



## November-December Reminder

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I was recently reminded of the "The Rabbi's Gift" from the Prologue of *The Different Drum: Community Making and Peace* by M. Scott Peck, M.D.

A monastery had fallen upon hard times [because of persecution. Only five monks were left in the decaying house:] the abbot and four others, all over seventy in age. Clearly, it was a dying Order.

In the deep woods surrounding the monastery there was a little hut that a rabbi from a nearby town occasionally used for a hermitage. Through their many years of prayer and contemplation, the old monks had become a bit *psychic*, so they could always *sense* when the rabbi was in his hermitage. "The rabbi is in the woods, the rabbi is in the woods again," they would whisper to each other.

As he agonized over the imminent death of his Order, it occurred to the abbot at one such time to visit the hermitage and ask the rabbi if by some possible chance he could offer any advice that might save the monastery.

The rabbi welcomed the abbot at his hut. But when the abbot explained the purpose of his visit, the rabbi could only commiserate with him. "I know how it is!" he exclaimed. "The spirit has gone out of the people. It is the same in *my* town. Almost no one comes to the synagogue anymore." So the old abbot and the old rabbi wept together. Then they read parts of the Torah and quietly spoke of *deep* things.... [Finally, it was time to leave.] The abbot asked, "Is there nothing you can tell me, no piece of advice you can give me that would help me save my dying Order?" "No, I am sorry," the rabbi responded. "I have no advice to give. The only thing I can tell you is that the Messiah is one of you." When the abbot returned...his fellow monks...asked, "Well, what did the rabbi say?"

"He couldn't help," the abbot said. "We just wept and read the Torah together. The only thing he did say, just as I was leaving...was that the Messiah is one of us. I don't know what he meant."

[In the days and weeks that followed, they each pondered what the rabbi's words meant.] They thought, "The Messiah is one of us!

Do you suppose he meant the abbot? Yes, if he meant anyone, he probably meant *Father Abbot*. He has been our leader for more than a generation. On the other hand, he might have meant Brother Thomas [for certainly] he is a *holy* man....Certainly he could not have meant Brother Elred! Elred gets crotchety at times. But come to think of it, even though he is a thorn in our sides, when you look back on it, Elred is virtually always *right*....But surely not Brother Phillip. Phillip is so *passive*, a real *nobody*. But then, almost mysteriously, he has a *gift* for somehow always *being there* when you *need* him. He just magically appears by your side....He couldn't possibly have meant *me*. I'm just an ordinary person."

As they contemplated in this manner, the old monks began to treat each other with *extraordinary respect* on the off chance that one among them might be the Messiah....

Because the forest in which the Order was situated was beautiful, [people began to wander onto the lovely lawns and gardens. More and more people came week after week because they sensed this was a holy place. They appreciated the way the monks appeared to radiate love.]

Then it happened that some of the younger men who came....asked if they could join the monastery....So within a few years the monastery had once again become a thriving order and, thanks to the rabbi's gift, a vibrant center of light and spirituality...

I was also reminded of Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats in [Matthew 25:31-46](#) that also speaks of the Messiah being one of us. *The Message* translates verses 37-40 this way:

"Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

Both of these parables or stories invite us to treat each other and everyone we meet (including ourselves) with extraordinary respect because Jesus the Messiah is among us and in us. When we see Jesus in everyone and treat them as we would treat Jesus then not only will Riverside flourish and thrive as a vibrant center of light and spirituality but we will have joined God in bringing the Kingdom of God more fully alive here in Muncie and around the world.

Shalom in Christ,  
John

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

November...

3<sup>rd</sup> Harry Shelby  
6<sup>th</sup> Vangie Wilkinson  
Ron Brown  
21<sup>st</sup> Dick Garringer  
22<sup>nd</sup> Missi Young  
28<sup>th</sup> Julia Pittenger  
29<sup>th</sup> Hester Mitchell  
30<sup>th</sup> Dale DeHaven



December...

1<sup>st</sup> Sandy Hunter  
4<sup>th</sup> Nancy Campbell  
5<sup>th</sup> Sarah Turner  
7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Sharp  
9<sup>th</sup> Jack Richardson  
18<sup>th</sup> Kay Rankin  
20<sup>th</sup> Diane Baldwin  
21<sup>st</sup> Bill Terhune  
27<sup>th</sup> Sara Mitchell  
29<sup>th</sup> Steve Dettman  
30<sup>th</sup> Jeanette Perky



November...

20<sup>th</sup> David & Kim Brown  
26<sup>th</sup> Jerry & Barbara Miller  
Bill & Julia Pittenger

December...

3<sup>rd</sup> Ron & Pat Brown  
4<sup>th</sup> Bill & Nellie Campbell  
6<sup>th</sup> Tony & Amanda Collins  
20<sup>th</sup> Dale & Debra DeHaven  
Jack & Jeanne Richardson  
31<sup>st</sup> Mark & Amy Clevenger

## November-December Reminder

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Give thanks with a grateful heart for...

Everyone that helped canvass the Riverside Neighborhood with doorknob bags.

Pat Brown for organizing, everyone who donated food and the ladies that prepared the meal following the service for Bill Barber and Donnie Gronendyke.

