

Vision and Purpose Statement:

To encourage and empower changes within ourselves,
to meet the needs of the congregation, community and the world.

Phil. 4:13, James 2:26

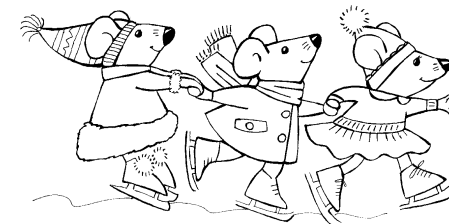
Table of Contents

A Message from Pastor Wally	1
Musing on Missions	2
Birthdays / Anniversaries / Celebrations	4
Thoughts From ...	5
Bible Quiz	6
Welcoming New Members	7
Announcements / Old Family Bible / Cartoon	8
Thanks / Announcements / Sympathies	9
All in the Same Boat / Baptisms / Births	10
Annual Business Meeting / Heartfelt Thanks	11
Calendar/Sermon Series	12
Opportunities for Service & Presence	13
Kids Page	14

2006 Daily Bible Reading Guide for January

1. Mark 1.1-20	15. John 17.1-26	29. Acts 22.22-23.11
2. Mark 1.21-45	16. John 1.19-51	30. Acts 26.1-23
3. Mark 2.1-17	17. Mark 8.1-26	31. Acts 28.11-31
4. Mark 3.1-19	18. Mark 8.27-9.13	
5. Mark 3.20-35	19. Mark 9.14-32	
6. Matthew 2.1-15	20. Mark 9.33-50	
7. Mark 4.1-20	21. Mark 10.1-16	
8. Mark 4.21-41	22. Mark 10.17-34	
9. Mark 5.1-20	23. Mark 10.35-52	
10. Mark 5.21-43	24. Galatians 1.1-24	
11. Mark 6.1-29	25. Acts 9.1-25	
12. Mark 6.30-56	26. Acts 9.26-43	
13. Mark 37.1-23	27. Acts 21.17.36	
14. Mark 7.24-37	28. Acts 21.37-22.21	

3	Tuesday	6:30 p.m. United in Prayer 7:00 p.m. ABW Ministries Meeting Hostess: Zelma Harman Meet at Church
5, 12, 19, 26	Thursday	6:30 p.m. Sunday Praise Team Practice
7, 14, 21, 28	Saturday	7:30 a.m. Men's Ministry 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting 7:00 p.m. Saturday Worship
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Sunday	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School
4, 11, 18, 25	Wednesday	Small Group Studies 3:00 p.m. <i>Experiencing God</i> 5:45 p.m. <i>Light Supper</i> 6:30 p.m. <i>The Gospel of John</i> <i>Experiencing God</i> <i>Experiencing the Heart of Jesus</i> <i>Veggie Connections</i>
8	Sunday	5:00 p.m. Light Supper 6:00 p.m. Annual Business Meeting
10	Tuesday	7:00 p.m. Boards Meet

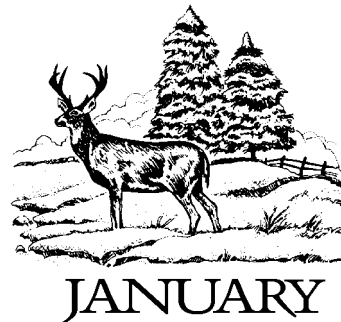


January

January 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Theme: *Strengthening Your Hold on God*

- | | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| 1 | 9:30 a.m. | <i>A Recipe For the New Year</i>
Philippians 3:13-14 |
| 7 | 7:00 p.m. | Contemporary Worship
<i>Strengthening Your Hold on God Through Prayer</i>
Philippians 4:1-20 |
| 8 | 9:30 a.m. | <i>Strengthening Your Hold on God Through Prayer</i>
Philippians 4:1-20 |
| 14 | 7:00 p.m. | Contemporary Worship
<i>Guest Speaker</i>
Lee Unger |
| 15 | 9:30 a.m. | <i>Guest Speaker</i>
Lee Unger |
| 21 | 7:00 p.m. | Contemporary Worship
<i>Guest Speaker</i>
John Simmons |
| 22 | 9:30 a.m. | <i>Guest Speaker</i>
John Simmons |
| 28 | 7:00 p.m. | Contemporary Worship
<i>Guest Speaker</i>
Lee Unger |
| 29 | 9:30 a.m. | <i>Guest Speaker</i>
Lee Unger |



