

Whitelick Presbyterian Church
2530 North 600 East
Avon, IN 46123

Whitelick Presbyterian

Church Chat

December, 2011 in the year of our Lord, Jesus Christ

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Pastor's Note:

December, 2011

Dear Friends,

Greg Glover, Pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church, recently led an Advent workshop for pastors in our presbytery. The title of the workshop was "Advent Wait Training." Greg suggested that even though "waiting conjures painful images of useless wastes of time: waiting in line, anxiously awaiting news in a hospital waiting room, waiting in traffic for a light to change," waiting may actually be good for us. He asks, "what if waiting is as crucial to our spiritual health as resistance training is to an astronaut who spends extended time in a weightless environment? We may wish to escape the gravity that is constantly tugging at us, but are we better off in an instantaneous world?" In order for all of us to consider

how we may be called to waiting as a kind of spiritual discipline or a special kind of training during the season of Advent, Greg has created a website that provides a "Spiritual Resistance Training Program" for Advent. While the study is for small groups, I think it could also be useful as a personal devotion guide. The website is: www.adventwait.com. The first week's lesson begins with this idea: "Our deepest longings and desires are a God-shaped void that can only be filled by our Creator. Our culture would lead us to believe that we can find fulfillment elsewhere, and without delay, but such fulfillment is artificial. Advent waiting with other people of faith helps us to resist all substitutes that are not God and therefore cannot fulfill us."

Even if you don't have an opportunity to

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study the lessons at adventwait.com, I encourage you to consider in what ways all the busy-ness in our lives prevents us from slowing down long enough to allow God to fill us. Consider how all of us want to fix any problem quickly, often taking matters into our own hands rather than waiting for God's guidance. Consider how, when we do actually wait for God, we are often pleasantly surprised by the form God's answer takes! Advent is a season of waiting and preparation, but we often miss it because preparing for the Christmas holiday is about "doing" a long list of things instead of waiting to see what God has done and will do. So this Advent season, make it a priority to slow down and wait. Wait for something. Wait for someone. And begin to open your heart and your life to the practice of waiting for the God who reveals himself through the surprising gift of his son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

In Christ,
Pastor Kim

Tuesday Daytime Bible Study Group



Tuesday Daytime Bible Study Group is doing a short Advent study called *The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem* by Adam Hamilton. The study is DVD-with video shot on site from Adam Hamilton's visit to the Holy Land. Annie Steedman will be showing her pictures and talking about her visits at the same sites shown in the DVD. No study books. Just come have lunch and enjoy a discussion around the following topics:

November 29 Mary of Nazareth
December 6 Joseph of Bethlehem

December 13 Mary's Visit to Elizabeth
December 20 From Nazareth to Bethlehem
January 3 The Manger
We begin with lunch at noon following Tuesday Prayers at 11:00. We end around 1:30.



December Coffee Conversations

FAITH HOPE LOVE

We complete our Fall study of our place in God's story. We started with Adam and Eve being created in God's image and their subsequent disobedience to God's instructions. God's promises to Abraham were not quick in coming but Abraham was faithful. The psalmists sang of the ups and downs of being God's people; prophets predicted the consequences for not following the Law. Jesus comes to show us the way and ends up crucified. Now it is our time as Christ's church to continue the work of the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit.

December 4: "A New Community" Shaping Us to Spread Out

The Book of Acts continues the ancient biblical story of imperfect people who follow God's commands. Acts is a page turner filled with jail breaks, miraculous healings, and lightning-induced conversions. Jesus' followers get thrown into prison, stoned, snake-bitten and ship-

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Submissions of personal testimony or general interest items can be made by email to Jerry Bennett jerryandwinona@att.net or left for Jerry in the Church Office.

If you would like to receive Church Chat by email send a request to Jerry Bennett or Kathie Bush katbush@att.net.

wrecked. They cause riots and face off with sorcerers and royalty. Through all of this the church thrives and grows in numbers. Can today's church challenges be any more difficult?

