

November 24, 2011

# The Christian Messenger

*"rethinking Christmas"*

how to ...  
give more  
spend less  
really love

A Holiday Sermon  
Series  
Sundays  
9:00 a.m.  
11:15 a.m.

## Holiday Dinner

**Sunday, December 4, 2011  
12:30 p.m.**

**Bring a covered dish to  
share and your table service.**

**FCC Youth  
Present**

**"Wise Guys and Starry Skies"  
Sunday, December 11  
4:00 p.m.**

**Light Supper to Follow  
(free)**

## Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting December 11 after our 9:00 a.m. worship service. The business to be conducted will be the 2012 Church Budget. Copies will be in the lobby by Sunday December 4 or you may contact the church office for a personal copy.

# Thank You

We want to say thank you for all your thoughts and prayers, your calls, cards, food, flowers, memorials, and especially the funeral dinner. All these things have helped get us through the past 18 months!

The family of Richard Mils

Becky & Grant

We can't thank you enough for our "Blessing Tree." The residents are still adding leaves to it. We truly appreciate everything you do.

Erika & Tammy  
Courtyard Estates

Thank you, Steve & Theresa Poland, for creating the Blessing Trees for Courtyard Estates and the church.

A big thank you to the Faith Weavers Class for hosting the all church dinner on Sunday, Nov 13. It was great!

Betty Wilson

Dec. 3  
11:30 a.m.  
Sullivan  
Christmas  
Parade

Dec. 11  
9:00 a.m.  
Christmas  
Cantata

Dec. 25  
9:00 a.m.  
11:15 a.m.  
Christmas Day  
Worship

Ray Family  
Special  
Music at  
9:00

Dec. 24  
8:00 p.m.  
Christmas  
Eve  
Service



# News from the Pews

## Attendance Report

“We count people-because people count!”

|        |                 |     |
|--------|-----------------|-----|
| Nov 13 |                 |     |
| 9:00   | Worship Service | 124 |
| 11:15  | Worship Service | 28  |
| Nov 20 |                 |     |
| 9:00   | Worship Service | 109 |
| 11:15  | Worship Service | 11  |

## Wednesday, Dec 7

- 6:00 p.m.            Supper for all
- 6:20 - 7:00        “The Journey” Class
- 6:20 - 7:30        Youth Choir practice
- 7:00 - 8:00        Adult Choir practice
- 6:30 - 8:00        U-Night — activities  
for adults & children of all ages

Sign up on the Worship Communications slip, through the Church Secretary, or on Facebook.



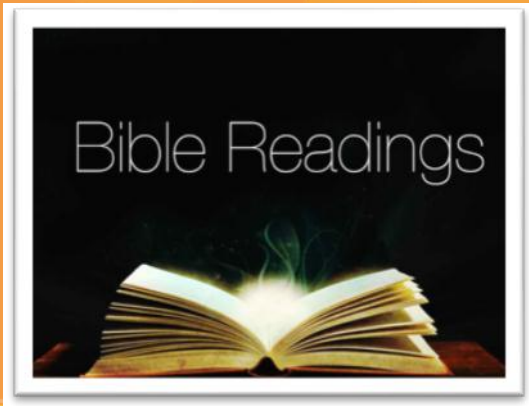
## Stewardship Report

|                        |       |             |
|------------------------|-------|-------------|
| Nov 13 Offering        | ..... | \$ 3,016.00 |
| Nov 20 Offering        | ..... | \$ 4,297.00 |
| Weekly Budget for 2011 | ..... | \$ 5,000.00 |