Dear Friends in Christ:

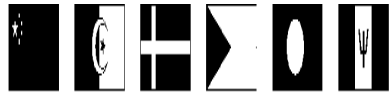
December is over and the New Year is being ushered in. It seems like we just started on our Christmas emphasis "A Season of Wonder". I feel that God has been here with us through planning and worship. A big thank you is in order to everyone who attended or were part of our ministries, from the Live Nativity to Christmas Sunday, Jesus traveled with us.

As we look forward to the new year together, I want to encourage each of you to stay close to God. If we do that, He will draw close to us. In 2006, I believe that He has some great things planned for us as individuals and as a community of believers. The key to everything is the amount of prayer we put into our planning. Max Lucado says that when we work for God, that is good. But when we pray, God works.

As always, I look forward to worshipping and working with you this month.

Pastor Wally

Happy New Year ♪ *Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year*



MISSIONS



Musing on Missions
by Meryl Cook

The Gaza Strip is one of the most turbulent spots on the face of the earth. It is also one of the world's most densely populated with 1.4 million people --- some 900,000 of whom live in 12 refugee camps from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Gaza City has 400,000 citizens. In their midst, the Gaza Baptist Church reaches out to some of the neediest people in this place of terrible poverty, violence, and unemployment. The church and its partner, Christian Mission to Gaza, (CMG), engage in a variety of evangelical ministries while meeting basic human needs.

Hanna Massad has been the church's pastor since 1987. Born in Gaza City, he came to the U.S. in 1991, graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary, and returned to Gaza City in 1999. While he was a student, he was ordained as an American Baptist Pastor and served FBC, Azusa, California. He also founded Christian Mission to Gaza which provides food and medical care to needy Christians, Muslims, and Jews in Gaza City and nearby Beit Lahia refugee camp.

An outreach of the church is the Culture and Light Library. It was established in 1968 and serves nearly 1000 people every month. It contains some 17,000 volumes, including Christian books. As the only Christian public library in the whole territory, Massad explains that it both strengthens the Christian community and provides an important service to the people of Gaza.

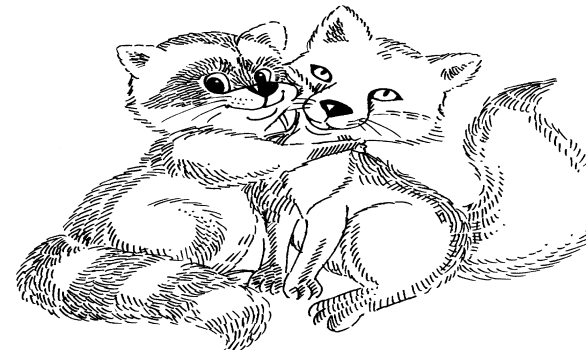
Recently, with the help of several partners, the church bought land and began to build a multi-purpose facility for both the library and other Community service ministries. Plans include a medical clinic, specializing in early detection of breast cancer, guest quarters for volunteers to serve at the clinic and teach English at the library, and a space for worship until a new sanctuary is built later. Pastor Massad thanks God for the partnership and financial support of International Ministries.

Annual Business Meeting



On January 8, 2006, we will conduct our annual business meeting. It will be an exciting time to look ahead and ask God what His work is about and how we can join him in it. At this meeting, we will elect new officers for 2006, adopt a budget for 2006, and make many other plans for the future of our church. The building committee will present its proposal for continuing with the building plans and ask the congregation for its direction in moving ahead.

Soup will be served at 5:00 p.m. and the business meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. We encourage **every** member and regular attender to come to this meeting!
See you there!



Heartfelt Thanks

We are speechless at the generosity you have shown us this Christmas! Thank you everyone! You are the best!