December 11: "Living a New Life"

How and Why Do We Act?

Today we will explore the Apostle Paul's conversion at a time when it was very dangerous to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Through the story of Anne Lamott we find comfort that a life of sin can be turned around. Study questions for this week: "Who might be the most unlikely follower of Jesus you know?" and how do you respond to the bumper sticker "Jesus, save me from your followers!"?



December 18: The End: From Hope to Home Strength to Wait

Our author Kevin Adams states: "Today everyone knows our world is a fixer-upper. Its brokenness sometimes makes us melancholy. But hope in God and in his power to finish his story helps us imagine." At last, can we fully experience the blessings promised to Abraham when we started this journey last September?

December 25: Merry Christmas. No class

Come as you are to worship. The coffee pot will be on for those who wish to visit and share in the wonders of the holiday season.

January 1: What does the future hold?

Besides a full schedule of football games, this is the weekend we all make those resolutions like lose weight or read the Bible or regularly attend Coffee Conversations. What resolutions can we make as a class and as a church in this Hendricks County community that will make a difference?

Christmas Eve & Christmas Worship Service

Christmas Eve Worship services are 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm. Both of these will be candlelight services that will end with the singing of Silent Night. At 5:00 we will enjoy carols, scripture, special music, and a Children's Time that will include an interactive re-telling of the Christmas story. At 7:30 we will enjoy the chancel choir and our traditional lessons and carols.

On **Christmas Day** (which is a Sunday this year) we will only have a 10:30 **worship service**. It will be a "Come As You Are" that will include a number of favorite Christmas hymns.

Christmas Joy Offering – Sunday, December 18th

A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. The Christmas Joy Offering is divided between two different areas of need. Half of the offering helps students at racial ethnic schools and colleges develop their gifts and find their calling to serve God through serving their community. The other half helps families of both active and retired church workers to meet unexpected financial needs in the

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form of emergency assistance grants. As we celebrate Jesus' love in our lives this Christmas, our gifts to the Joy Offering (received in worship on December 18th) bear joyful witness to the power of that boundless love that changes lives.

**Order Poinsettias
Through December 11**



Once again we will give glory to God and honor our friends and loved ones by placing poinsettias in the sanctuary. They will be in the sanctuary on December 18th and will remain through at least Christmas Eve. The cost is \$10. There will be an insert in the bulletin on December 18th with the names of those who gave poinsettias and who they are in memory or honor of. Order forms are available at the church or can be emailed to you (call the church office and leave a message). The last day to order is December 11th.

Chili Supper a *SUCCESS!*

I would like to thank everyone who worked at, donated to or attended the WPC Presbyterian Women's (PW) Annual Chili Supper that was held on Saturday, November 5th. The Chili Supper is our largest annual fundraiser and is instrumental in our being able to help provide funds for purchases within the church and, also, our support several missions and causes outside WPC. This year's event was an unprecedented success and this could not have been possible without everyone's contributions of time, (cooking and baking) talent and attendance. Many blessings to you all!

~Jeannine Fancher, Moderator

**Helping Families
This
Christmas**

On December 10, Cornerstone Christian Church on 267 in Brownsburg is hosting the families they serve through their food pantry (which we support with donations of food each month) at a special "toy store" there at the church. Families (about 150 have been served this year) make appointments and will come and "shop" for gifts for their children. Donations of the following are needed (and may be dropped off here at **WHITELICK** during the month of November): New or gently used toys, Books including chapter books for older children, Movies, Puzzles, Card Games, Board Games, Stuffed Animals, Small toys for our stocking stuffer category, Large toys such as bikes, doll houses, etc., AA Batteries, Hats, Gloves/Mittens, Wrapping Paper, Money (CCC has account for donations). Volunteers are also needed both before the 10th (to set up tables and sort toys into age groups) and on the day of the 10th. If you are interested in volunteering or if you have large toy items and need someone to pick them up, please contact Stephanie Covell (892-3090) or (scovell@indy.rr.com) (she is coordinating this effort for Cornerstone).



