

BY THE WAY...

December 2011

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Raymond S. Thomas

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Editor: Sarah Terpening

From the Pastor



We were visiting some friends back in New Jersey this summer, in an area that was not far from the hustle and bustle, the bright lights, and densely populated sprawl of New York City. During the course of our conversation, I mentioned that we had spent some time visiting family in upstate New York: Oneonta, New York, to be exact. My friend from New Jersey replied, "Oh, yeah, I know Oneonta; I've been there. That's where you can see the Big Dipper!" Having grown up in the New Jersey part of the world, I had forgotten what a rarity it is to see, back there, the marvelous constellations, displayed in the dark and clear night sky, that we get to enjoy almost every night here in Tucson.

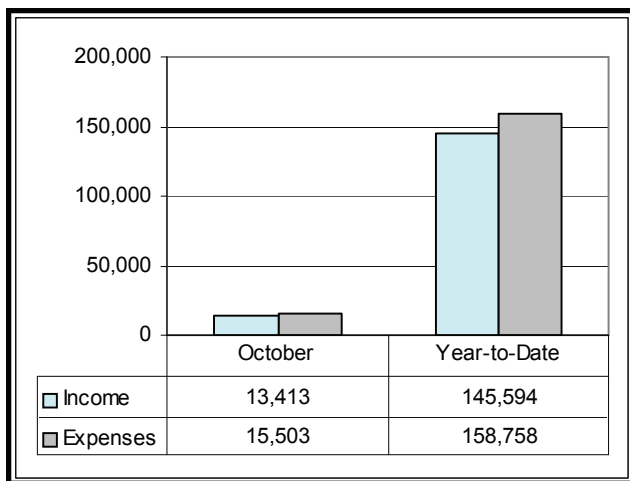
It seems to me that you need three elements for this display: stars, darkness, clear sky. We've got the star . . . the star of wonder . . . about which we are reminded during Advent. We've got plenty of darkness, called by many different names: despair, futility, the downward spiral, emptiness, to name just a few. Clear skies? The scriptures help to give us clarity. The songs, the carols, the worship, the children, the generosity of the season, all help to clear the clouds and pollution away so we can do some star gazing. The Holy Spirit guides the wise persons among us to behold the star.

Stars. Darkness. Clarity. And then, we need some viewers, some seers, some trained perceivers who can interpret what they are seeing. One strong hand reaching down to pick someone up. One person stopping her day to sit at the bedside of an

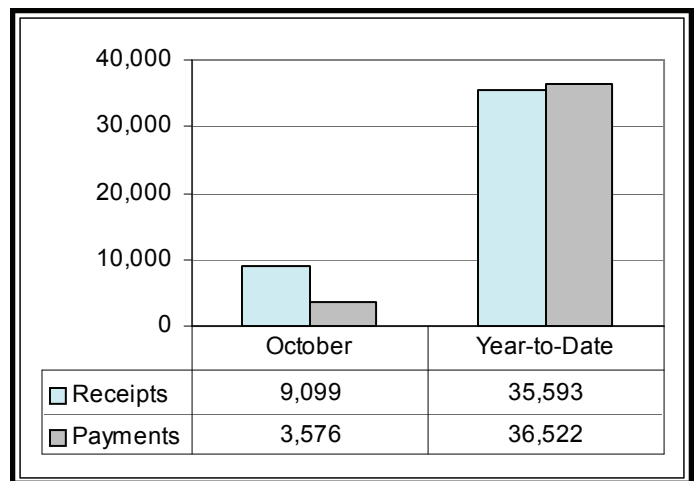
ailing friend. One visit, one word sometimes, just one meal, or one loving moment that stops time from moving in the usual path, and it fills the gaping void. Stars. Darkness. Clarity. Can you see? Like my optometrist who asks at my eye exam: "Is this better or worse?", I ask you to notice the stars, remnants of the star that the magi followed, the bright lights displayed against the dark canvass, that surround us day or night whether we see them or not, and utter your assessment: Better? Utter your reply whenever you notice the star, there in the dark sky. The star is there. Our Savior is born. This is where we can see Him.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'RST' or similar, written in a cursive, flowing style.

Operating Budget



Monthly Mortgage Report



General Fund Receipts 2011 (As of October 31)

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Pledged | 80,802 |
| Unpledged | 62,200 |
| Other | 2,592 |

Mortgage Balance Remaining October — 243,893

**20 Year Mortgage to be paid off by
May 2019**

Something to Think About...

Pure joy is trying to out-give God and seeing how God gives an abundance back.



Offering Envelopes

Your offering envelopes are now available for pick up in the narthex. Please discard the 'Mortgage Reduction' envelopes, as that is now part of the General Fund. If you would like envelopes and don't find some with your name on them, please let the office know.



Christmas Eve

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be on Saturday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m. We will hear the good news of the birth of Jesus in Scripture and in song and be inspired by the candlelight illuminating the winter darkness. As always, if you need a ride to church, call the office and we'll take care of you.



December Events!

The Annual Ladies Christmas Tea is will be held on December 11, at 1:00 p.m. in the Ranch House. All ladies are invited– enjoyment guaranteed! Please bring a dozen cookies, a favorite teacup, a fun spirit, and join us! Sign-up sheets are in the Ranch House.