We appreciate all the support you have given us during the time we have served in Macomb and want you to know we count it a privilege and an honor to pastor this church.

We are looking forward to serving you in 2006!

Pastor Wally and Annetta

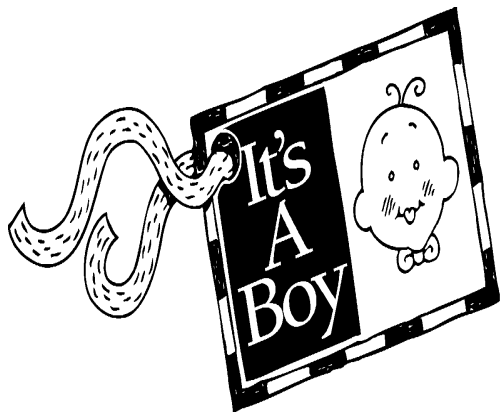


All in the same boat

The portion of the church building where the congregation sits is called the nave or boat. It reflects the understanding that the church is the ark of salvation, offering life in Jesus Christ to all who will receive it. Often in stained-glass windows, one can find a picture of a boat, sometimes with a cross as the mast to symbolize the church. As you sit in worship on Sunday look around you. We're all in the same boat!

Baptisms

Collin Burns and Michael Haley will be Baptized on January 8th during morning worship. Please join us in celebrating their new birth in Christ.



Congratulations to Moises and Andrea Molina on the birth of their son Isa Mateo Molina on November 30, 2005. Isa weighed in at 7 lbs. and 9oz, and was 19 1/2 inches long.

In the Gulf Coast, Samaritan's Purse now has 5 Disaster Relief Units loaded with emergency supplies and equipment making repairs to thousands of poor, elderly, and uninsured families. Undoubtedly, many of the Operation Christian Child shoe boxes will also go to these areas.

STEP stands for Student Tuition Expense Program and is sponsored by International Ministries. Matt and Lori Mann (IM) in Laos write they prepared school uniforms and school supplies for 29 needy children in a village where most of the children at the "Hope Home" have come. They include the scholarship program as part of their approach to minimize children coming to the city to beg. This was possible because of the STEP program. The mother of one of the girls in the Home is an opium addict and recently was diagnosed with tuberculosis. She needs to remain in the hospital. Medical care must be provided by the patient's family. Even drinking water is not provided! The mother is a constant complainer and threatens to leave. The Manns ask that we pray she will stay in the hospital until released by the doctor, that she may be healed of both TB and her addiction.

Hope Sports Ministry has been strengthened by a group of 14 soccer players from New Zealand that came to the Center and run an indoor soccer clinic for the children affiliated with Hope. Over a period of 3 days, 50 children participated in coaching games, praying, sharing songs, and listening to testimonies of faith from the Soccer Plus team. The Laos children were given attention and encouragement by Christians who care about them, and it was encouraging to see how God can use athletic passions and abilities in ministry.

A work team from Great Rivers Region will go to Costa Rica January 9-18, 2006. The G.R.R. Mission Conference will be held January 20-21 at Cherry Hills Baptist Church in Springfield. Registration for the entire conference is \$25.00.

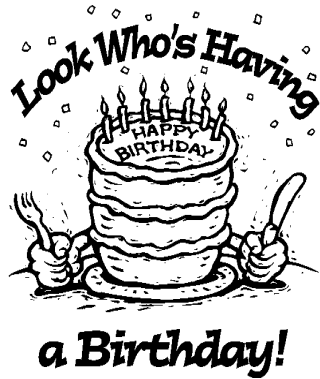
Watch for plans for Souper Bowl Sunday!!!!

