

GIVE THANKS

The family was gathered for Thanksgiving Dinner and the 9 year old asked to pray before the meal. He said, "Heavenly Father, we thank You for the turkey, the rolls, the mashed potatoes, the red jiggly stuff, and the bread stuff even though I don't like it. We ask that You not let us choke on this food."

We are told to give thanks, "In everything." That is not easy. Sometimes I am like this kid. I choke on some of life's experiences. Some may interpret this differently but I don't believe Paul says to give thanks "for" everything but "in" everything. Cultivate a grateful spirit. Fill your life with worship, praise, rejoicing, thanksgiving. It is healthy for you. Read Philippians 4. It is written while Paul is imprisoned, awaiting trial and possible execution. And Paul says, "Rejoice in the Lord always." But it is not easy. Sometimes I listen to music that inspires me. Or I just spend time alone with God in quiet. Or I sing a hymn or chorus in praise. And God must be gracious. I haven't been struck down yet. When I am hurting, more than ever, I need to run into the arms of God.

This has been a year of blessing for our Church. And it has been a difficult year in many ways. We have lost some wonderful people who were loved and who were very much a part of our family. And we have been blessed with lots of children in our congregation. We have two services coming up in which we will remember our loved ones and we will pray for our young ones. But I don't want you to misunderstand. Although we are thrilled to have

children in the Church, no one can replace our members and friends who have died. But we can pause to give thanks for them. --**Sunday, November 7th- ALL SAINTS DAY and "Great Expectations Potluck."** We need pictures of our members who have passed away. This will be a time of thanksgiving and honoring our loved ones. **And** we will have a **potluck with Rick** as we consider our search for a Pastor.

--**Sunday, November 14th- Baby/Family Dedication and Blessing.** If you would like your child to be dedicated to the Lord, let Rick know and please give us pictures of your family.

--**November 21st: Everyone is invited to a Community Thanksgiving Service and Potluck at the Arthur United Methodist Church. The service will be at 5:00 pm and the potluck will be immediately following(6:00 pm).**

--**REGIONAL ASSEMBLY: And, it's not too late to register for the CCIW Regional Assembly in Decatur on Nov. 12 and 13. Rick has registration forms.**

If you want to email pictures to Rick, the email address is rww333@hotmail.com or you can drop pictures off at the Church.

My prayer is that we will all find strength in this month of Thanksgiving. May God fill us all with peace and lead us into the future with hope. "In everything...give thanks." I Thessalonians 5:18. --*Rick Williams*, Interim Pastor

ARTHUR HOME

SERVICE COMING UP NOV. 2ND

Our next Arthur Home Service will be Tuesday, Nov. 2nd—a quick start for you November elders and deacons, so mark it on your calendars now. The service begins at 6:00 pm. We are fortunate in the number of people from our church who come and worship with the residents at these services. Your presence – and singing! – helps make it truly a community worship service. Come join us!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 6TH



REGIONAL ASSEMBLY Nov. 12-13

The Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Illinois/Wisconsin will be Friday, November 12—Saturday,

November 13 at the Decatur Conference Center & Hotel. There will be workshops, mission opportunities & a worship service. More information is available in the church office.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, NOV. 21ST

Our annual congregational meeting to elect elders, deacons and officers will be at **9:45 am** between Sunday School and worship on November 21. Sunday School classes are asked to dismiss 5 minutes early at 9:40 am.

THANKSGIVING CHOIR, SERVICE & POTLUCK NOVEMBER 21ST

A special community Thanksgiving service will include a community choir led by Arthur Schools Choral Director Steve McClarey, and a potluck to follow, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

The community choir will rehearse at the Methodist Church at 3:00 pm. The service, sponsored by the Arthur Ministerial Association and hosted by the Arthur Methodist Church, will begin at 5:00 pm. Make plans to attend this special gathering of our community.

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

This fall has been particularly difficult for our congregation with the loss of several of our beloved members and the illnesses and surgeries (and accompanying anxiety) of other members. We have been grieving and are grieving and will continue to grieve for some time. In spite of our aching hearts, I feel we have drawn closer together as a congregation and I feel a renewed commitment to carry out our dreams as a way to honor those who have recently died.

Because of what has happened this fall, our regular year-end schedule of developing a budget and nominating new Elders, Deacons and officers, has been disrupted. The church board did not meet in October, therefore the timeline for doing all the things mentioned above will be compressed.

