

2012  
VOLUME 12  
ISSUE 1



2012

POINT PLACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Parish Paragraphs

### Target 2030 Initiative

One exciting opportunity in this new year is for me (Pastor Jon) as a member of the UCC's Target 2030 Initiative Class of 2022. This is a 10-year program aimed at young pastors, who will receive "advanced skills training to hone their ability as transformational leaders." There are a number of benefits to this program for me personally, for us as a community, and for the UCC. The basic goals are to equip young pastors more fully for parish ministry and to build supportive, creative community among young UCC pastors. You can find out more about the program at [www.pbucc.org](http://www.pbucc.org) or by talking to me. This program will take me away twice/year for the next four years for continuing educational experiences. The first will be Jan. 8-14 in Tampa, Florida. I feel very blessed to have been accepted to this program and for the vision and support of this congregation's leadership.

#### Inside this issue:

#### Weekly Schedule:

##### **SUNDAY**

**9:15am Church School**

**10:30am Worship Service**

**11:30am Coffee Hour**

##### **Wednesday**

**12:00N Bible Study**

##### **Thursday**

**8:00PM AA & AI-Anon**



## PASTOR'S pages

The New Year: a time for *Auld Lang Syne* (whatever that means), champagne, and short-lived resolutions. While most of us can probably share stories of New Year's Resolutions-gone-bad, New Year's does offer us a perfect opportunity to take a step back, cele-

brate the passing of another year, and dream about what the new year will bring.

We covered a lot of ground as we engaged God's Word during our worship this year. Here's a quick recap of how we found God speaking to us in 2011 (most of these messages are up on the website for downloading or streaming):

*That Thing We Do: Worship.* We began the year talking about our worship gatherings. Worship involves being planted in the fertile soil of God's Story (the Bible), which causes us to blossom into the expression of praise and the Gospel-formation of our lives. What if we approached our worship gatherings in 2012 with these intentions and expectations?

*The Cross and Us.* During Lent, we took time to gaze at the Cross. We saw that on the Cross, Jesus is replacing our guilt with mercy, our shame with grace, our feelings of worthlessness with value, our loneliness with God's presence, and our confusion with direction. As we experience these various emotions in 2012, let's approach the Cross and see how God can transform us.

*The Resurrection Life.* During the Easter season, we examined the Resurrection of Jesus and what that means for us. In particular, we examined "The Great Commission" in Matthew 28:18-20 and saw that living out Jesus' Resurrection involves going, making disciples, baptizing, and teaching all in light of Jesus' authority and constant presence. What a great call to mission as we look at ways to shine Jesus' light in 2012!

*Going Small.* The Summer brought us to Mark's Gospel and the question, "Why did Jesus begin his movement with a small group of followers?" I think we saw that small groups allow a unique opportunity for being engaged by the Gospel and immersed in community. You might consider joining one of our small groups (FOCUS Groups) in 2012.

*In the Beginning.* Throughout the Fall, we spent our time in Genesis 1-12, where God “sets the scene” for the biblical Story and our own. We learned about our powerful and merciful God, this beautiful but broken world, and special yet sinful humanity. Our challenge in 2012 is to cast aside our “sin stories” and live out the beautiful Creation/New Creation Story that God invites us into.

*Revelation.* The recent Advent season showed us a God who lovingly reveals himself to us in many ways: by speaking, acting, leading, dwelling, and coming. Are we joyfully receiving this revelation in 2012 or taking God for granted?

And that brings us to 2012. We will begin the year by asking the question, “If God is revealing himself to us, how do we get to know him?” We’ll talk about practical ways we can know God better, understand his Story, and follow his leading.

I pray for and look forward to all the ways our gracious God will awe us and guide us in 2012!



You can find Pastor Jon’s blog at [www.pointplaceucc.com/blog](http://www.pointplaceucc.com/blog). Here are some of December’s highlights. Please take a moment to share your own thoughts either online or with Pastor Jon:

Dec. 2, *The Battle for Christmas*  
“Now, someone please tell me in what way saying, “Merry Christmas!”

to a person who is Jewish, Muslim, atheist, or even ignorant of Christianity is following the example of Jesus. How is that identifying with them, serving them, helping them to know God’s love for them, or sacrificing for them?”

Dec. 9, *Occupy Pastor Jon’s Blog* “Only time will tell whether the Occupy movement is just a flash-in-the-pan or a lasting and growing force in our culture. As Christians, our calling remains the same regardless: to be the Body of Christ, God’s representatives in this world, partakers in a radical kind of life, seekers of justice, and proclaimers of true hope.”

