks again for your love. The Basden's



Mailbag:

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers and concerns during Ronald's long illness. Thank you to Pastor Dave for being there for Ron and the family. Thanks to the D.P.W. for the delicious meal following the funeral.

Love and Best Wishes

Ronald D. Gard Family

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers and concern during my illness and surgery in California. I am now doing fine.

Love to all—God Bless

Fauniel Gard



HELP DECORATE OUR CHURCH AND BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY

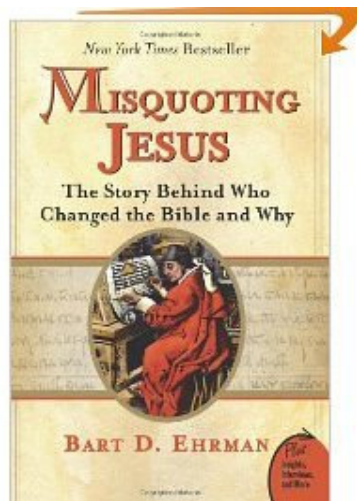
If you would like to order a poinsettia for Christmas in memory or honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below. These poinsettias will be shared with those in our church family who are unable to be with us and others in our congregation.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Poinsettias are \$8.50 each payable to Dayton Presbyterian Women (DPW). Please turn this order form in to the church office by Wednesday, Dec. 14th. Thank you.



Pending formal approval by the session during their upcoming meeting in December, there will be offered a book study and discussion class led by Pastor Justin during Sunday School beginning January 8 on "Misquoting Jesus, The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why" by Bart D. Ehrman. If you would like to pre purchase a book please let Pastor Justin know by Monday, January 2. The price of the book is \$10.08

For information about the book, please see below:

For almost 1,500 years, the New Testament manuscripts were copied by hand--and thus many mistakes and intentional changes have been found in the competing manuscript versions. Religious and biblical scholar Bart Ehrman makes the provocative case that many of our widely held beliefs concerning the divinity of Jesus, the Trinity, and the divine origins of the Bible itself are the results of

both intentional and accidental alterations by scribes. In this compelling and fascinating book, Ehrman shows where and why changes were made in our earliest surviving manuscripts, explaining for the first time how the many variations of our cherished biblical stories came to be, and why only certain versions of the stories qualify for publication in the Bibles we read today.

Our Wish For You

Sunday School Christmas Program



Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011

10:30 a.m.

Featuring the youth of our church and the youth choir

Practices will be on Dec. 11 and Dec 18.

Please, join us for this celebration of Christmas!



Our Church Family



December



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Roy Reid	Dec. 2	David Stene	15
John Wesley Shaw		3 Aiden Grimes	17
Nathan Andrew Franklin		4 Kristin Webber	17
Ben Petrie		4 Carol Bull	22
Evan Tyler Lane		5 Lois Campbell	22
Nicholas Bush		6 Caitlinn Lineback	22
Hannah Elaine Boles		7 Bobby Deckard	26
Nikki Lee		11 Chris Arihood	28
Joy Schwartz		12 Lerry Holladay	30
Elizabeth Schlesinger-Devlin		12 Margery Smith	30
Jim Whitlock		13	
Caitlin Danielle Kennedy		14	

CONGRATULATIONS

Roger & Barbara Smith	Dec. 6
David & Heather Stene	12
Jason & Nina Chism	14
Michael & Tracey Harris	17
Tim & Suzanne Fogarty	23
Jim & Mae Whitlock	24
Ralph & Diane Achgill	26
Rob & Nancy Grimes	30

Our military, our nation & its leaders; persecuted Christians; people locally & nationally in need; victims of domestic violence; Carolyn Finkensbinder; Russell Lucas; Miriam Woodrow; Ted Murphy; Marjora Odenkirk; Rex & Betty Barnett; Shelley Abney (Niece/Kathy Deckard) Jackie Ginter (Niece/Joy Schwartz); Stuart Hogue; Mike McGuire (Bro.-in-law/Jane Coleman); Richard Triplet; Betty Pfeiffer; Mae Whitlock; Seth Ratcliff; Ethan Pfaltzgraff (Susan Clawson's relative); Eric Smeltzer (Bro/Jane Coleman); the family of Ruth Wettschurack; Gene Robinson (friend of Pat Perry) William Baker, Larry Vaughn (B/Judy Ryan); Julia Yost's family; Terry Lynn Pfeiffer; Regina Brummett (Co-Worker/Phyllis Hill); The family of Ronald Gard, Jr.; Elizabeth Bauer

(friend of Richard Logan); the family of Gwyn Shumate (friend of Jane Coleman; Sue Alkire; Jean Davidsmeyer (cousin of Susan Clawson). Tori Rosa, Dawn Morgan, Maggie Adams, Amber Holsclaw.



Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Dayton, IN 47941-0070

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Worship Schedule

Continental Breakfast

Fellowship 8:30am

Sunday School for all ages 9:00am

Continental Breakfast

Fellowship 10:00am

Worship 10:30 am

Dayton Community Christmas Tree
Lighting,
Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011 at 6:00 pm

