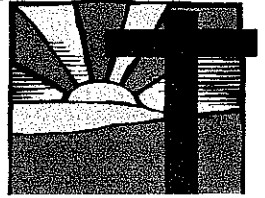


Uniondale Messenger

Volume 9, Issue 1

January 2012

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!!**



Birthdays & Anniversaries

3rd-Tina Barclay
4th-Ryan Kellam
5th-Jesse Turner
6th- Mark & Peggy
Kite
12th-Grace Fromm
12th-Scott Elzey
13th- Barb Cook
24th-Isabella Swine-
ford



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DOES GOD EXIST?

This is one of the best explanations on the nature of God that I have ever seen...

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: 'I don't believe that God exists.'

'Why do you say that?' asked the customer.

'Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things.'

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument.

The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop.

Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt. The customer turned back and entered the barbershop again and he said to the barber: 'You know what? Barbers do not exist.'

'How can you say that?' asked the surprised barber. 'I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!'

'No!' the customer exclaimed. 'Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside.'

'Ah, but barbers DO exist! That's what happens when people do not come to me.'

'Exactly!' affirmed the customer. 'That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! That's what happens when people do not go to Him and don't look to Him for help. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world.'

BE BLESSED & BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS!

December Budget Summary	December Actual	December Budget	December Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	4,971.00	4,076.67	894.33	45,373.50	48,920.04	(3,546.54)
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	4,261.57	4,076.67	(184.90)	46,869.85	48,920.04	5,368.37
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	709.43	0.00		(1,496.35)	0.00	

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements, and to store his few possessions. One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, 'God! How could you do this to me?' Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! 'How did you know I was here?' asked the weary man of his rescuers. 'We saw your smoke signal,' they replied.

The Moral of This Story:

It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.

A note from the parsonage...

Are you ready? This was a question I asked last week at church during the sermon. And it bears repeating, **are you ready?** No I'm not trying to be redundant or confuse anyone, but as Christians we need to be ready. God did send His son Jesus to be with and among us. What an amazing sacrifice that God made for us, so why then should it be so difficult for us to be ready at a moment's notice to serve Him.

2011 was an interesting year for me, as you all know. Hospital stays, blood work, medications, ugh! The list goes on and on. Now I find myself at the same junction in life. It has been challenging since my prostate cancer diagnose this past November. I have let my mind play some terrible tricks on me. Now I look back on the day the Dr. called and hear God saying "Are you Ready." Do you ever hear God talking to you, asking you to do something? Or better yet asking you to be prepared?

I will be the first to admit, this is a scary time for me, and the word cancer is difficult to take. I have had to make a decision that will change my life for a while and dealing with side effects will be challenging. . I

have had a few emotional break downs trying to understand and grasp what all of this means. When the tears clear and I get myself back together I remember why God sent his Son Jesus. As it says in Isaiah 40: 1-5, "Jesus was sent to comfort God's people, to be with us and among us." To experience humanity and be able to relate what it is like being human.

So I guess it is true, whatever we endure in our lives, God is there to comfort us, and guide us through. It is my wish for you that you too feel the presence of God in your life. Take it from me; it is not always easy to feel this. I let things crazy things from this human life interfere with the work God wants to do in my life.

I praise God every day for our church family. You all rock! Thanks for your thoughts and prayers for me, but especially for Mindy, girls, and family as we prepare for this journey. I wasn't ready for this adventure, and no one ever is, but God is preparing me and He is with me every step of the way. He will also prepare you for what he is calling you to do or endure!

So again I ask, **Are you Ready?**

In His Service,
Pastor Troy

Confessions of a single girl, living in a small town...

2012 is here. Which means a new year is upon us. So the question I want to ask you is this...what will you do to make this a great year?? Though January means winter, and winter usually means I'm having the winter blahs, I TRY to look at January with a sense of renewal. January means that we have a new year ahead of us that is filled with endless possibilities. This could be the year of a new job opportunity. Or a year of meeting your mate or starting your family! It could also be the year of when God leads you to do something that you never thought you would do. I think that for me this will be a year of trying new things and meeting new people. Don't be afraid to get out of your comfortable zone. It could lead to an incredible adventure. Try a new haircut or go to a restaurant that you've never been to before. GET OUT and enjoy life. Life is so short and we are constantly reminded of that from the news on television. Spend time with your family; give hugs and kisses and tell them how much you love them. Let's enjoy this year together and see where we end up... :)

Gnada

Read the Bible in a year...