Join in the Christmas spirit on December 14 at 5:30 p.m. for a Ham Dinner with sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, rolls, and pumpkin pie for dessert. Following dinner, we will enjoy entertainment from The Classics, who will lead a sing-a-long of Christmas carols and sing some songs of their own. Also bring a wrapped white elephant gift for a fun gift exchange after dinner. Don't have a gift to bring? Be on the lookout at the Rummage Sale on December 3!

Two Services in January

We will begin our winter two service schedule on Sunday, January 8. Worship time will be at 8 & 10:30 a.m. Ray will lead an adult class between services, at 9:15 in the Conference Room, using the book by Philip Yancy, What's So Amazing About Grace.

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!

Evening Study Class

Our Wednesday evening study class will resume on Wednesday, January 11, at 7:00 p.m. We will study a small group resource called "Everything Must Change" that challenges us to use our Christian Faith in addressing national and world issues. Should be a lively group!

Christmas Play

Our Sunday School children are working with Alan and Melanie to prepare for our annual Christmas Play. Come and enjoy this year's rendition on Sunday, December 11, during our 9:30 a.m. worship service.

A Thank You from PCM

On behalf of the Presbyterian Campus Ministry we would like to thank Holy Way for your support of the 5th Annual Spaghetti Dinner on November 4, 2011. It was a huge success! We enjoyed the change of venue to Christ Presbyterian Church. This was our largest Spaghetti Dinner ever; thank God Christ Presbyterian has so much room!

As in other years, it was a wonderful opportunity for all the surrounding Presbyterian churches to gather together for fellowship. We were blessed to have so many of our supporters attend the dinner that evening. Thank you to all who supported the silent auction by donating or by bidding. We would like to express our thanks to Ruth Ann Beck for being your church contact person and selling tickets for us. We look forward to seeing more of you at our Sixth Annual Spaghetti Dinner next year!

Heifer Project Ark

We are on the homestretch for our \$5000 goal to purchase an Ark, only \$141 away from our goal! If you would like to make a gift to push us toward the goal, indicate your contribution to "Heifer Project Ark".



Per Capita

Our Per Capita amount, charge to the church for each active member has dropped, thanks to the Synod dropping their amount \$1. The total charge, per active member, in 2012 is \$30. The cost helps to offset administrative costs of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

To help offset this expense, the Session invites all active members to contribute \$30 each before we pay the expense in February. For those active members who make electronic contributions, this amount will be deducted at the beginning of January.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on December 26 in honor of Christmas, and on January 2 for New Year's Day.

Presbyterian Choir Festival

Our choir will be joining with choirs from other Tucson Presbyterian churches to raise funds to support the Presbyterian Campus Ministry at the University of Arizona and Pima Community College. The event will be at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 7650 N. Paseo del Norte (near Ina and Oracle) on Sunday, January 22, 2012, at 3:00 p.m.

Report from the Elves

We all know Santa's Elves are busy helpers, indeed. Our Holy Way Elves are no exception, they've been working away! As of December 2011 they have produced:

- 16 lap robes for veterans
- 2 pair slippers for veterans
- 363 military caps
- 630 baby caps for hospitals
- 10 baby bibs for hospitals
- 3 pair baby booties for hospitals
- 866 blankets for Linus Project
- 4 blankets for Holy Way Families
- 8 prayer shawls (a new outreach)

Are you impressed? We are! Pretty darn good for such a small group. We are so grateful to all who contributed! We are always looking for more elves! Come join us any Friday morning if you are available. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Ranch House.



DECEMBER'S ANNIVERSARIES



| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Bob & Dodie Nash | 12-10 |
| Don & Gwen Schroyer | 12-20 |
| D. J. & Jennifer Blaine | 12-29 |



New Officers

At our congregational meeting on October 30, we elected five new ruling elders: Nadine Huddleston, Ellen LaCroix, Paul Nichols and Kevin Sterner for three year terms and Dee Ellis for a two year term. We have also re-elected three Deacons - Don & Karen Cutting, and Rena Tucker - to serve for three years. Our new church officers will be ordained and installed in early January.



DECEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS



| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Julia Much | 12-1 |
| Anita Parsil | 12-2 |
| Moongen Ringenberg | 12-5 |
| Paul Sessler | 12-5 |
| Andy Thomas | 12-9 |
| Lillie Ross | 12-10 |
| Kurt Kaschak | 12-11 |
| Ed Parsil | 12-12 |
| Ann Andreatta | 12-15 |
| Delissa Pancho | 12-15 |
| Paul Edgar | 12-16 |
| Quinn Blaine | 12-17 |
| Betty Schrock | 12-18 |
| Rena Tucker | 12-19 |
| Judy Pillsbury | 12-21 |
| John Bacon | 12-23 |
| Dorie Scott | 12-23 |
| Marv Knittel | 12-24 |
| Karen Seelow | 12-25 |
| Richard Swibold | 12-27 |
| Ed Stalzy | 12-28 |