## ***Feed My Sheep Talk....***

The program continues to serve the community – in November we served 111 hearty chili dinners meals including meals delivered to our homebound church members and friends. During these colder months our diners especially appreciate the friendly atmosphere and warmth and hospitality offered to them as they linger over their dessert to talk with friends and tablemates. Your church is a welcoming place for them to find a meal, shelter from the elements and a warm and friendly atmosphere.



**Thank you to all!**

In January, we've planned a meal of lasagna, fresh garden salad, garlic bread, and assorted desserts. Mark January 31<sup>st</sup> from 5 -7 pm on your calendar and come on down and help or just stop by for a meal. Food donations should be left at the church by Sunday, January 29th.



Take Away Bag focus for January is household paper products – each bag will contain

- 1 – 4 roll package of toilet paper
- 1 – roll of paper towel
- 1 – box of Kleenex

Please consider leaving a pre-made bag or items for a bag on the feed my sheep donation table. Thank you!

More Feed My Sheep Talk....

**You can be a part of this program by –**

**volunteering -**

to help set up for the dinner

to help cook the food

to serve during dinner

to help with clean up

to deliver a meal to a church member's home

**or donating–**

food and supplies

Cash for purchase of meat and perishables.

***We are in need of donations of***

***- boxes of lasagna noodles***

***- bottled salad dressing – French or Italian***

***- Parmesan cheese***

Sign-up sheets are available in Paterson Hall if you are interested in volunteering or donating, or you may call Tina Mockbee 419 276 0637 or Lori Winne 734 848 4120 for more information.

| <b>General Fund</b> |                        |               |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 2011                | <b><i>NOVEMBER</i></b> | Year-to-Date  |
| Income              | \$8,310.44             | \$108,014.12  |
| Expenses            | \$9,194.10             | \$120,714.60  |
| Net                 | (\$883.66)             | (\$12,700.48) |



## THE GIVING TREE

We will be collecting any  
"warm accessories":

**hats**

**scarves**

**mittens**

Anything to help folks  
keep warm this winter.



# FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR



crackers



M'm! M'm! Good!  
SOUP

soup





## Elizabethans

The Elizabethans meeting was postponed December 5<sup>th</sup> due to bad weather and we met on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm for our annual SNACK NIGHT. Wanda Franks gave the blessing and then we enjoyed all the goodies our members brought.

Ruby read devotions which was titled "THE WEEK AFTER CHRISTMAS", written by "anonymous." She followed that with a Christmas Prayer. Our very able secretary, Evelyn Berkhoudt, was unable to attend since she had recent surgery. She was missed very much by all of us.

Trying to fill in for her was Wanda Franks who did very well having left her glasses at home.

Bonny Beebe gave the treasurer's report with #205.31 in the general fund and \$274.08 in the penny fund, making a total of \$479.39 in the checking account. We received a check from Kroger for \$247.90 making a total of \$1065.06 for the year.

A motion was made by Gerry Ellis and seconded by Doris Towers to give the staff a Christmas Gift of money.

We will have NO meetings in January or February because of bad weather conditions.

