



CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THE CROSS CONNECTION

309 E. Spring Street
New Albany, IN 47150

Office Hours:
Mon., Wed., & Fri.,
8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Office Phone: 944-7696
Fax: 945-1234

E-mail Address:
centenaryna
@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.centenary-na.org

Sunday
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.

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January/February 2011



From the Pastor

We hear it every year. When a New Year has begun, it is one of those things that we say . . . most of the time in a sort of hopeful way, but often times leaving it up to "chance" to determine how true it will be. We will just have to wait and see if it works out or not.

What is it that we often say, that we hope for, but we leave up to chance? It is the statement that this new year could be the best year of our lives! We all want that to be the case, don't we? We want 2011 to be the best year of our lives! We want 2011 to be the best year of our lives spiritually! We want 2011 to be the best year of our life as a church! Could 2011 be the best year of your life? Could it be the best year of your life spiritually? Could it be the best year of our life as a church?

Oh, I can hear it now! "Sure it *could be*." But in the back of our minds, often not vocalized (though sometimes we do go ahead and vocalize it) are the words, "but I doubt that it will be." And I know, this kind of "pep-talk" is what pastors, like me, are supposed to say. It's what is expected, so, here I am writing about it in the first newsletter of the new year.

And yet, I would suggest to us that 2011 really could be the best year of our lives, at least spiritually speaking, and even the best year of Centenary's life . . . if we will refuse to leave it to "chance" to make that determination. In fact, if we do nothing but leave it to chance, then I'm wasting ink (and time) writing this article.

But the truth is, we Christians do not believe in chance. We believe in God. And God always desires for us to know our Heavenly Father better. God always desires that we be renewed more and more in the image of Christ; that we "reflect God" more. God always desires to work through you and me to see lives

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MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Centenary Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is open on Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The food pantry served 553 people in October and 704 people in November.

We could really use boxes of dry cereal in the pantry! Thanks!

Christ's Kitchen

Christ's Kitchen provides a free meal every Sunday at 4:30 p.m. and every Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Eleven local churches help provide the meals for people who are seeking fellowship and a meal. The member churches include Atkins Chapel UMC, Jacobs Chapel UMC, Northside Christian, Culbertson Baptist, Centenary UMC, Stony Point Christian, Christ UMC, Parkway Southern Baptist Church, Canton Christian, and Faithpoint UMC.

In October Christ's Kitchen served 627 meals and 890 meals in November .

Centenary Missions

Thank you to everyone that participated this year at "A Night in Bethlehem." Although the weather didn't help our attendance, the amount of team work from the cluster churches made the event a real success. Team Centenary really presented Centenary well and I think we can make this an even bigger success next year. Blessings to all!

Stephanie Bensing



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Pastor's Message from pg. 1

transformed by the grace of God and the Kingdom of God come near to those around us. The acclamation about God in *The Collect* for the twelfth Sunday after Trinity (as appears in the *Book of Common Prayer*, and John Wesley's revision, *The Sunday Service of the Methodists in North America*) is true: "Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve . . . "

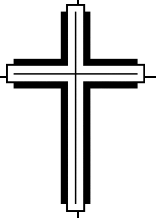
This is true! This is the God we serve! - And yet, for many, the new year will come and go, and how it will turn out will be left to chance!

Don't be one of those people! Don't leave 2011 to chance! Seek God; more than you ever have in your life, seek the face of God in 2011! - St. James says to us, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8a). That is the Word of the Lord for us in 2011.

So, how do we go about drawing near to God? How do we go about seeking God? - St. James tells us in that same section, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you." (James 4:7-10, NRSV).

We seek the face of God, not by chance, but by spiritual discipline. The Methodist General Rules (cf. page 73f. of *The Book of Discipline*) gives us good guidance. The first rule has often been summarized in recent days as "Do no harm." Unfortunately, with that summarization we leave off the rest of it, which says, "By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced . . . ,"

Pastor's Message cont. p.4



LIGHT SWITCH COVER

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.

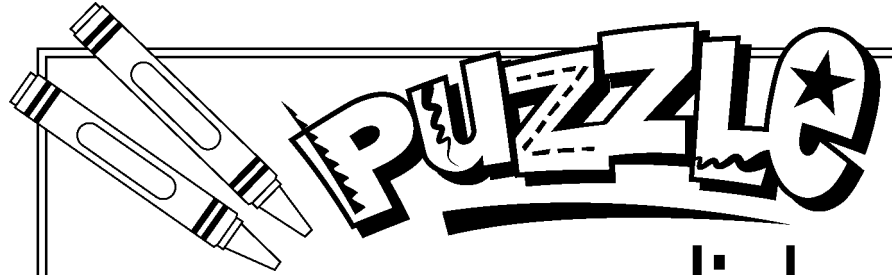
What you need:

- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- Craft knife



What you do:

1. Remove the screws from the cover.
2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out "Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they'll fit on the cover.
4. Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.