Birthdays:

Jan 11 Ann Borquist IM Brazil

Jan 24 John Coats IM Cambodia

Jan 31 Trevor Jones NM Kodiak, Alaska



January

- 1 Jerry McKamy
- 2 Jim Harman
- 4 Mabel Scott
- 10 Roger Riggins
Richard "Rich" Sample I
Tony Starr
- 11 Iris Davis
- 14 Christina Harman
Dr. Theodore Garrison
Adron & Donna McMahon (a)
- 15 Barbara Arvin
Tyler Green
- 17 Kathleen Barry
- 20 Robert Alexander
- 22 Tony Arvin
Steve S. Smart
- 23 Bradley Cobb
- 26 Margaret (Alexander)
Ellis
- 31 George Noper



Thank you for your gift which was received for the support of the American Baptist Men and Boys Ministry. We also appreciate your generous gift which was used for our disaster relief teams working in Mississippi for hurricane Katrina cleanup.

- W. Earl Troyer - Treasurer - American Baptist Men of the Great Rivers Region

Thank you to my church family for the remembrance at Christmas time. I will be saving the opening for Christmas morning. The flowers you have sent from the altars are greatly appreciated. Thank you, Meryl, for bringing the tapes of the services and for the visits.

- Helen Bayless

Thank you for all of your prayers, thoughts and kind words throughout my pregnancy and Isa's birth. It has meant a lot to all of us to be surrounded by the body of Christ that has become our family. Thank you once again for your thoughtfulness.

- Andrea, Moises, Ian, Eva, and Isa Molina



A big thank you for all of the volunteers that help us make events, bulletins, and newsletters possible.

Monday, January 16, 5:00 p.m. CPR and First Aid class will be offered at FBC. Instructor will Lee Unger. Everyone is welcome.

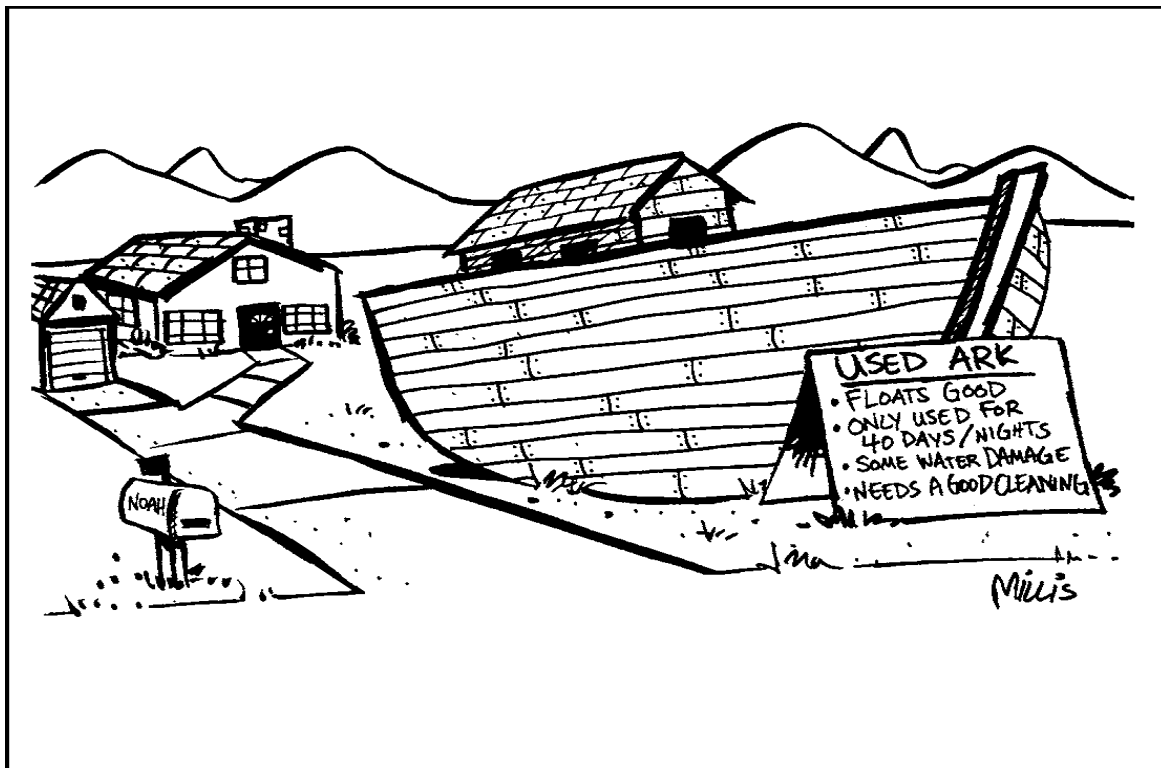
The Old Family Bible

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he held in his hand was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

“Mama, look what I found!” the boy called out.