December Birthdays



- 1 Veronica Kiger (5)
Betty Strange
Matt Tingle
- 2 Elaine Evans
- 4 Carol Boebinger
- 5 Jeff Kirby
- 6 Sandra Hall
Joe Pool
- 7 Robert Johnston
Fred Stover
Diana Temple
- 8 Terry George
- 9 Johnny Shirley (6)
- 12 Jennifer Truitt
- 13 Jerry Botzum
Judi Starks
- 14 Jayden Truitt (5)
- 17 Bill Fischer
- 18 Christine "Missy" Meinders
- 20 Lucas Watson (8)
- 22 Kim Johnson
- 25 Myrene Platts
Glenn Santner
- 26 Dorothy Flaherty
Edie Goad
- 30 Randen Eggers (9)

Editor's Column:

By Jerry Bennett

Friends:

After reading Reverend Kim's letter I thought about the contrast between the Ideal and the Real. This is the season of advent (waiting, contemplation) and the season of Black Friday. There were news items about violence at shopping centers around the country. Not terrorist activity but shoppers being so aggressive as to endanger their neighbors in order to get to the

"Door Buster Specials." While the secular world goes crazy be still and know that we don't need to participate in the madness.

I made some notes on my program last week. Rev. Kim was talking on "Seeing is Following" and I was applying it to seeing results on our prayer list. I mentioned some months ago that I heard a woman on Klove Christian radio say that she liked to keep her prayer list on a bookmark so that she could see the progress as people who were in need of prayer were crossed off the list because those prayers had been answered. I thought that another approach would be to move those answered prayers to another list. A Praise List. Because these people were helped not by my prayer but because God answers prayer.

I have wondered at times if God wants us to prey not because he needs our help but because of the therapeutic effect that prayer has on us. God already knows the plight of those we are preying for and I am sure he can act on his own to help those who need help but He asks us to get involved in the process because of the healing effect on us when we prey for others.

Recently my phone went dead and I lost many of my contacts. Because of that I went looking for an old friend who used to be on staff at Wheeler Mission. At one time he had been a client of the Mission. Then he became a client-worker. He was a cook and served others in return for a place to live. I did not find my friend but I did find someone that knew of him. He told me he is living somewhere on the east side. That told me that he had "graduated" from the Mission and was back out in society.

I'll continue to look for my friend but I will move that one from the prayer list to the "Praise" list because I know that the Mission doesn't move anyone out until they're ready. — JB

Say Goodbye to Aby and Melissa

SAY GOODBYE TO ABY AND MELISSA over lunch December 11th

No speeches. No presentations. Just time to eat lunch, say thanks and wish good luck to Aby and Melissa who have been with us in some capacity since the Fall of 2008. Both are finishing double masters at Christian Theological Seminary in December: Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy. That's a lot of studying, papers, and tests!

Melissa started working in October with the Cummins Behavioral Health Systems and is currently assigned to the Garden City Elementary School as a Life Skills Specialist. Aby is helping plant a new church called Lifework Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as the Associate Pastor. (Check out on Facebook as the church is active in mission work already.) Aby is also working with the YMCA Urban Missions Branch as a

board member. He plans to continue in the CTS Counseling Center. These job experiences will help both of the Bauzos obtain their marriage and family therapy licenses required by the State of Indiana.

Besides their work in marriage and family therapy counseling, Aby and Melissa will be ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination on March 31st 2012 at **Primera Iglesia Cristiana (Discípulo de Cristo) de Orlando** [or in English] **First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Orlando** also called **Chickasaw** for the street the church is on. If you will be on spring break in the Orlando area, plan to attend their ordination.

