

# Celebrate Christmas at Vine Street

## Decorating

Join us after worship Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> to decorate the church and prepare for our Hanging of the Greens Service on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Eating

Don't miss the fantastic home-made noodles at the Bazaar Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> & be sure to make your reservations now for the Advent Dinner Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Kaskaskia County Club.

## Caroling

Lend your voice to bringing good cheer to our members and friends on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Worshipping

Experience one of the most moving services of the church year at our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

## “CHRISTMAS IS...”

As we celebrate Christmas, you may need help relaxing. Here is a technique I read online.

“Picture yourself near a stream. Birds are softly chirping in the crisp cool mountain air. Nothing can bother you here. No one knows this secret place. You are in total seclusion from that place called “the world.” The soothing sound of a gentle waterfall fills the air with a cascade of serenity. The water is clear. You can easily make out the face of the person whose head you’re holding under water.”

I know that sounds sick. I wonder if that is how some people feel at Christmas? Ok, so it’s how I have felt sometimes. And no, I never actually tried to drown someone.

The title to this article is incomplete. How would you complete it? Probably many of you would say, “Christmas is Christ.” Some would say, “Christmas is a family time.” Or, “Christmas is a time for love.” And all of these would be true. But what is the reality for many? I think for some, Christmas is a time for stress. If you have a family, there is a lot to do. If you don’t have much family, perhaps you feel alone. If you are involved in Church, there is a lot to do.

Every year, the challenge for me is to recognize and receive the presence of God. Maybe it is just me but I have trouble with that. Family celebrations. Church celebrations. Shopping. Shopping. Shopping.

And let me make it clear. I love Christmas. But sometimes, I wonder, if Christ came to Arthur, would we recognize Him? Would we worship Him or would we be too busy with...Christmas? Too busy with “Church?” I believe God is with us always, speaking to us and working in and around us in a thousand (more) ways. And yet, as hard as it is to believe, we can miss God.

There is something I used to do every year. I would go outside on Christmas Eve and just find a star. A bright star. And I would spend some quiet time wondering what it was like. And I would spend some time just saying to God, “I Love You.” And I would say, “Thank You.” It doesn’t have to be my method. Find your own. I hope you can make some time for your family to give thanks for the gift of Jesus. And, of course, we will worship as a Church. But consider getting alone with God. Offer to God the “Frankincense” of worship. The coming of Christ changed....everything. Let Him change your life too.

"May the God whom Mary held....hold you."

-- *Pastor Rick*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**

*8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.*

# **Bazaar!**

**Coffee Hour 8-9:30 a.m.**

**Chicken Noodle Dinner**

**11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

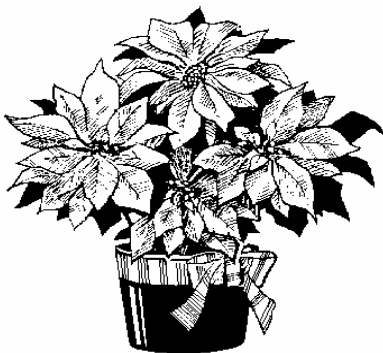
**Quilt Drawing 1:00 p.m.**

## **ELDERS & DEACONS MEET NOVEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>**

The elders and deacons will meet right after worship on **November 28<sup>th</sup>** to select serving months in 2011 and elect officers for the coming year.

If you can't be here that Sunday, call Jo Watkins at 543-3108 (deacons) or Cherryl Conlin at 543-2471 (elders) to let them know your preferences for serving months. Those at the meeting will get first choice.

## **MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS**



**Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, will be the last** day you can sign up to donate a poinsettia to the church in memory or honor of a loved one. Just fill out this form and bring it to the church or put it in the offering plate with **\$12.00** per plant. Or use the Poinsettia Sign-Up Sheet on the L-table outside the sanctuary. You can also contact the church office with your information at 543-2292 or [vscc@mchsi.com](mailto:vscc@mchsi.com).

The poinsettias will be carried into the sanctuary during our December 5<sup>th</sup> Hanging of the Greens. Let us know if you'll carry your plant into the sanctuary during that service (we'll contact you later with details). Plants may be taken home after our Christmas Eve service (earlier, if need be). Blank cards will be available if you are planning on giving your plant to someone. A list of donors and honorees will be published in the December 5<sup>th</sup> worship bulletin.

In Memory/Honor of	Your Name	I or my family will carry this plant during our Hanging of the Greens service on December 5 <sup>th</sup> .	
_____	_____	YES	NO
_____	_____	YES	NO

## **Sunday School Winter Quarter**

Our new Winter Quarter starts December 5<sup>th</sup>. Join us for some time for fun, learning, and inspiration. Thanks to our fantastic Fall teachers, and a big thank you to all the teachers volunteering this quarter!