Emma Mead (Bill & Evelyn Kidwell;s great-granddaughter), Rob Chenoweth, Amber Elder, Brian Hart, Kay Aldridge, Kathryn Hutchcraft, Barbara Reynolds, Neal Elder & family, Tony Sager, Ron White, Heather Martin (Mindy McPheeters cousin), Fultz’ friend, Fran Dudley, Mark Wilhelm, Walter Kirchholfer, Theresa Van Deurson, Lori Harbaugh’s friend in Arizona, Elaine Rice (friend of Charlene Coleman), Harold Hamilton, Ralph Dolan, Jesse Reyes (friend of Brion Baker), Tracy Hudson, Donna (Jan Dust’s sister-in-law), Don Bragg, Maxine Barrett, John Gentry Sr., Brent Manning, Jerry Brumley, Annabelle Malloy, Bill Harris, Tara Sparrow, Jennie White, Ron Sutton Sr., John Krone, Faye Walker, Betty & Al Cherry, Gene Myers, Michelle Lewis, Stu Good, Tim Daily, Tim Anderson, Daisy Keown, Connie Lance, Mike Wilson, Vera Myers, Bob Harris, Andrea Klingel, Nancy Parks’ sister-in-law, Nancy Davis, John Daily, Rodney Maxwell, Randy Righter, Ellen Ann Little VandenBrink, Sean Little, Russell Wiley, Nancie Taylor, Toby Shafer, Pat Burcham, Marvene Walton, Mardelle Bolin, Celia Buesking, Evalyn Glazebrook, LaVerne Braden, Ina Buxton, Warren Hall, Ruth Sandrisser, Paul Hutchcraft

Our military serving our country



## Community Calendar

Vine Street Christian Church  
Holiday Bazaar  
Saturday, Dec 3  
8:00 a.m. ~ 2:00 p.m.

*See office bulletin board for more information.*

### December 2011

- 1 Isaiah 11:1-16
- 2 Isaiah 12:1-6
- 3 Isaiah 52:1-12
- 4 Jeremiah 33:1-26
- 5 Malachi 3:1-18
- 6 Malachi 4:1-6
- 7 Mark 1:1-13
- 8 John 1:19-34
- 9 John 1:35-51
- 10 John 2:1-12
- 11 Isaiah 60:1-22
- 12 Isaiah 61:1-11
- 13 Isaiah 62:1-12
- 14 Zephaniah 3:1-20
- 15 Zechariah 8:1-23
- 16 Zechariah 9:9-17
- 17 Psalm 24
- 18 Isaiah 7:1-25
- 19 Isaiah 8:11-9:7
- 20 Luke 1:1-25
- 21 Luke 1:26-38
- 22 Luke 1:39-56
- 23 Luke 1:57-80
- 24 Luke 2:1-20
- 25 John 1:1-18
- 26 Luke 2:21-40
- 27 Luke 2:41-52
- 28 Titus 1:1-16
- 29 Titus 2:1-15
- 30 Titus 3:1-15
- 31 Revelation 1:1-20



Visit our website for recent sermon audio, past newsletters, and all kinds of helpful information!



Follow us on Twitter:  
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Like us on Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/fccsullivan>

## December Serving Schedule

### Elders

Cheri Burcham  
Dennis Righter

### Deacons

Brad Burcham, Checker  
Darian Sparrow  
Mary Ann Wiley  
Marvin Wiley  
Scott Neal  
Djuana Neal  
Luella Hughes, Alt.  
Theresa Poland, Alt.