From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.



- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Good | Righteousness |
| 2. Death | Children |
| 3. Go | Life |
| 4. Evil | Come |
| 5. Adults | Bad |

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are _____, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of _____." John 8:12, NIV
(2)

"I have _____ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV
(3)

"For what do _____ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV
(4)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as _____ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV
(5)

and then a list is given. You see, we can easily claim to "do no harm," while conveniently forgetting to "avoid evil of every kind." Yet, Scripture calls us to "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them" (Ephesians 5:11). - If we are to seek God's face with our whole hearts this year, we must seek, by the grace of God, to do no harm and to avoid evil of every kind.

The second of the rules is to do good and to be merciful. It is not enough that we seek to not inflict harm or to avoid evil, but we are called to actively do good and to be merciful.

Yet it is the final General Rule that truly gets to the question of how we can each one seek the face of God with our whole heart and which will produce our best year ever, spiritually. The last rule calls us to attend upon all the ordinances of God; such as: The public worship of God. The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded. The Supper of the Lord. Family and private prayer. Searching the Scriptures. Fasting or abstinence.

This year, if it is to be your best year, spiritually, and if it is to be our best year as a church, I urge you, in the name of the Lord, to determine, by the grace of God, to make the worship of God with the people of

Pastor's Message cont. p. 5

FINANCIALS

FINANCIAL MOMENTS

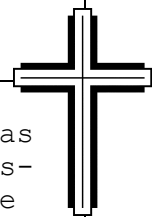
Below are the financial results for November and December, 2010. Unfortunately, we fell even further behind in both November and December, with deficits of \$2,973.43 and \$7,483.46, respectively. Both the Thanksgiving offering, \$245, and the Christmas offering, \$485, were down, compared to 2009, by over \$2,100. **For the year, we are \$15,816 in debt on budget expenses versus budget income, thus requiring us to dip into our Foundation savings again this year.** This is less than the 2009 deficit of \$16,736, but still not very good. Expenses for 2010 are higher than 2009 by \$3,078.27, but income for 2010 income exceeded 2009 by \$3,998.62. We continue to watch expenses and cut where we can, but you can only cut so much and still keep the doors open. We **CANNOT** keep doing this year after year and maintain a viable, vibrant ministry to gain people for Jesus Christ. Please examine your giving to see if you can give of your time, to help reduce expenses, if you are unable to increase your monetary donations for 2011. Together, we can work to keep Centenary a vital ministry in downtown New Albany.

	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YTD - 2010</u>	<u>YTD - 2009</u>
Budget Income (Through November 30)	\$11,109.75	\$143,197.10	\$133,378.06
Budget Expenses (Through November 30)	14,083.18	151,529.67	149,005.18
Budget Income vs. Actual Expenses	(2,973.43)	(8,332.57)	(15,627.12)

	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>YTD - 2010</u>	<u>YTD - 2009</u>
Budget Income (Through December 31)	\$ 8,380.00	\$151,577.10	\$147,578.48
Budget Expenses (Through December 31)	15,863.46	167,393.13	164,314.86
Budget Income vs. Actual Expenses	(7,483.46)	(15,816.03)	(16,736.38)

Roger Ketterer
Treasurer

PASTOR'S MESSAGE, CONT. FROM P.4



God a priority. And when you gather with the Church, determine that you are going to *truly worship God*, not just "attend the service." Merely attending the service or going through the motions is *not* the same thing as *worshipping God* in spirit and in truth.

When the Word is read and when it is proclaimed, *listen*; listen intently for what the Holy Spirit is saying to you! When you come to the Table, again, do not merely go through the motions, but come with faith in Christ, anticipating the grace of God poured out to you at the Table by Christ, Himself, who is truly present in the Sacrament.

This year, if it is to be your best year, spiritually, and if it is to be our best year as a church, I urge you, in the name of the Lord, to determine, by the grace of God, to PRAY! Pray daily. Pray, as St. Paul says, without ceasing. Pray with your whole heart. Pray knowing that God hears your prayer. Pray believing that God answers prayer. Your Heavenly Father wants a communing relationship with you!

And know that nothing of any significance ever gets done in the life of the Church without prayer. It was after the disciples remained in that upper room for ten days where they "were constantly devoting themselves to prayer" (Acts 1:14) that the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them purifying their hearts and empowering them to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth!

Do you want to draw close to God? Pray. Do you want to see spiritual growth in your life? Pray. Do you want to see the Holy Spirit poured out upon Centenary United Methodist Church? Pray. Do you want to see ministry accomplished through Centenary; through you? Pray. Do you want to see people saved from their

sins, people come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior, lives transformed by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit? Pray! Do you want to see Christians sanctified entirely and perfected in God's love? Pray! - St. James reminds us that "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest." (James 5:16b-18).