Nursery: Jill Hohlbauch & Cindy Johnson

Preschool: Jeannene Yantis

K—2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Randa Carson

3<sup>rd</sup>—5<sup>th</sup> grade: Cherryl Conlin &

Evelyn Hale

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade: Jim Yoder

Adults: Choose the class that speaks to where you are in your journey.

- KJV Adult Bible Class, “Assuring Hope”—upstairs adult classroom
- “Go Fish—Becoming a Disciple and a Witness of Christ”: Rev. Rick Williams—Genesis Room
- Coffee Hour—Fellowship Hall. Relax & chat over coffee.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>**

The meeting was originally scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup>, but needed to be pushed back. We have several important pieces of business to vote on **Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 am** between Sunday School and worship.

We’ll vote on the proposed church budget for 2011. Copies will be available in the literature rack at the back of the sanctuary. Questions or comments? Check with Treasurer **Kevin Huffman**, Administrative Ministry Team Leader **Rich Buckler**, or any Board member.

Also to approve is the proposed list of trustees, elders, and deacons to serve a 3-year term beginning in 2011. Trustee—**Kerry Pate**; Elders—**Jim Yoder, Sharon Buckler, Buck Condill, Jerry Ray, and Kevin Huffman**; Deacons—**Carol Yoder, Rich Buckler, Debbie Howell, Carol Hedenberg, Dana Tinkle, Howard Keiss, Linda Keiss, Shelia Crowe, and Beth Camp**. Nominations can also be made from the floor.

## **CHRISTMAS DECORATING NOVEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>**



Join the decorating crew in the sanctuary after worship on **Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>** for an enjoyable time as we decorate the church and get things ready for our Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 5. A great, fun way to get into the Christmas spirit—and get lunch too! Be sure to check out our own

“Christmas Carols” as they put together the gorgeous 15’ tree at the front of the sanctuary!

## HANGING OF THE GREENS

**DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**



It is always a beautiful service when we “hang the greens” during the Advent season in preparation for Christmas. During the service, we add greenery and dozens of poinsettias with bows, light candles, and place Chrismons on the tree – singing, praying, and thinking about the meaning of it as we go. The children help decorate during the service, as well as many others of you. Bring your whole family to share in this festive and meaningful worship service.

## **ADVENT DINNER DEC. 5<sup>TH</sup>**

The annual Advent dinner will be Sunday evening, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm at Kaskaskia Country Club. To sign up, write “ADVENT” on the Fellowship Pad at church, or call or email the church ([vscc@mchsi.com](mailto:vscc@mchsi.com)). Dinner is \$14 per person (tax & tip included) payable that night.

## **PLUG-IN IN 2011!**

As we head to the end of the year, it begins the season of sign-ups! We need volunteers to be greeters, tell Children’s Stories, be a Worship Leader, bring snack for the nursery, and make coffee for the Sunday School hour. We generally just need you to commit to 2-3 times through the year for all of these positions. We are fortunate to have a congregation of people willing to serve—if you’re considering a new assignment, just ask another volunteer for their insights. Every one of these jobs touches—and re-charges—someone else in our church. How cool is that?

Either contact the church office at 543-2292 or [vscc@mchsi.com](mailto:vscc@mchsi.com) to sign-up, or just write a note on the pew pad.

**God so loved...**



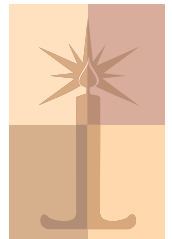
**that God  
Gave.**

## **CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING DEC. 12<sup>TH</sup> & 19<sup>TH</sup>**

The Christmas Special Offering supports the ministries of *our* region—from developing new churches, training camp counselors, and, as we’ve experienced, support when congregations are “in between” ministers.

## **CHRISTMASEVE SERVICE**

Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be **Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** The program will include special music, familiar scriptures and carols. The service will close with the traditional candle-lighting, each person lifting their lit candle in the darkness while we sing “Silent Night.”



## HERE WE COME A WASSAILING!



On Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 pm, we'll go wassailing...or caroling. We'll meet at the church, break off into our caravans and spread our good cheer! Then we'll gather at the church for a meal.

We're packing the Christmas goodies gift bags that morning at **10:00 am**. We usually give fruit, homemade cookies, and candy. If you would like to donate something for the baskets, have the donations here by Saturday morning. Contact Buck Condill (543-2593) for more info.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS VIDEO

The kids are working on this year's video with help from directors Sandy Dolan and Rich Buckler. This always entertaining video will be shown during worship Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>—you won't want to miss it!

