

BY THE WAY...

January 2012

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Raymond S. Thomas

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Editor: Sarah Terpening

From the Pastor



I once thought that those wise men who followed the star to the manger in Bethlehem had it so easy. What a clear and unmistakable sign! When do we ever get such convincing clarity in our walk? But as I “mature” and my eyes change, or the things I notice along this walk of faith change, I wonder. I wonder, as I wander, if there are signs that are leading me, and you, closer to the same Savior who the wise men discovered, step by step.

For example, I was driving home from church, late one afternoon. The sky was dark and the weather was rainy. As I turned into my neighborhood, a coyote dashed across the road, a four-legged blur right in front of my car. I slammed on my brakes. I didn't hit it; I don't know how I didn't hit it. The next day, I was making a left turn into St. Mary's Hospital to visit one of our flock. I was sitting in the turn lane, waiting for the traffic coming from the opposite direction to clear. As I sat and waited, I saw a car approaching me, straddling the yellow lines of the turn lane, trying to pass another car right where the road narrowed from two lanes to one. He kept straddling those lines as he sped toward me; I still don't know how I wasn't hit. Me and my coyote friend lived to see another day.

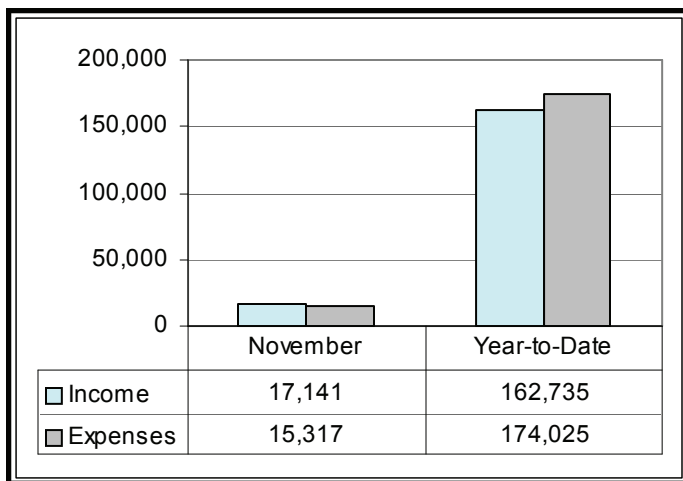
I have this church family that is precious and dear to me, dear not only to me but to my wife and our two children. During our recent stewardship campaign, on our Consecration Sunday, my wife and I decided to express our deep gratitude to God by raising our giving in 2012. At the same time,

apparently, the congregation was plotting and scheming (unbeknownst to us) to give me and my wife an appreciation gift. (WE THANK YOU ALL, SO MUCH, FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND YOUR LOVE!) Same direction. Same steps. Closer to the Lord. Following yonder star.

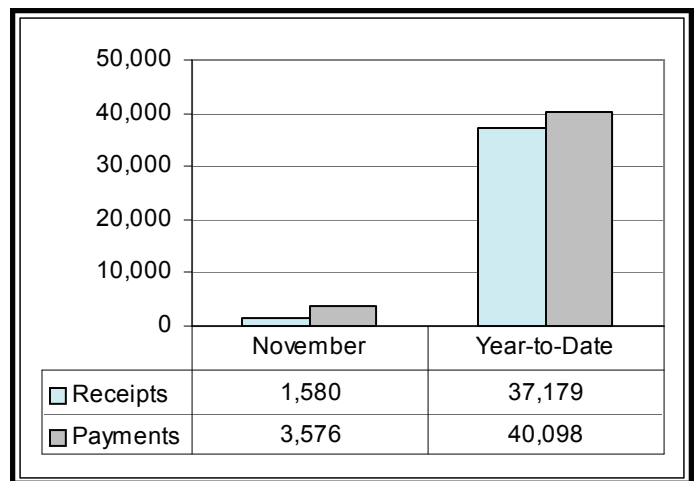
And what's more is the timing of another significant gift to the church. Just as we celebrated the achievement of raising \$5,000 over a year and a half to purchase an ark through the Heifer Project, I had a visit from a friend of the church, a few days later. This person has valued the ministry and mission of The Holy Way Presbyterian Church and wanted to give an anonymous gift to support it. She wanted to give to the church because God had been good to her. I won't disclose the specific amount, but if you are able to see the star, I bet you already know it.

One last glimmer note from the star that has me still wondering, as I wander, the song that was playing in my car, when the coyote nearly met his or her doom at my front bumper was: “Long May You Run”. Indeed. May not perish, but have eternal life.

Operating Budget



Monthly Mortgage Report



General Fund Receipts 2011

(As of November 30)

Pledged	87,852
Unpledged	68,480
Other	6,403

Mortgage Balance Remaining

November— 241,352

20 Year Mortgage to be paid off by

May 2019

Something to Think About...