A Nominating Committee is being formed, and a special board meeting will most likely be called so that the “business” of the church can go forward.

As your Board Moderator I ask for your patience. We will do what we have to do and I feel we will all step up to the challenges and great opportunities that lie ahead.

The strong ties that bind us and the strong relationships that we have built and cultivated over the years serve us well in times like these. We are fortunate to be part of VSCC and we thank God for each other and our vision to create an environment to enable people to connect to the loving, healing, power of God.

Thank you,
Bruce Condill, Moderator



November 14th & 21st

The Thanksgiving Special Offering goes to support the 21 Disciples higher educational institutions—and makes a difference in the lives of the more than 26,000 students that chose a Disciples education. Students at these schools are educated in academics, but also in how they can change the world.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ADVENT DINNER

Mark your calendars now for the Advent Dinner, which will be held on Sunday, December 5th at the Kaskaskia County Club. We will be taking reservations soon—and will be announcing more details, so watch your bulletins and next month's *Visitor*.

NOTE

The *Visitor* will be published a week early this month and again in December, due to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Due dates for articles are **Mon., Nov. 15 & Dec. 13.**



Pete and Rebecca Jean, and big brother, Will, welcomed their new little boy, **Oliver Miles** on October 8th (the day before his grandpa Robert's birthday). Oliver was born at 4:02 am and weighed 8 lbs, 11 oz, and was 20 ½" long. **Sandy & Robert Fustin** are the proud grandparents, and **Ellen Miller** is a proud great-grandmother.

Thank You Notes

Vine Street Christian Church Family-

Thanks for all the cards, phone calls & prayers since my accident. It's so nice to be remembered by our wonderful church family. Every day my recovery is progressing.

Thanks Again,
Kevin Huffman

(This note is from Lisa Gangloff, Marilyn Watkins' daughter, whose husband was in Malawi installing wells through Marion Medical Mission)

Hello –

Steve and Paul finished putting in wells on Thursday and the final count is 147. Yeah!! The last three days they were putting in wells they each had their own truck. Steve put in 37 wells and Paul put in 33 wells to add to the 77 wells they put in together. Today, they are traveling from Tanzania to Malawi and will wrap up with paper work tonight. Saturday they will travel to Lilongwe to spend the night near the airport. On Sunday they will fly to my cousin's winery (Amani Vineyards) near Cape Town until Friday. I am hoping to Skype (video chat) with them with them on Sunday afternoon. Steve said he has had plenty of food but not a lot of variety and is on his last belt notch. He says he has a good farmer's tan going on. Steve said he was able to give away all the granola bars and jerky he took with him

Thank you all for all of your donations and prayers while the guys were putting in wells! We have a great family and friends!!

--Lisa

Dear VSCC Church Family –

I really don't know the words to say for how grateful I am for all that everyone in this church has done for my family.

It has been so nice & meant so much to us to receive all the cards and phone calls and words of support from all of you. Thank you for that. And to all the ladies of the church who prepared the funeral meal. That was great.

Jason & I have always thought highly of our church, but after all of this I consider our church more as family than as our congregation. Thanks again for everything & for helping us through this painful & challenging time.

Love,
**Jama, Madeline, Lauren, &
Vincent Ray**



...To **Justin Ray and Lisa Mast**, who were married in Hilton Head, South Carolina on Sunday, September 26th!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Nov. 4th at 6:30 pm—**Long Term Insurance Seminar**. Please RSVP by Nov. 1 by calling 897-1417.

Nov. 10th from 11-1—**VA Benefits Luncheon**. Complimentary. RSVP by Nov. 5th by calling 543-3705.

MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

We will again be ordering poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary during the Christmas Season. If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one, fill out this form and bring it to the church or put it in the offering plate with **\$12.00** per plant. You can also use the Poinsettia Sign-Up Sheet that will soon be on the L-Table outside the sanctu-

ary, or simply call (543-2292) or e-mail (vscc@mchsi.com) the church office with the information from the form. The deadline for ordering is **November 21st**.

The Poinsettias will be carried into the sanctuary during our December 5th Hanging of the Greens Service. If you are available to carry your plant during the service, let us know and we will contact you with details.



Plants may be taken home after our Christmas Eve service (earlier, if need be) and blank flower cards will be available for you to use if you plan on giving your Poinsettia to someone.