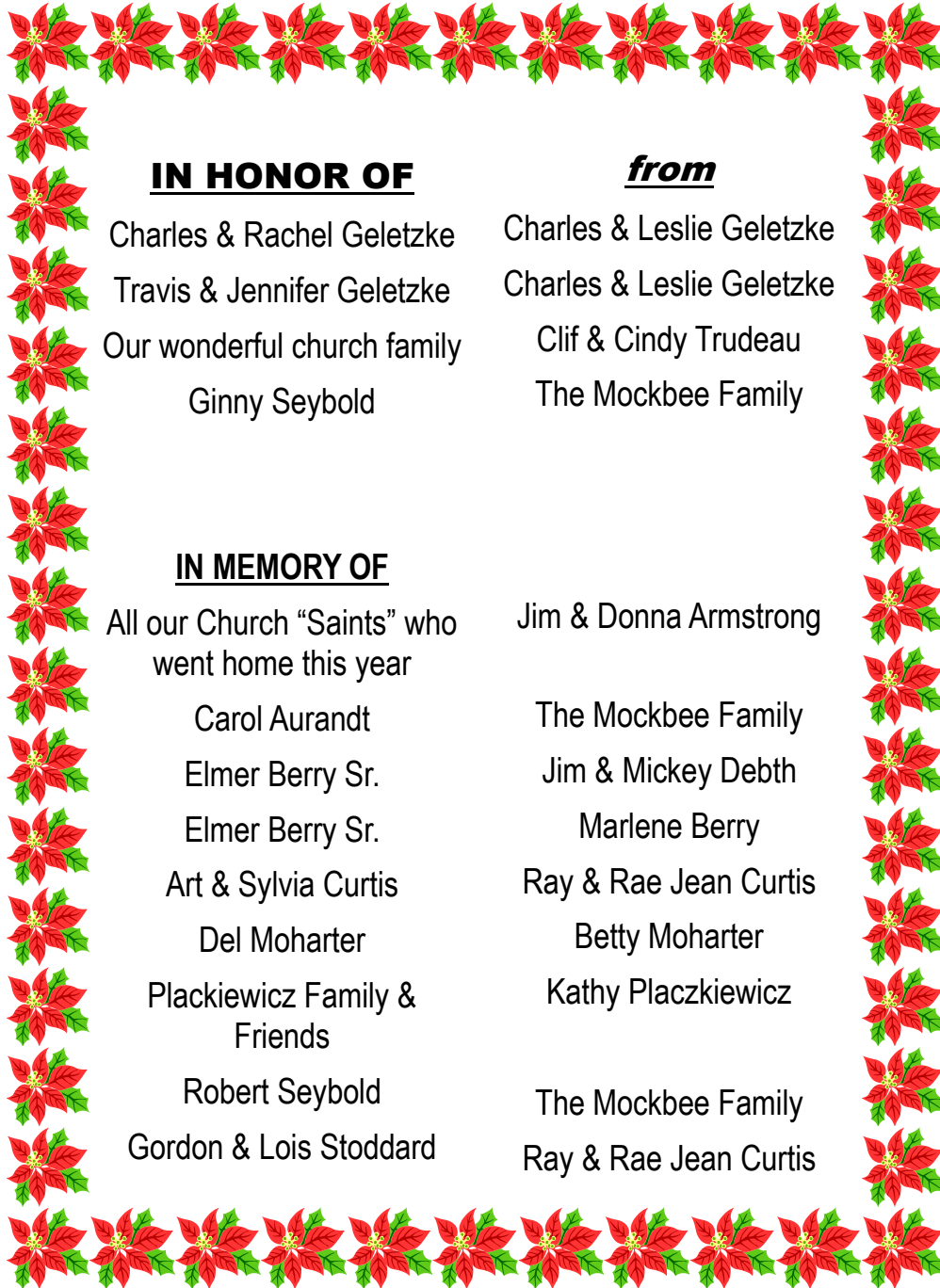
A discussion was held to change our meetings to noon and bring a bag lunch. since our Treasurer, Bonny, is the only one of us still working, this idea was tabled for the time being. Wanda and Ruby will be hostesses in March and Doris will have devotions.

The meeting was then adjourned and we played a scrambled word game of "Christmas Times", with several items in gift bags for winners to keep or donate to the next rummage sale.

*We then wished all a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and drive safely.*

Submitted by temporary secretaries Wanda and Ruby.

# Poinsettia Dedications



## **IN HONOR OF**

Charles & Rachel Geletzke  
Travis & Jennifer Geletzke  
Our wonderful church family  
Ginny Seybold

## **from**

Charles & Leslie Geletzke  
Charles & Leslie Geletzke  
Clif & Cindy Trudeau  
The Mockbee Family

## **IN MEMORY OF**

All our Church "Saints" who  
went home this year

Carol Aurandt  
Elmer Berry Sr.  
Elmer Berry Sr.  
Art & Sylvia Curtis  
Del Moharter  
Plackiewicz Family &  
Friends  
Robert Seybold  
Gordon & Lois Stoddard

Jim & Donna Armstrong  
The Mockbee Family  
Jim & Mickey Debth  
Marlene Berry  
Ray & Rae Jean Curtis  
Betty Moharter  
Kathy Plackiewicz  
The Mockbee Family  
Ray & Rae Jean Curtis

# *MOMENT WITH THE MODERATOR*



After 35 years of collecting Christmas tree ornaments I have quite a selection. I can tell you how and where I acquired most of them. And of course, I have my favorites. One in particular is a beautiful sea shell. It was given to me by a very special friend, who knows how much I love the beach; but it is not your typical seal shell. Oh, when you hold it up close in your hand it looks pretty ordinary but when hung on the tree in front of a light it is clear that this beauty is hand crafted of porcelain. Not only is it translucent; but when you step back it becomes clear that this “shell” is the silhouette of a beautiful person – perhaps an angel.

