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# GOOD NEWS

Ankeny Christian Church

December 2011

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## Poinsettias!



Let's grace our sanctuary with the beauty of this traditional plant during the Advent and Christmas season. Red, pink or white plants may be brought to church anytime from **November 27 through Christmas**. If you care to specifically donate a plant in honor of or memory of someone please let Christine Stoffa know so that your gift may be acknowledged. Thank you!

## Cookie Exchange

Mark your calendars now for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Cookie Exchange and start gathering your recipes for the event **Saturday, December 3** at 10:00 a.m. Please bring several dozen cookies or goodies to exchange with friends and family of ACC. We will have several sizes of containers available to purchase when you arrive and then--let the fun begin! Any questions??? See Lisa Duffy or Pat Sommerfeld

## Christmas Cantata

The Joyful Praise Choir will be presenting the Cantata *Light Looked Down* on **Sunday, December 11**. We are excited to have the Children's Choir helping us in presenting this year's Cantata. To celebrate this event, we are combining both our morning services into one presentation at 10:30 a.m.

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us December 11 at 10:30 a.m. as we present the gospel in song.

## Volleyball Enthusiasts

If interested in forming a team for the co-ed semi-competitive volleyball league held at West Des Moines Christian Church this winter please see Pastor Dave. The league will begin Monday, January 9 and end Monday February 27. Registration deadline is **Tuesday, December 20**.

## Caroling

Join us as we spread Christmas cheer to our shut-ins on **Sunday, December 18** at 4:00 p.m.



**7 & 11 p.m. December 24** Luke 2:1-20  
*Met in Thee Tonight*

The carol reminds us that the hopes and fears of all our years are met on this holy night. Into our hoping, our fearing, our scheming and planning comes the One who can set our lives back on the right track. It is a simple service of singing, scripture, praying, candle-light and communion.

**No 8:30 a.m. services on  
Sunday, December 11 and  
December 25**

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## Grace & Peace—Pastor Dave

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Advent is a time of expectation, and this is symbolized not only by the four-week period of preparation, but also by the lighting of an Advent candle on each Sunday of the season. The four candles provide us with a visual way to count off four Sundays of this season. The flame of each new candle reminds us that something is happening, but something more is still to come. The Advent season is not complete until all four candles are lighted, with the central Christ candle also burning brightly on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The tradition of the Advent wreath is traced back to an old Scandinavian custom that celebrated the coming of light after a season of darkness. In that day, candles were placed on the edge of a horizontal wheel. As the wheel was spun around, the lighted candles would blend into a continuous circle of light. Today we use a circle of evergreen to remind us of the continuous power of God, which knows no beginning nor ending.

There is also symbolism in the colors of the candles in the Advent wreath. The three purple candles symbolize the coming of Christ from the royal line of David. The pink candle is lighted on the third Sunday of the Advent season. This candle symbolizes joy; its use goes back to the Latin Church, which asked the worshipers to fast during this period of time.

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the coming of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the candles we express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

Grace and Peace, Dave



**December 4**

Luke 1:46-56

*What's With All the Singing?*

Many of our fondest memories are rooted in the music of Christmas. Mary sang, the angels sang, but there was a time when Christmas carols were banned from churches. Some of the carols were awful and what the carolers were doing was even worse. Find out about how Christmas music changed over the years and how it can deepen your Christmas experience this year.

**Dec 11** Cantata-one presentation 10:30 a.m.

*Light Looked Down*

**December 18**

Matthew 2:1-12

*How Santa Saved Christmas*

Christmas celebrations were subdued and lifeless for a long time until Santa revived interest in the holy day. Our modern depictions of Santa were developed over centuries. Find out about how historical figures who reached out to poor families merged into the character of Santa. What do we need to re-learn from the jolly elf that reminds us how to practice generosity in our Christmas celebration?

**December 25**

Isaiah 52:7-10

*Beautiful Feet*

The conclusion of our sermon series. Stockings are a big deal at Christmas. How did that get started and is there a way that those stockings can remind us of Isaiah's message where he praises the beauty of the feet of those who announce a message of peace?