Finally, if 2011 is to be your best year, spiritually, and if it is to be our best year as a church, I urge you, in the name of the Lord, to determine, by the grace of God, to be in the Word! - John Wesley claimed to be "a man of one book." In fact he claimed that for all who were a part of the "holy club," the first Methodists. It was not that Wesley did not read anything else; it was simply that the Bible was their authority. It was "a lantern unto their feet, and a light in all their paths" (Wesley's Works 3:504). They knew St. Paul's instructions to Timothy to be true, that "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

As we go to the Bible, praying and listening for God to speak to us, the Holy Spirit enlivens the Word to us, afresh and anew. God speaks to us, and as we yield ourselves to God, our lives are shaped by the Word and the Holy Spirit. In our reading of the Bible we find



Valentines to Give Your Children

Acceptance—Teach kids that you love them for who and what they are. Give this gift with a kiss.

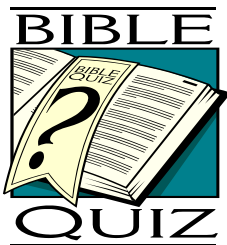
Self-confidence—Help children understand that they can trust themselves. Give this gift with a hug.

Life without needless fears—Don't let your kids see you as a worrier. Give this with the gift of laughter.

Appreciation—Help children acquire a spark of gratitude and enjoy all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.

Faith—Introduce your children to God, the best friend they'll ever have. Give this gift by taking them to church every Sunday.

A LITTLE HUMOR

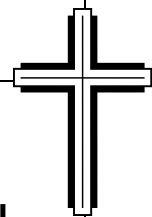


A New Testament book says God designated Jesus as a “high priest” and that Jesus was the most perfect mediator between God and humans.

Choose the name of the book below:

- A. Romans
- B. Hebrews
- C. Matthew
- D. Revelation





**FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT OF UNITED METHODIST MEN
UNITED METHODIST MEN –**

On December 11, seven (7) men delivered 11 fruit baskets to our faithful shut-ins. Some may not be able to get out, but they still love Centenary and enjoy a visit by the me. Thanks to those who helped deliver the baskets.

We will have our annual breakfast planning meeting on Saturday, January 8, at 9:00 a.m. Hope everyone can come out and help us plan another outstanding program of service and fellowship for 2011.

Watch future newsletters for exciting events in 2011. The first will be our Annual Sweetheart Luncheon in February.

Remember, this is YOUR United Methodist Men's group. It is not the same without YOU.

LET'S STRIVE TO PLEASE GOD IN HEAVEN IN 2011

Roger Ketterer

Pastor's Message from p. 5

the words of life, for there the One who is the Word of Life speaks His life-giving word into our lives.

This year, 2011, I urge you, by the grace of God, live in the Word! Seek the face of God in the Word. - In fact, I challenge you to read through the entire Bible, this year. (And since this article gives you a late start, it's okay to go over into January of 2012, but make it a goal.) And again, as you read, listen. Go to the Word praying that God will speak to you. Expect that God will speak to you.

In all of these spiritual disciplines, like disciplines in other aspects of our lives, we may not "see results" right away. However, if we have been faithful, when we look back from this time next year, I think we will discover that, indeed, 2011 has been a great year of spiritual growth . . . maybe even our best year ever.

A suggested plan for reading the Bible through in a year can be found at <http://www.Bible-Reading.com>. Click on the subheading "Plan" under "Bible Reading." Then, click on "one page printable Bible Reading Plan." It's an Adobe file. This plan takes one through the entire Bible in one year, reading 7 days each week. The average reader can complete this plan spending only 17 minutes each day in reading time (almost two hours a week). - For other plans, see Pastor Todd.

HISTORY LESSON—ALLEEN SCANLON

I try not to live in the past—but guess what—I do! I thought I'd wander on back to the find old two room school house I attended in Littles. It had a bell in a belfry to call you to classes! Our teachers were great. With little pay “they gave their all” so that so many would go on to better days. (When I moved to Muncie to begin my 9th year, I discovered “things” really changed!) At Littles we were taught to memorize a little bit of everything. I loved Riley, Dickinson, Poe, etc. My favorite writer was Washington Irving. His wonderful “Rip Van Winkle!” I decided to cheer you on your way to 2011—so here goes....