How great should be our gratitude

To God our unseen Friend!

The volume of His gifts to us

We cannot comprehend. —Hess

God's highest Gift should awaken our deepest gratitude.

Ark Goal Reached!

Thanks to the dream of our Melanie Miller, the hard work of our young people, and the generosity of this believing congregation, we have reached our goal of purchasing an Ark through Heifer International. \$5,000 raised in a year and a half! We are pleased to enable people around the world to receive pairs and groups of animals which will feed the hungry and offer a sustainable living to whole communities. What an inspiration our young people are to this church!!!

One of the ways this money was raised was through the donation of aluminum cans. We are still receiving cans and we will continue to use them for fundraising. The Christian Education Committee will be meeting in early January to decide the next mission purpose and goal for such funds.

Per Capita

The Per Capita amount for 2012 is \$30 per active member. The money is used, within the denomination, to cover administrative costs. All active members are invited to contribute \$30 to offset the cost, which will be paid in February.

Facebook Page

For all our Facebook users, watch The Holy Way Presbyterian Church Facebook page for updates and breaking news.

Annual Reports

Annual reports are due by Tuesday, January 3, preferably as electronic copies in Microsoft Word.



JANUARY'S ANNIVERSARIES

Cory & Michèle Barton	1-6
Ray & Sharon Groves	1-12
Bob & Charlottz Venekamp	1-30

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Session has called for the annual meeting of the congregation and corporation for Sunday, January 15, 2012, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to receive annual reports, elect a deacon to fill a vacancy in the Class of 2013, elect members to the Nominating Committee, receive the 2012 budget, and to attend to any other matters that can properly come before the meeting.

New Officers

On Sunday, January 8, at the 10:30 service, we will ordain and install our new officers. Our newly elected ruling elders are: Dee Ellis, Nadine Huddleston, Ellen LaCroix, Paul Nichols, and Kevin Sterner. Our returning deacons, who will be installed to their second term of service, are: Don and Karen Cutting and Rena Tucker. We thank those elders who have now completed their terms of service: Dearwyn Knittel, Larry LaCroix, Don Schroyer, and Andy Thomas.

Wednesday Evening Group

Our Wednesday evening small group will resume on January 11, 7 p.m., in the Ranch House. New folks are welcome to this group as well! We will be stimulated in our discussion by the DVD resource "Saving Jesus" which will provoke our thinking about who is the real Jesus, beyond popular stereotypes and cultural misunderstandings.

Book Discussion

Have you read "The Shack" by William P. Young? Wish you had someone to discuss it with? Meet us in the Conference Room at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 16 and do just that!



JANUARY'S BIRTHDAYS

Jan Barker	1-6
Patty Betts	1-6
Linda Weaver	1-7
Ray Weathers	1-13
Jerry Beck	1-14
Clair Morris	1-15
Keith Locke	1-16
Sigra Miller	1-22
Wanda Sterner	1-24
Astrid Chan	1-28
Mary Lynn	1-30

Worship Times

Beginning on Sunday, January 8, we will have two Sunday worship services: 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School will meet during the 10:30 service. Between services, at 9:15 a.m., Ray will lead an Adult Class, using the Philip Yancey DVD resource, "What's So Amazing About Grace?". The class will meet in the Conference Room at the rear of the sanctuary. All are invited.

Upcoming Meals

All ladies are invited to join for a Baked Potato Bar Lunch after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Dessert and beverages will be provided, get signed up today!

Join us for a Lasagna Dinner on January 11, at 6:00 p.m. in Ranch House. Dinner will be served with salad & garlic bread, and we will have pumpkin cupcakes with ice cream for dessert.

We will meet for Lunch & Games at 12 noon, on January 25. Meet us in the Ranch House for a Mac & Cheese lunch, then sick around for games & conversation!