Although their "official tours of duty" are ending at Whitelick, we always welcome them back for worship as well as help with classes from time to time in their areas of expertise. The Bauzos have moved into a home on the southwest side of Indianapolis not far from Decatur High School.



Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of *New York's Sun*, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman *Francis Pharcel-lus Church* has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial, ap-
pearing in part or whole in dozens of lan-
guages in books, movies, and other editori-
als, and on posters and stamps.

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

"Virginia O'Hanlon.

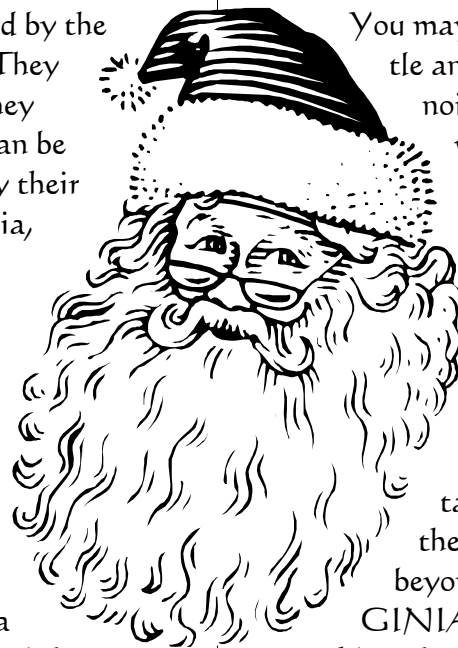
"115 West Ninty-Fifth Street."

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except [what] they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or chil-
dren's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the bound-
less world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as

dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can con-
ceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.



You may tear apart the baby's rat-
tle and see what makes the
noise inside, but there is a
veil covering the unseen
world which not the
strongest man, nor even
the united strength of all
the strongest men that
ever lived, could tear
apart. Only faith, fancy,
poetry, love, romance,
can push aside that cur-
tain and view and picture
the supernal beauty and glory
beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIR-
GINIA, in all this world there is
nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Whitelick Presbyterian CHURCH CALENDAR
(Note: New or "exception" calendar items are in bold print.)
December 2011

Worship:

All Sundays of Month:	8:30 am Worship (Holy Communion) 9:40-10:20 am Adult Coffee Conversations 10:30 am Worship (Nursery available – Infants thru Pre-School) After Children's Time: Sunday School - Early Elementary (Kindergarten thru 3rd grade), Tweens (grades 4-7), Teens (grades 8-12) 11:45 am Fellowship Lunch
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1 st Sunday of Month:	11:45 am Pitch-In Fellowship Lunch
2 nd Sunday of Month:	10:30 am Worship (includes Holy Communion) – See exception this month – moved to 18th
3 rd Sunday of Month:	11:30 am Birthday Sunday

Each Tuesday:	11:00 am Morning Prayers No meeting on Dec 27
Each Thursday:	7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
15 th of Each Month:	Church Chat Deadline

Date(s)	Time	
Dec 4	10:30 am 12:00 pm 12:00 pm	2nd Sunday of Advent Special Advent Worship Worship Ministry Team Outreach Ministry Team
Dec 6	12:00-1:30 pm 6:30 p.m.	"Advent Series" Bible Study Church Leader Christmas Dinner
Dec 11	10:30 am 11:30 am 11:45 am	3rd Sunday of Advent Special Advent Worship (No Communion this Sunday) VBS Meeting (Sanctuary) Congregation says goodbye to Melissa & Aby
Dec 13	12:00-1:30 pm 7:00 pm	"Advent Series" Bible Study Deacons/TLC
Dec 16	11:00 am	Brunch Bunch
Dec 18	10:30 am	4th Sunday of Advent Special Advent Worship (Holy Communion)
Dec 20	12:00-1:30 pm	"Advent Series" Bible Study
Dec 24	5:00 pm & 7:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Dec 25	10:30 am	Worship



Please see Worship Bulletins for updates and/or changes throughout the month.