## Thank You Notes

Dear VSCC Family—

*Thank you so very much for all your cards & calls during pastoral appreciation month. They were all greatly appreciated—thanks for your kindness & thoughtfulness. God Bless!*

*In Jesus,*

*Pastor Rick*

To My Church Family,

*Thanks so much for the cards and prayers during my recent gall bladder surgery.*

*--Jerry Ray*

## Baby News!

**Isai & Becky Gutierrez, big sister Courtney, and big brothers Malachi and Elijah, welcomed their new little girl, Eden Anabel on October 28<sup>th</sup>!** Eden was 6 lbs, 2 oz.

## Congratulations !!

...to the 1945 Lovington Football Team, who was inducted into the Lovington High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Our own **Wally Willoughby** was on that team, as well as Evelyn's older brother, **Fred Hale**. They were undefeated that season, scoring a total of 420 points and ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the state.

...to **Emily Kauffman**, who was recognized as Junior High Student of the Month for October.

...to **The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Team**, including **Emily Kauffman**, for being the Conference Tournament champs two years in a row!

***DECEMBER 2010 BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES***

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 - David McGrath            | 21 - Evelyn Riggs                |
| 3 - Allen Navel              | Keira Hohlbauch                  |
| 4 - Thelma Appleby           | Angie Hollingsworth              |
| 5 - Terry Wilson             | Caitlin Drum                     |
| 6 - Aura Hopkins             | Rev. Norman & Betty Morriss (A)  |
| Ron & Marie Norvell (A)      | 24 - Michele Brown               |
| 7 - Teri Malin               | 25 - Darlene Hall                |
| Jama Ray                     | 26 - Kit Condill                 |
| James Fustin                 | Carol Hedenberg                  |
| 8 - J.D. Scott               | Andrew Denton Kondrup            |
| Deanna Dallas                | Cheryl Hall                      |
| 9 - Lisa Gangloff            | 27 - Robert & Rose Lundquist (A) |
| 10 - Cheryl Conlin           | 28 - Greg Stiff                  |
| Andrew Hopkins               | 29 - Anne Pate                   |
| Michael Myus                 | Hewitt Hafer                     |
| 11 - David Crist             | 30 - Keith Phillips              |
| 12 - Coewn Condill           | Tracy Hunter                     |
| 14 - Jim & Mindy Goodman (A) | Annemarie Hopkins                |
| 16 - Madeline Helen Ray      | Tina Lavernier                   |
| 18 - Jessica Vanausdoll      | Zowie Kauffman                   |
| 19 - Todd Hunter             | Bruce & Mary Beth Condill (A)    |
| 20 - Marilu Hafer            | 31 - Erin Grace Sillery          |

**Please let us know if anything in this list needs to be corrected.  
Thanks – and Happy Anniversary!**

# DECEMBER 2010

EVERY SUNDAY	8:25 am	SINGING GROUP REHEARSAL
	9:00 am	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:00 am	WORSHIP
MONDAYS	8:30 am	Crafts Group (through Dec. 6)
	5:30 pm	Weight Watchers

SUNDAY, Nov. 28	9:45 am	Congregational Meeting
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent</i>	11:00 am	Elder/Deacon schedule mtg
<b>DECORATE CHURCH AFTER WORSHIP</b>		

Wednesday, Dec. 1	1:30 pm	CWF Meeting
	7:00 pm	Administrative Team Meeting

Saturday, Dec. 4	<b><u>HOLIDAY BAZAAR</u></b>	
	8:00 - 9:30 am	Coffee Hour
	11:00 - 1:30 pm	Chicken Noodle Dinner
	1:00 pm	Quilt Drawing

SUNDAY, Dec. 6	<b>HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE</b>	
<i>Food Pantry Sunday</i>	6:00 pm	Advent Dinner—Kaskaskia Country Club
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent</i>		

Monday, Dec. 6	8:30 am	Crafts (last one until February)
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Tuesday, Dec. 7	11:00 am	Prayer Group
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Wednesday, Dec. 8	10:00 am	Women's Bible Study
	7:00 pm	General Board Meeting

Saturday, Dec. 11	8:30 am	Women's Birthday Breakfast @ Yoder's
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SUNDAY, Dec. 12	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent</i>	
<i>Home Communion</i>		

Monday Dec. 13	Noon	Visitor article deadline
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Saturday, Dec. 18	10:00 am	Pack Christmas Gift Bags
	5:00 pm	Caroling and dinner

SUNDAY, Dec. 19	<i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</i>	
	10:00 am	Children's Christmas Video

Tuesday, Dec. 21	11:00 am	Prayer Group
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Wednesday, Dec. 22	9-11 am	Toenail Clinic
	10:00 am	Women's Bible Study

Friday, Dec. 24	7:00 pm	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
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Saturday, Dec. 25	CHRISTMAS DAY	
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SUNDAY, DEC. 27		
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