January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Communion & FBS 9:30 am Worship	2 <i>Office Closed</i>	3 9 am Bible Study Annual Reports Due 6 pm Alanon	4 7 pm AA Meeting	5 8 am Men's Breakfast @ Jerry Bob's 5:30 pm AA Meeting	6 9 am Holy Way Elves	7
8 8 am Worship 9:15 am Adult Ed Class 10:30 am Worship & SS 11:45 am Christian Ed. Meeting 11:45 am Ladies Lunch 6 pm Ala-teen/Al-anon	9	10 9 am Bible Study 11:00 Worship Committee Meeting 4:00 pm Board of Deacons Meeting 6 pm Alanon	11 9 am Handbells 10 am Chancel Choir 6 pm Lasagna Dinner 7 pm Evening Study Class 7 pm AA Meeting	12 5:30 pm AA Meeting	13 9 am Holy Way Elves	14
15 8 am Worship 9:15 am Adult Ed Class 10:30 am Worship & SS 11:30 Cong Meeting 6 pm Ala-teen/Al-anon	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY Office Closed 1 pm Book Club 6 pm Session	17 9 am Bible Study 12 pm Articles for Feb Newsletter due 6 pm Alanon	18 9 am Handbells 10 am Chancel Choir 7 pm Evening Study Class 7 pm AA Meeting	19 8 am Men's Breakfast @ Jerry Bob's 5:30 pm AA Meeting	20 9 am Holy Way Elves	21
22 8 am Worship 9:15 Adult Ed Class 10:30 Worship & SS 6 pm Ala-teen/Al-anon	23	24 9 am Bible Study 6 pm Alanon	25 9 am Handbells 10 am Chancel Choir 12 noon Lunch & Games 7 pm Evening Study Class 7 pm AA Meeting	26 5:30 pm AA Meeting	27 9 am Holy Way Elves	28
29 30 8 am Worship 9:15 am Adult Ed Class 10:30 am Worship & SS 6 pm Ala-teen/Al-anon	30	31 9 am Bible Study 6 pm Alanon				

Stated Session Meeting –November 15, 2011

Welcome Elders-elect:

Elders-elect Nadine Huddleston, Ellen LaCroix and Paul Nichols met at 5:00pm before this Session meeting for New Elder training. They were welcomed by current Session members and thanked for their volunteering to serve.

Deacons Report: Don Schroyer

This committee met on November 8th with discussion on the upcoming holidays. The Saturday after Thanksgiving the Deacons will decorate the Ranch House and the Angel tree. Gifts of approximately \$25 are asked to be placed under the tree December 11th and not later than the 18th. Tucson Mountain Motors has graciously offered a U-Haul truck to transport the food boxes and gifts to the needy families at Three Points. Next scheduled meeting will be December 6th.

† Pastor's Report: Ray Thomas

1. Active Member Peggy Pearson has requested that her membership be removed. *A motion was made by Don Schroyer to accept this request, with regret, s/p.*
2. Recommend that the following active members be removed, since they have not responded to the letter sent them by Session a year ago: Dewey & Linda Cooper and Kathy Kangas. *A motion was made by Dougald McIntyre to accept, s/p.*
Review current membership rolls. *A motion was made by Wendy Mattias to send letters to Cliff Hiner, Kurt Kaschack, Michelle Slater Ludwig and Sarah Slater inquiring if they want to keep their membership active. Also included in the motion was the removal of Sean Hamilton, Leonard & Elizabeth Notto, and Don & Betty Schrock from the active membership list, s/p. A motion was made by Dougald McIntyre to remove the following Affiliate Members from the Membership rolls: Anita Daane, John & Lucille Carter, Jane Ansell, Bill & Phyllis Dye, Steve & Beckey Douglas, Dale & Jean Balfour and Bob Hall, s/p.*
3. Draft endorsement letter from the Session for Andy Thomas to be nominated at Presbytery to serve as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate to General Assembly.

† Administration: Wendy Mattias/Dougald McIntyre

This committee has been working on a request by Ray Thomas for a Sabbatical leave during the summer months of June, July and August, 2012. This coincides with the Book of Order, which states, "A sabbatical of three months should be offered with eligibility beginning within the seventh year of service". Since Ray is in his seventeenth year of service, Session members agreed to this unanimously. *A motion was made by Wendy Mattias to accept this request, s/p.*

† Building & Grounds: Daryl Betts/Larry LaCroix:

Kick plates were installed on the east Barn door and the west Ranch House door. These 3/8" plywood panels will extend the life of the doors for several more years.

† Congregational Life:

Three different meals were prepared and served in October with a net donation to the church of \$711. Thank you to Don & Karen Cutting for setting up and cleaning up for coffee hour during October

† Finance/Stewardship: Dearwyn Knittel/Charlotte Venekamp

Consecration Sunday was discussed and generally agreed to be a success. Praise was given to Larry Biehl for his presentations and the entire committee.

† Welcome: Cory Barton/Lucinda Hughes-Juan

Up to date pictures of current Session members and Deacons were discussed again and decided to take the pictures at the January Session meeting, since the Deacons have no new members.

† Worship: Sherri Atleson

This committee met on October 19th. Discussion took place on Ruth Ann Beck ordering poinsettia plants this year from Green Things. Delivery will take place on December 9th. The 8:00am service was discussed and it is decided to resume that service starting January 8th and continuing through April 1st. The second service will then be at 10:30am. Easter is April 8th and that will be Sunrise service and back to the 9:30am time for the regular service.

Note: Session Minutes in their entirety are posted on the bulletin board in the Ranch House.