January

1. Genesis 1-4
2. Gn 5-8
3. Gn 9-11
4. Gn 12-15
5. Gn 16-19
6. Gn 20-23
7. Gn 24-26
8. Gn 27-30
9. Gn 31-33
10. Gn 34-37
11. Gn 38-41
12. Gn 42-44
13. Gn 45-47
14. Gn 48-50
15. Psalms 1-4
16. Psalms 5-8
17. Exodus 1-4
18. Ex 5-7
19. Ex 8-10
20. Ex 11-13
21. Ex 14-16
22. Ex 17-19
23. Ex 20-22
24. Psalms 9-12
25. Ex 23-25
26. Ex 26-28
27. Ex 27-31
28. Ex 32-34
29. Ex 35-37
30. Ex 38-40
31. Leviticus 1-4

Let's Not Forget...

Margaret Hassler
37446 Carson Street
Farmington Hill, MI 48331

Maxine Crum
River Terrace
300 Caylor Blvd.
Bluffton, IN 46714

Doris Emily
River Terrace
300 Caylor Blvd. Apt 214
Bluffton, IN 46714

Helen Trout
801 Huntington Ave.
Warren, IN 46792

Opal Gilbert
Christian Care
720 E. Dustman Rd.
Bluffton, IN 46714

Prayer Petitions

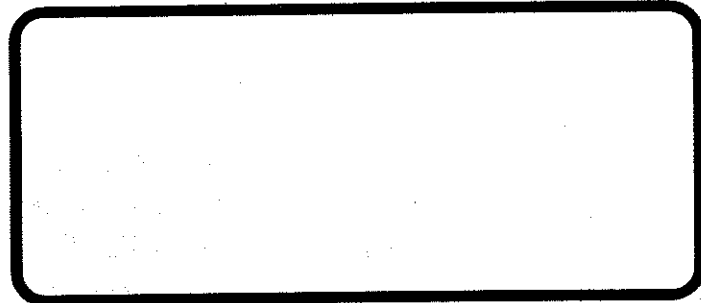
Our Country
Foster Children/Foster families
Our Servicemen Abroad
Our Missionaries
Betty Johnson & family
Helen Trout
Opal Gilbert
Unemployment
Campus Life students/directors
Students and Teachers
Homeless people
Illnesses
Pastor Troy & family

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ITTY BITTY EINSTEINS PRESCHOOL UPDATE

December was a short but fun hardworking month for us and our students. The children worked extremely hard on our Christmas Program and with tears shed on that Sunday we are very proud of them and would like to thank them for their hard work as well as the Sunday School children who help make this day special (with the added bonus of breaking a record of 107....WOOP...). We are going to be working hard in January on numbers, letters, shapes and sounds. We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Love,
Jennifer and Jessica

January 2012

**WE HAVE LOTS OF OPEN SPACES FOR VARIOUS TASKS DURING THE CHURCH SERVICE--PLEASE SIGN UP!!

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Greeters: Tim & Tonia Evans Sound board: _____ Jr. Church: Elaine & Tonia Acolytes: _____	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Greeters: _____ (2) Sound board: _____ Jr. Church: Elaine & Tonia Acolytes: _____	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 BREAKFAST: Drayer's Greeters: _____ (2) Sound board: _____ Jr. Church: Claudia & _____ Acolytes: _____	16	17	18	19	20 Tentative: Chairman Organizational Mtg. 6:00 pm	21
22 Greeters: _____ (2) Sound board: _____ Jr. Church: Claudia & Elaine Acolytes: _____	23	24	25	26	27	28 Ryan and Suzanne Kellam's baby shower at Uniondale 3:00 pm
29 5 th Sunday Special Service Greeters: _____ (2) Sound board: _____ Jr. Church: _____ (2) Acolytes: _____	30	31				