**Note the following changes**

**Sunday, December 11** schedule

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Fellowship
- 10:30 a.m. Cantata
- 11:45 a.m. Joint 2011/2012 Church Council meeting

**Sunday, December 25** schedule

- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship
- 10:30 worship service


**Congregational Meeting**

Our Annual congregational meeting to vote on the purposed 2012 budget and slate of officers will be at 9:45 a.m. on **Sunday, December 4.**

**2011 Financial Report**

Income for October \$15,853.03  
 Expenses for October \$19,298.92  
 Equity \$83,796.19  
 Your giving is important to the life and ministry of Ankeny Christian. Thank you.

Attendance				
	1st service	Sunday School	2nd service	Wed
Oct 30	83	35	52	47
Nov 6	92	30	73	47
Nov 13	83	41	75	48
Nov 20	92	41	110	X



**Ankeny**  
 Christian Church

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

POSITIVE PEOPLE DOING GOD'S WORK

- Learning God's word,
- Sharing Christ's love,
- Proclaiming God's message.

**C.H.A.O.S. youth group**

(Christ honoring and others serving)

5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

6:30-8:00 p.m.

**Sun, Dec 4:** Regular meeting

**Sat, Dec 10:** Assist with Parents Night Out (Notes will be sent out on meeting time.)

**Sun, Dec 11:** no meeting

**Fri, Dec 16-Sat, 17<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Party at Hotel (Info will be sent out)

**Sun, Dec 18:** 4:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling

**Sun, Dec 25:** no meeting- Merry Christmas

**Kids Club**

No meetings in December.

**Youth Christmas Play**

***"Jerusalem's Got Talent"***

The youth Christmas play practices will start **Wednesday, November 30.** Practices will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Meet in the Fellowship Hall on November 30 and **December 7.** Practice on **December 14** will be in the Sanctuary.

The play will be **Sunday, December 18** during the 9:30 a.m. Sunday school hour. There will be parts for everyone to participate.

If your child has a special talent or would like to sing a solo or duo, please let Karla Rice know 229-1066.

# Among Our Church Family and Friends

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## Prayer concerns

Edd Fox (son-in-law of Murlene Swim), Karen Grode, Nancy Belluchi, Carol Lee, David Roberts, Lois James, Tommy Cox. Shut-ins: Rita Oline, Ruth Maxwell. Hospice: Karla Smit (mother of Lori Reynolds.)

**Sympathy** to the family of Doris Legg who passed away November 13.

**Sympathy** to Nancy Belluchi and family at the loss of her grandson Bracy Hammond, November 17.

The Prayer Chain can be started by contacting Julie Orser 289-2954 (between 9am and 9pm).

**Please let the church office know about hospitalizations, surgeries, etc.** The Privacy Act (HIPPA) limits the notifications we get from health care facilities.

## New baby

Cindy Holub our organist has a new granddaughter! Her son, Matt and wife Betsy, had a baby girl November 11. Reagan Mae Holub was born at 11:58 a.m. weighing 7 lb. 5 oz.

## Welcome new members

Janice Sage by transfer from the St. Paul Lutheran Church to ACC on November 6 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Janice has two sons, Nick and Ben. She is a data base administrator. Ron & Marlys Lapham joined ACC at the 2<sup>nd</sup> service, November 6. Ron is a Help Desk Representative and Marlys is retired. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.

## Thank you notes

To our Ankeny Church Family,

Thank you so much for the love and support you have given Ron and I over the last six weeks. We so appreciate all the wonderful messages of Thanksgiving for our loving God and for a complete recovery from ovarian cancer for me.

I understand that I have a beautiful prayer shawl waiting for me at our rental home in Liberty. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness - I will use it daily.

I have been released to return to my job at Girl Scouts in Kansas City after Thanksgiving so if the next week at Mayo goes well we will be returning to Liberty on the Saturday following Thanksgiving.

If you would continue to thank God for leading me through to a complete recovery and thank God for being an annoying factor in our lives!

We do have a caring bridge site set up if you are interested in following our progress - just go to [www.Caringbridge.com](http://www.Caringbridge.com) and type in my name - Karen Grode. It should lead you to my site.