Chuck and I were talking about this remarkable ornament and I got to thinking that it really is about perspective. Up close it is just a shell but from a distance it is a beautiful and mysterious face. That made me think that the coming new year is lot like my sea shell. It is all about perspective.

When I opened my brand new calendar, I started filling in the dates with meetings and appointments, the same old same old. But when I flipped through the pages and looked at the entire year from a distance, I began to imagine the possibilities. I wonder what God has in store for me. If I will only stand back and see what is in front of me instead of burdening myself with the minor details, I imagine the view will be spectacular.

***I wish you all a new year filled with God's perspective and endless possibilities.***

*Leslie Geletzke*





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## LIVING MEMORIAL

### **In Memory of Dan Carter**

David Smith Appliance Service  
Jim & Donna Armstrong  
Janie Seely  
Lois Fallon  
Rae Jean & Ray Curtis  
Bill and Luanne Langlois  
Andrew Szilagye  
Mr. & Mrs. William O'Connell  
Sue Williams  
Kathy Clouski  
Thelma, Courtney, & Beth Boos  
Gerry Ellis  
Lotus Chaptered No. 477  
Order of Eastern Star

### **In Memory of Elmer Berry**

Gerry Ellis  
Jim & Donna Armstrong  
Bob and Kathy Placzkiewicz





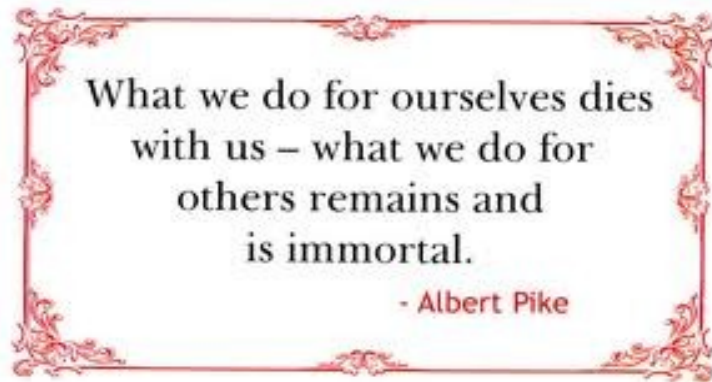
Thank you so much for the meal after Dan's funeral. it was wonderful and enjoyed by all our families and friends. At times like this you need a chance to talk about your loss. Thanks for your kindness and love.

*Bobbie Carter*

Our family would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your unlimited giving of kind words, cards and prayers and the wonderful luncheon after Elmer's funeral. The food was fabulous and was far more than a light lunch. Again, the whole family would like to thank each and every-one of you for everything that was done for us.

*thank you*

*The Berry Family*



Thank you very much to everyone who contributed so generously to our Holiday Baskets this year! Everyone knows these are tough economic times; however, some of our members have been hit especially hard. Fortunately, our church family saw the need and gave generously: we were able to help 8 families of our congregation this Thanksgiving and Christmas due to your contributions. So, once again, thank you for being so considerate and compassionate. God bless you!

*Jim and Donna Armstrong*

Jackie Shaw.....



.....for the generous donation of office Supplies.

# DIACONATE NEWS



## **COFFEE HOUR SERVERS NEEDED**

Open dates remain on the coffee hour schedule in Paterson Hall - please take a moment to sign up for a date to sponsor the coffee, tea and optional cookies/baked goods. Make it a family event or join with friends and sponsor together. Many hands make light the work – why not sign up for a date today and fill the calendar in Paterson Hall.

Questions – see Tina Mockbee or call 419 276 0637.



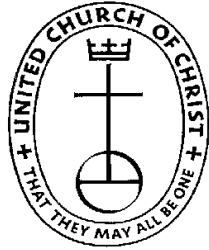
## **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE HANGING OF THE GREENS!**

The Board of Diaconate thanks those who graciously gave up their Saturday morning to deck the sanctuary in Christmas finery – Jim Armstrong, David Browning, Leslie Geletzke, Tina Mockbee, Alan Montague, Amanda Hartley, Ericka Winne and Diane Yarrito.

## **REMEMBER - WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN!**



Please mark your calendars to help the Board of Diaconate remove the Christmas Decorations from the sanctuary and surrounding areas. On January 3<sup>rd</sup> following a soup supper at 6 pm we will pack up Christmas for another year. Please help us take down the decorations for storage.



**POINT PLACE  
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*To care for one another  
as God cares for us.*