### Communion Prep

Mary Ann Wiley

### Serve Shut-ins

Dennis Righter  
Deb Lawson  
Brad & Cheri Burcham  
Scott & Djuana Neal

### Flowers

Dec 11 Susan Elder

## December Anniversaries

1 Steve & Theresa Betzler  
8 JR & Cathrine Craig  
9 Stan & Charlotte Emel  
20 Tom & Peggy Hargis

## December Birthdays

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Peggy Hargis      | 18 Nick Brewer       |
| Dave Walker         | Kathleen Wood        |
| 3 Heather Dillner   | 19 Joyce Howard      |
| 4 Brynna Sental     | 20 Dan Bowers        |
| 5 Robert E. Koewn   | 21 Jennie Harchous   |
| Betty King          | 22 Jason Berner      |
| 7 Meredith Cooper   | Gerald Dolan         |
| 8 Eva Hall          | 23 Teresa Betzler    |
| Vanessa Marshall    | Jim Warren           |
| 9 Stephanie Cole    | 25 Marsha Robbins    |
| Jim Warren          | 27 Doug Fultz        |
| 10 Janet Harchous   | Sydnee Ray           |
| 11 Ruby Jividen     | 28 Cassidy Daily     |
| 13 Virginia         | Joe Inman            |
| Brandenburger       | Gary Wood            |
| Marsha Thompson     | 29 Evalyn Glazebrook |
| 15 Mike Shasteen    |                      |
| 16 RuthAnn Drummond |                      |
| Kim Smith           |                      |
| Genevieve Sutton    |                      |
| Susie Webb          |                      |
| 17 Marcia Epperson  |                      |

### Elders & Deacons

If you are unable to serve when scheduled, please ask someone to take your place.

Communion Prep includes preparation & clean up for both worship services. Feel free to ask someone to cover part or all of these duties for you.



# December 2011

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue                                   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri | Sat  |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|-----|--|
|  |   |                                       |  | 1<br>Girl Scouts<br>6-7:00 p.m.<br>Elders Meeting<br>7:00 p.m. | 2   | 3<br>Sullivan Christmas<br>Parade<br>11:30 a.m.  |
| 4<br>9:00 Worship<br>10:15 S School<br>11:15 Worship<br>12:30 Holiday<br>Dinner<br>4-6:00 HS Youth<br>Group<br>6-8:00 Jr. High<br>Youth Group                            | 5<br>Property<br>Meeting<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Christian Ed<br>Meeting<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Newsletter<br>Articles due | 6<br>Body Gospel<br>Fit Club<br>6:30  | 7<br>6:00 pm Supper<br>6:20—7 "The<br>Journey" Class<br>6:30-8 U-Night<br>7:00 Cantata<br>Practice | 8  | 9   | 10<br>Cantata<br>Dress<br>Rehearsal<br>9:00 a.m. |
| 11 9:00 Worship—<br>Cantata<br>10:00 Congrega-<br>tional Meeting<br>10:15 S School<br>11:15 Worship<br>4:00 Children's<br>Christmas<br>Program—Light<br>Supper Following | 12<br>Girl Scouts<br>5:30-7:30 p.m.   | 13<br>Body Gospel<br>Fit Club<br>6:30 | 14<br>Christmas Party<br>Courtyard Est.<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Girl Scout<br>6-7:00 p.m.                 | 15<br>Choir<br>Practice<br>7:00 p.m.                           | 16  | 17   |
| 18<br>9:00 Worship<br>10:15 S School<br>11:15 Worship<br>4-6:00 HS Youth<br>Group<br>6-8:00 Jr. High<br>Youth Group  | 19<br>Adah/Naomi<br>12:00 p.m.<br>Girl Scouts<br>5:30-7:30p.m.<br>Articles for the<br>newsletter are due    | 20<br>Body Gospel<br>Fit Club<br>6:30 | 21   | 22<br>Board<br>Reports<br>Are due                              | 23  | 24<br>Christmas Eve<br>Service<br>8:00 p.m.      |
| 25<br>9:00 Worship<br>10:15 S School<br>11:15 Worship  | 26<br>Church<br>Office<br>Closed  | 27                                    | 28<br>Board<br>Meeting<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Choir<br>7:00 p.m.  | 29   | 30  | 31   |

# Family Matters



Family Matters. I like that title - even if it does remind me of the TV show from the 90s. It is true though, that when I reflect on my life, out of all of the things that are important to me, family is very high on the list.

Family matters because it's hard for a child to grow up without a parent. Children, don't ever take your parents for granted. Even when you may be upset with them, they love you more than you know (until you become a parent). Obey your parents and tell them often that you love them.

Family matters because time is precious. As parents, life is so busy! So parents, I say to you, cherish the moments you have with your children. Every moment is special and children deserve all of the attention that you can give them. Even when you may be completely stressed out, remember that children are a gift from God.