DECEMBER 2011



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 8 am Men's Breakfast @ Jerry Bob's 9:30 Consecration Sunday Team Meeting 5:30 pm AA Meeting | 2 9 am Holy Way Elves | 3 Rummage Sale 8am-12 |
| 4 COMMUNION & FBS 9:30 am Worship & 6 pm Alateen/ Alanon | 5 | 6 9 am Bible study 6 pm Alanon | 7 9 am Prayer Group 9 am Handbells 10 am Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting | 8 5:30 pm AA Meeting | 9 9 am Holy Way Elves | 10 |
| 11 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School Christmas Play 1 pm Ladies Christmas Tea 6 pm Alateen/ Alanon | 12 | 13 9 am Bible study 11 am Worship Committee Meeting 4 pm Deacons Meeting 6 pm Alanon | 14 9 am Prayer Group 9 am Handbells 10 am Chancel Choir 5:30 pm Christmas Ham Dinner 7 pm AA Meeting | 15 8 am Men's Breakfast @ Jerry Bob's 5:30 pm AA Meeting | 16 9 am Holy Way Elves | 17 |
| 18 9:30 am Worship & SS 6 pm Alateen/ Alanon | 19 6 pm Session | 20 9 am Bible study 6 pm Alanon | 21 9 am Prayer Group 9 am Handbells 10 am Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting | 22 5:30 pm AA Meeting | 23 9 am Holy Way Elves | 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7 pm Candlelight Service |
| 25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30 am Worship 6 pm Alateen/ Alanon | 26 <i>Office Closed</i> | 27 <i>Bible Study is Cancelled</i> 6 pm Alanon | 28 9 am Prayer Group 9 am Handbells 10 am Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting | 29 5:30 pm AA Meeting | 30 9 am Holy Way Elves | 31 |

Stated Session Meeting –October 18, 2011

We were visited by the Committee on Ministry Team: Marshall Worden, Eloise Fredrickson, John Johnson and Pat Turnbull. A lively conversation took place on four different questions presented to Session for discussion. During this time we were served a delicious meal by Lucinda Hughes-Juan, which all of us enjoyed.

Deacons Report: Don Schroyer

The October meeting was held on the 11th. October is the kickoff to prepare food boxes and the Angel Tree. We agreed to provide twenty families with food and gifts for needy children. A limit of \$25 per child was agreed to keep gifts equal. Rummage sale will be held December 3rd with a boutique shop and bake sale to be held in the Ranch House.

† Pastor's Report: Ray Thomas

1. Active member Fay Schiek died in Tucson on October 1st. Memorial service was held at Holy Way on October 7th.
2. Betty Rozeboom attended our New Members Class and her letter of transfer has been requested from Ascension Lutheran Church, Tucson. *A motion was made by Wendy Mattias to accept this transfer, s/p.*
3. Recommend that Andy Thomas be endorsed by the Session as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate to General Assembly, which will meet in Pittsburgh, PA, June 30th - July 7th, 2012. *A motion was made by Dearwyn Knittel to accept this request, s/p.*
4. Exploration of two month Clergy Renewal for Ray Thomas in the summer of 2012.
5. Appointed by the Synod to serve on the Mission and Visioning Task Force.

†Building & Grounds: Daryl Betts/Larry LaCroix:

An electronic vote on October 17th was taken and agreed upon spending \$975 from the Capital Facilities fund to repair the damage done to the Ranch House roof during the monsoon season. The Session had approved these repairs up to \$1,000 previously.

†Congregational Life:

On September 14th Gloria Stowell and Gerry Pearson prepared and served dinner to twenty-four people. \$179 was collected with a cost of \$70.34, netting \$108.66. On September 28th Gerry Pearson served lunch to fourteen people. A total of \$65 was collected. Eight people stayed to play Mahjong and Cribbage. Thank you to Dearwyn Knittel for setting up and cleaning up for coffee hour during September.

†Finance/Stewardship: Dearwyn Knittel/Charlotte Venekamp

The Stewardship Committee met on October 10th, moving ahead with plans for Consecration Sunday on November 13th. A catered meal is planned for the Church Governing Board Members, Committee/Ministry Chairpersons and Consecration Sunday Team Members on November 1st at 5:30pm in the Ranch House. Larry Biehl, our guest leader for New Consecration Sunday will bring a brief message regarding the spiritual-growth dimensions of stewardship. Following the service on November 13th, another catered meal will be served for the entire congregation. *A motion was made by Dearwyn Knittel to move the Mortgage Fund into the Operating Budget in order to make the pledge process less complicated, s/p.*

†Nominating Committee: Dearwyn Knittel

This committee met on September 25th with a need for three Deacons and five Elders. To fill this need, the nominees for Deacons are Don & Karen Cutting and Rena Tucker. The five Elder nominees are Dee Ellis, Nadine Huddleston, Ellen LaCroix, Paul Nichols and Kevin Sterner.

Welcome: Cory Barton/Lucinda Hughes-Juan

Discussion took place on the Welcome Committee taking over the responsibility of baking the bread given to new visitors. Cory Barton, Lucinda Hughes-Juan and Charlotte Venekamp have volunteered to do the baking.

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