“What have you got there, dear?” asked his mother.

The young boy answered in a voice hushed with awe, “I think it’s Adam’s underwear.”



Thoughts from three wise women

Birds sing after a storm; why shouldn't people feel as free to delight in whatever remains to them?

—Rose Kennedy

Always be joyful. That is the only truly saintly state.

—Teresa of Ávila

We plant seeds that will flower as results in our lives, so best to remove the weeds of anger, avarice, envy and doubt, that peace and abundance may manifest for all.

—Dorothy Day

Thoughts from three wise men

Those who deeply love never grow old; they may die of old age, but they die young.

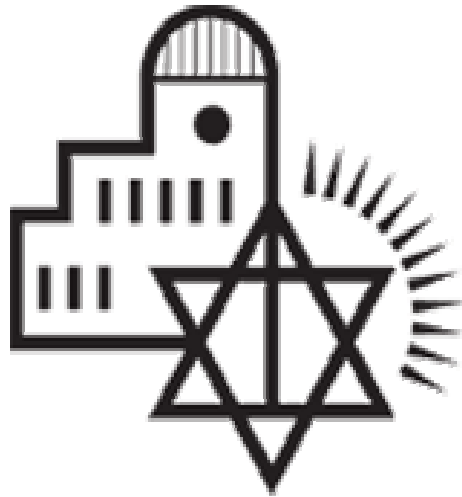
—Sir Arthur W. Pinero

Inside each of us there are two “warring” entities, the strong and the weak, the bold and the fearful, the large and the small. Each of us has a “big me” and a “little me” inside, and often the “little me” frustrates and paralyzes the “big me.” When a person’s inner image drops below a certain level, the result is pure misery.

—The Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become reality. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Bible quiz

King David wanted to build a glorious temple for worshipping God and for housing the ark of the covenant. God, however, did not permit him to build it. Instead, God chose Solomon, David's son, to head up the building program. Why wasn't David allowed the honor of building the temple?

- A. David was getting too old to supervise such an undertaking.
- B. David had been a warrior and had shed blood.
- C. David had stopped taking God seriously.
- D. David's attention was required elsewhere.

The answer is in 1 Chronicles 28:3.

Answer: B

**OUR CHURCH WELCOMES**

Pollyanna Pittman grew up on the tenant farm of her grandfather in Ipava, IL. She grew up attending Sunday School and church at Woodlawn Church of the Brethren in Astoria. Polly accepted Jesus as her personal Savior at the age of 13 and studied the Bible for one month and was baptized (she was immersed 3 times - for the Son, Father & Holy Ghost). She served as president of the district youth group for 2 years. She played the flute in the high school band and graduated from Astoria High School. Polly married Jack Pittman in 1951 and had 6 children - 3 daughters and 3 sons. She is proud of her 15 grandchildren and is expecting #16. She helped her husband on the farm, decorated cakes, worked as a secretary at the Astoria Locker Plant, Duds and Things, worked at Easter's in Ft. Madison and Walmart in Macomb. She also cashiered auctions after her husband graduated from Auction School.

Polly enjoys emailing, sewing and crocheting, and being with Dick Pittman. One of the things that she enjoys most is Wednesday evenings at FBC.

Welcome Polly!

Mary Margaret Foulk (Peggy) was born in Hancock County and lived there until she was seven. The rest of her life has been spent in McDonough County. She graduated from Industry High School and married Robert Foulk. They had a daughter and a son, and now have five grandchildren and one great-grandson. Peggy was baptized into the Christian Church when she was a child and baptized again as a Baptist about 30 years ago. She has been driving a school bus for 38 years. She enjoys reading, crocheting, and playing with her two small dogs.

Welcome Peggy!