Family matters because not everyone has one. As a church, we are a family. We are a family to those who would otherwise not know what it is like to feel loved. We are a family to those who have no one to comfort them in times of sorrow, and to those who have no one to celebrate with in times of joy.

Family matters because we are children of God. God has created us in His image and because of Jesus we are able to have a relationship with God. As a part of God's family, it is important that we are always doing what we can to bring others into this family.

Family matters because of the world we live in. The importance of family too often gets lost in our world because there are so many things competing for our attention. It is my prayer that throughout this holiday season you will find *make* the time to spend with your family -- your church family, and your related family.

Blessings,

Pastor Grant



# Becky's By-line



How many days until Christmas? Have you counted recently? I distinctly remember saying that once November 1 hits, the next day is Thanksgiving and the next Christmas. It is true this year, too! Life is rolling right along...but don't let the holidays roll by too quickly. This year let's do something differently. Let's take the pace down a notch and remember what it is we are celebrating.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on all our blessings. Here, say it with me, "As you go through life, make this your goal—look at the donut and not the hole." (If you weren't here last Sunday, ask someone about the Children's Message.) It is a wonderful approach to life that we can have regardless of the circumstances we face for we know Christ is with us each and every step.

Then there is Christmas when we celebrate the greatest Blessing of all time. The Advent sermon series is entitled "Rethinking Christmas" and will give insight into how to slow the pace and celebrate the reason why we celebrate! We will talk about how to give more while spending less thus making this a most valuable Season.

Christmas Day is on Sunday! That often poses a dilemma for people of faith. Do we take time out of our family schedules to go to church? That is a question each family must answer for themselves. We hope you come—both the 9:00 and 11:15 services are guaranteed to get you in and out in 45 minutes! There will be traditional Christmas singing as we experience the wonder of the birth of Christ, the Reason why we are Christ-ians. At the 9:00 service the Ray kids (OK, so they aren't kids any more!) will bring a special medley of Christmas songs for our extra special gathering. Our times of worship promise to be wonderful gatherings; and I'm pretty sure the Host will make an appearance in our hearts.

But if you are going to be with family on Christmas Day, you can still celebrate CHRIST-mas. Why not read the Christmas story from the book of Luke before you eat? Or have a special time of prayer before opening gifts, remembering the Guest of Honor? Or have a family member tell what Christ means to him/her?

However you celebrate Christmas, don't forget to include Christ. After all, it isn't your birthday....

Pastor Becky

## SUNDAY SERVICES

9:00 AM Morning Worship  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
11:15 AM Worship Service

Phone - 217.728.7351  
Fax - 217.728.7352

Michelle Liddiard, Secretary  
Office Hours: M-F 9 to 12:00, 1 to 4:00  
Church E-mail: [office@fccsullivan.org](mailto:office@fccsullivan.org)

Rebecca S. Ingram, Senior Pastor  
[rsi@fccsullivan.org](mailto:rsi@fccsullivan.org) • 217.273.9766

Grant Wade, Family Pastor  
[grant@fccsullivan.org](mailto:grant@fccsullivan.org) • 217.454.9090



**First Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
1357 CR 1200 E  
Sullivan, IL 61951

November 24, 2011

**Address Service Requested**

Visit us at [www.fccsullivan.org](http://www.fccsullivan.org)

### Upcoming Messages & Scriptures

Nov 27—First Sunday of Advent  
“Rethinking Christmas”—Luke 1:46-55

Dec 4—Second Sunday of Advent  
“Giving More Presence for Christmas”  
Matthew 2:1-12

Dec 11—Third Sunday of Advent  
FCC Choir Cantata

Visit our website at [www.fccsullivan.org](http://www.fccsullivan.org) for highlights from our Sunday Worship Services and pictures from church events.



### Pass the word...

11:15 am  
Worship Service  
Sundays

casual  
interactive  
family-friendly