Thank you in advance for your donations. The poinsettias add a beautiful element to the sanctuary during Christmas. A list of donors and honorees will be published in the next *Visitor*.



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

NOVEMBER 2010 BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 - Kristen Conlin
Rosemarie Meilan-Hopkins
Kevin Huffman | 19 - Sandi McDonald |
| 2 - Janice Pearce | 20 - Sandra Fustin
Shane Fustin
Kerry Pate |
| 4 - Annelise Jill Kondrup
Ginny Condill
Mike Hafer | 22 - Mark Yoder |
| 5 - Lyle Huffman
Floyd "Butch" Brittain | 23 - John & Carol Hedenberg (A) |
| 6 - Susan Fustin | 24 - Shannon McDonald Lancaster |
| 12 - Jeffrey Taylor
Chloe Sadowski | 25 - Tracy Scott
Shana Condill |
| 14 - Carol Harrer
Finnian Davison
Elijah Gutierrez
Dale Maycroft | 26 - Justin Ray |
| 17 - La Vonne Jean | 27 - Mary Daugherty
Seth Hafer |
| 18 - Jennifer May
Tracy & Laury Scott (A) | 28 - Mackenzie Jean Condill
Lloyd Gayle & Mary Daugherty (A) |
| | 29 - Renae Phillips
Johnny Harrer
Lisa & Steve Gangloff (A) |
| | 30 - Janice & Lindsey Daugherty (A) |

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

NOVEMBER 2010

<u>EVERY SUNDAY</u>	8:25 am SINGING GROUP 9:00 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am MORNING WORSHIP
<u>EVERY MONDAY</u>	8:30 am Crafts Group (till Noon) 5:30 pm Weight Watchers

<u>SUNDAY, OCT. 31</u>	
Tuesday, Nov. 2	11:00 am Prayer Group 6:00 pm Arthur Home Service
Wednesday, Nov. 3	1:30 pm CWF Mtg 7:00 pm Admin Team Mtg
Saturday, Nov. 6	🕒 <i>Turn your clocks back tonight</i>
<u>SUNDAY, NOV. 7</u> <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i>	<u>ALL SAINTS MEMORIAL SUNDAY</u> "Great Expectations" Potluck following worship

Tuesday, Nov. 9	7:00 pm Education Mtg
Wednesday, Nov. 10	10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Board Meeting
Saturday, Nov. 13	8:30 am Women's Birthday Breakfast @ Yoder's

<u>SUNDAY, NOV. 14</u> <i>Home Communion Sunday</i>	<i>Blessing of the Children Service</i>
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Monday, Nov. 15	Noon: <i>Visitor</i> article deadline
Tuesday, Nov. 16	11:00 am Prayer Group
Wednesday, Nov. 17	8:00 am NOODLE MAKING!

<u>SUNDAY, NOV. 21</u> <i>Thanksgiving Sunday</i>	9:45 am Annual Congregational Meeting between Sunday School and Worship 11:00 am Elder's Meeting immediately following worship 3:00 pm Community Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE & POTLUCK-ARTHUR METHODIST
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Wednesday, Nov. 24	9-11 am Toenail Clinic 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
Thursday, Nov. 24	THANKSGIVING DAY

<u>SUNDAY, NOV. 28</u>	<i>First Sunday in Advent</i>
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Please be Praying for...

Shawn Vanasdoll and all the family & friends of Kyle Vanasdoll, who died September 19.

Michelle, Philo, Abby and all the family & friends of Ross Taylor, who died September 26.

Margie Elliott, and all the friends & family of Christine Rau, who passed away last month.

Jama, Madeline, Lauren, Vincent and all the family & friends of Jason Ray, who died October 10.

Erin Tohill and all the family and friends of Brian VandenBrink, who died October 17.

On the Prayer List

Cheryl Jackson & Cindy Helton
Brad Wells

Alice Ray
Melissa Rush & baby Issac
Wally Willoughby

Rene Willoughby
Todd Fifer
Karen Whitley, Amy Strong's
mother

Arthur Wayne Hughes, Emogene
Burrows' nephew

Max Duzan
Philo Schrock
Geraldine Strong, Amy's mother-
in-law

Ella Mae Artis, Kindred Hospital-
Sycamore, 225 Edward St., Sycamore,
IL 60178

Nim Gray