When the Minister Comes to Tea

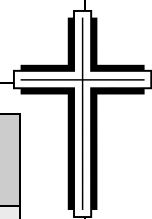
Oh! they've swept the parlor carpet,
and they've dusted every chair,
And they've got the tidies hangin' jest
exactly on the square;
And the what-not's fixed up lovely, and
the mats have all been beat,
And the pantry's brimming' over with
the bully things to eat;
Sis has got her Sunday dress on, and
she's frizzin' up her bangs;
Ma's got on her best alpacky, and she's
askin' how it hangs;
Pa has shaved as slick as can be, and
I'm rigged way up in G,—
And it's all because we're goin' ter have
the minister ter tea.
Oh! The table's fixed up gaudy, with
the gilt-edged chiny set,
And we'll us the silver tea-pot and the
comp'ny spoons, you bet;
And we're goin' ter have some fruitcake
and some thimbleberry jam,
And “riz biscuits,” and some doughnuts,
and some chicken, and some ham.
Ma, she'll 'polergize like fury and say
everything is bad,
And “Sich awful luck with cookin',”

she is sure she never had;
But, er course, she's only bluffin', for
it's as prime as it can be,
And she's only talkin' that way 'cause
the minister's ter tea.
Everybody'll be a-smilin' and as good
as ever was,
Pa won't growl about the vittles, like
he generally does,
And he'll ask me would I like another
piece er pie; but, sho!
That, er course, is only manners, and
I'm s'posed ter answer “No.”
Sis'll talk about the churchwork and
about the Sunday-school,
Ma'll tell how she liked the sermon
that was on the Golden Rule,
And if I upset my tumbler they won't
say a word ter me:—
Yes, a boy can eat in comfort with the
minister ter tea!
Say! a minister, you'd reckon, never'd
say what wasn't true;
But that isn't so with ours, and I jest
can prove it, too;
“Cause when Sis plays on the organ so
it makes yer want ter die,
Why, he sets and says it's lovely; and
that, seems ter me's a lie:
But I like him all the samey, and I only
wish he'd stay
At our house fer good and always, and
eat with us every day;
Only think of havin' goodies *every*
evenin'! Jimminee!
(Joseph C. Lincoln)

“Sister's Best Feller”

My sister's best feller is 'most six-foot-three,
And handsome and strong as a feller can be;
And Sis, she's so little, and slender, and small,
You never would think she could boss him at all;
But, my jing! She don't do a thing
But make him jump 'round, like he worked with
a string!
It jest made me 'shamed of him sometimes, you
know,

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS



Date	Liturgists	Greeters	Ushers
Jan. 2	Sue Hersman Phil Asher	Sara Aebersold Jamey Aebersold	Darrell Bensing Madonna Bensing
Jan. 9	Carolyn Wells Bob Wells	Bill Cochran Harold Kron	Martha Cooley Marie Vass
Jan. 16	Lois Ketterer Roger Ketterer	Darrell Bensing Madonna Bensing	Mary Ann Sollberger Marion Kemper
Jan. 23	Marie Vass Mary Ann Sollberger	LaVon Harbison Lane Hersman	Phil Asher Linda Asher
Jan 30	Lana Aebersold Bobbie Baird	David Braden Holly Braden	Bill Cochran Lane Hersman
Feb. 6	David Braden Holly Braden	Marion Kemper Blanche Allen	Jamey Aebersold Harold Kron
Feb. 13	Ron Mattson Libby Mattson	Martha Cooley Marie Vass	Lana Aebersold Lois Ketterer
Feb. 20	Ann Thomas Bobbie Stepp	Mary Ann Sollberger Annis Wiseman	Carl Platt Nancy Platt
Feb. 27	Dan Byerley Stephanie Bensing	Mel Johnson Molly Johnson	Vickie Casey

To think that he'll let a girl bully him so.

He goes to walk with her and carries her muff
And coat an umbrella, and that kind of stuff;
She loads him with things that must weigh
 'most a ton;
And, honest, he *likes* it, —as if it was fun!
And, oh, say! When they go to a play,
He'll sit in the parlor and fidget away,
And she won't come down till it's quarter
 past eight,
And then she'll scold *him* 'cause they get
 there so late.

He spends heaps of money a-buyin' her things,
Like candy, and flowers, and presents, and rings;
And all he's got for 'em's a handkerchief case—
A fussed-up concern, made of ribbons and lace;



But, my land! He thinks it's just grand,
"Cause she made it," he says, "with her own little
 hand;"

He calls her "an angel"—I heard him—and
 "saint,"

And beautif'lest bein' on earth"—but she
 ain't.

'Fore I go on an errand for her any time,
I just make her coax me, and give me a dime;
But that great big silly—why, honest and
 true—


He'd run forty miles if she wanted him to.

Oh, gee whiz! I tell you what 'tis!

I jest think it's *awful*—those actions of his.
I won't fall in love, when I'm grown—no sir-ee!

My sister's best feller's a warnin' to me!

(Joseph C. Lincoln)

 Centenary United Methodist Church
309 East Spring Street
New Albany, IN 47150

 THE CROSS
CONNECTION

*The deadline for submitting newsletter articles
is the 15th of the month before publishing.*