Thank you again for all your love and support,

Ron and Karen Grode

ACC,

Thanks to everyone that worked to make our wedding so nice. The altar was beautiful! We both are so blessed to be part of this wonderful church family.

Love Lori Reynolds & Justin Breckenridge



## Among Our Church Family and Friends

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### Thank you notes cont'd

To Our Family at ACC,

Words cannot express the feelings that we felt with your sincere caring, kindness, and support. Both loving and financially to help Ben and I bring Tommy to his appointment at the seizure center at Children's Hospital in St. Paul. With your help they were able to take him off two medicines and put him on one fairly new med and just for being on it for a short time, we have seen major changes and are starting to see the "real" Tommy come back! What a relief! As parents, we are speechless. Just thanks to you!

Love,  
Ben, Tanya,  
Trinity and Tommy Cox

To Santa's North Pole Workers,

Again this year, we had a successful day at Santa's North Pole Village. Thank you to each of you who worked at either our Parkview site or our Northview site. We even had a few people who went the extra mile and worked at both sites. Approximately 40 people were involved in this fund-raising event which raised about \$3,000. These proceeds will be used to support various mission projects as well as help with general fund expenses. Again, thank you for your time and efforts.

Lynn & Teresa Worley  
and Steve Raver



## Our Larger Family • Sharing Christ's love

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### Special DMF Christmas Offering Supports the Upper Midwest Region

One hundred percent (100%) of your Christmas Offering will support the Upper Midwest Regional ministries you have come to love and appreciate. This special offering supports many ministries from

Camp to Transformation

AND New Church to Finding Ministers for Congregations

AND Pastoral Support for Ministers to the School for Congregational Learning

AND Youth, Men and Women Ministries

AND the Christian Conference Center

AND more.

Special DMF Christmas Offering envelopes are located on the Welcome Center cabinet or write DMF Christmas Offering on the memo line of your check. Thank you.

### Special offering report for October

Food Pantry	\$490.00
Hunger Hike shoe & match	\$716.08
Adult Mission	\$225.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$10.00

### Food Pantry Sunday is Dec 18

Food items collected monthly are now delivered to Ankeny Service Center at Neveln.

Cash collected still goes to DMARC Food Pantry. With cash they can purchase anywhere from 2-6 times more food with donors' dollars than what is afforded by retail prices.



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Youth Coordinator..Lisa Thurston

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### Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School and  
 Fellowship Time

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service



wheelchair accessible




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## *Holiday Giving Opportunities*

Each year we have the opportunity to share with the community and our church.

★ The tree in the entry is not decorated with traditional objects; however, you may participate in decorating it by covering the branches with mittens, gloves, scarves and hats. These may be any size. The smaller ones will go to YESS (a local agency that provides services for homeless children and youth. Member Leticia Ukpabi is employed by this agency). Larger items will be donated to a local homeless shelter. Additional items that are needed by either agency may be placed under the tree. **A list of most needed items is** blankets, **Clothing:** scarves, gloves/mittens, hats, coats, socks, long sleeve shirts, pants, sweatshirts (adult male/female sizes), underwear (in various sizes). **Medicines:** aspirin, antacid, pain-killer, band-aids, cough drops, cold/flu medications (without alcohol). **Hygiene:** travel-size shampoo and soap, toothpaste, razors, combs, personal-size deodorant, feminine hygiene products (without plastic applicators). **Other:** bus tokens, laundry detergent and bleach, coffee, commercial mop buckets and cotton mops and mop handles.

★ The “Giving Tree” banner on the wall beside Pastor Dave’s door will have stickers on it indicating items that are needed by the various committees at Ankeny Christian. Our assisting with these needs allows the committees to use their budgeted finances for other projects and we all win. Remove as many suggestion stickers as you desire. The items may be placed under the large tree in the sanctuary. If you prefer to provide funds to purchase all or part of an item, please place the donation with an indication of its purpose in the offering plates.

Thank you in advance for supporting these mission projects. Please contact Karla Rice if you have any questions or suggestions for additional projects.

Missions Committee