Sandy Hunter for planning the college age recognition time following the service on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September.

Everyone that came on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October to help prepare the church grounds for winter.

Marlene Boyer for providing the beautiful mums that are planted along the east side of the education wing.

Those that volunteer to make coffee and provide snacks for Sunday Morning Fellowship.

Everyone that donated candy and/or donated towards the purchase of hot dogs, beverages, etc for our annual Trunk-n-Treat festivities. Thanks to Bob & Earlene Harvey for organizing this very popular event again this year.

The IHOP Breakfast Group for your various and multiple donations to individuals and organizations throughout the Muncie community.

Pastor and Members of Riverside UMC...thank you for allowing us to meet in your lovely church facility. We felt right at home. Helen Davis, Delaware Co. MG Assoc.

To Our Friends at Riverside UMC...

This is a very special thank you to the folks who washed, primed, and painted the Covenant Partners Ministries' building. Larry Campbell was one of the coordinators of this project, and we certainly appreciate his time and effort, along with: Ron Brown, Jack Richardson and Bob Harvey. If I have neglected to mention anyone, I apologize, and a big thank you to them also. You have made the building look like new. God bless you all for giving of yourselves to help us make Covenant Partners Ministries a brighter spot in the neighborhood and community. We appreciate you!  
In Christ, Linda McBride

## Trustees' Corner

### **Above and Beyond-Preparing for the Future update:**

The Above and Beyond list of projects is becoming shorter and shorter as we check each item off. Heat Pump number five has been installed in the Joseph W. Rankin Library. Plans are to install another unit in the Narthex before next summer. The Trustees would like to thank everyone that contributed to the Above and Beyond Projects and to those that continue to fulfill your pledges. Initial donations and pledges totaled \$19,865. As of the 16<sup>th</sup> of October \$24,623 had been given. To God be the glory.

### **Weather Related Church Closing Information:**

The Trustees wish to advise you that if the city declares a snow or other emergency and requests that travel be restricted to essential or emergency travel only, Sunday services will be cancelled. This would also pertain to any meetings scheduled during the week. We, however, encourage you to use good judgment when the streets and roads are hazardous to travel on when a State of Emergency has not been declared.

If a meeting is cancelled, please contact Tom Schamp (765) 749-4410. He will contact WLBC 104.1, WTHR Ch 13 and Fox59 Ch 11. An e-mail will be sent to those who have given their e-mail address to the church. If possible, an announcement will also be placed on the church's answering machine. If in doubt, please call the church 288-4257 or Pastor Young at 288-3826 or his cell at 278-8733. Committee Chairs may also consider establishing a telephone chain call procedure for their committee.

If a snow or other emergency prohibiting travel is not declared we will have church for those who can make it safely to Riverside. If you do not feel safe traveling to church, please stay home. If you have a responsibility at church for the Sunday in question, please stay home, but notify the church of your decision to do so. That will keep us from worrying about you being stuck in the snow and allow us to recruit a replacement among those who are able to travel.

You don't have to be in church to worship God. Jesus in John 4 tells the Samaritan woman that location doesn't matter. We are to "worship the Father in spirit and truth" (John 4:23). However, Luke tells us that "on the Sabbath day [Jesus] went into the synagogue, as was his custom" (Luke 4:16). And Hebrews 10:25 admonishes us "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."



## COVENANT PARTNERS COMMUNITY DAY

**Community Day** will be on the third Thursday of the month during November and December. Please bring your bags of supplies by Tuesday, November 15th for the next event on Thursday, November 17th. **Here is the updated list of items to include: unscented hand soap (1 bar or bottle), laundry detergent (small bottle or box), dish detergent (16 oz), Kleenex (1 box), and toilet paper (4 rolls).** Also, please see Susan Reno or Mary Schumacher if you would be willing to share part of your day on those Thursdays from 10-2 with the people at Covenant Partners. You will be blessed.

### **Snow? Snow?**

#### **You can help by shopping! No shoveling involved!**

The weather forecasters said the “snow” word this morning. Brrrrr.... Guess it’s time to get the blankets out of the linen closet. The people who need temporary housing in this cold weather cannot go to a linen closet and pull out the winter blankets. During November, the Missions Committee is again helping the Muncie YWCA stock up for winter. The YWCA provides a warm room for them but never seems to have enough bedding to be sure that all residents have the fresh blankets, sheets, pillows and pillow cases they need.

With the cold weather comes flu season. This year the YWCA is also appealing for help stocking their residents’ medicine chests. Tylenol, Motrin, cold medicine and hygiene items are in high demand. Also there never seems to be enough laundry detergent and dryer sheets so the residents can keep their clothes and bedding clean.

The YWCA’s greatest bedding need is for pillows and pillow cases so no one has to sleep on a second-hand pillow. Sheets and blankets for single beds and towels and wash cloths are also appreciated.

So when you are shopping for your cold weather needs, please buy extra. You can bring pillows, pillowcases, sheets, blankets, towels, washcloths, hygiene items, Tylenol and detergent to Riverside UM Church and put them in the YWCA box in the lobby between November 6 and November 27. We’ll take care of transporting them to the YWCA before the snow gets too deep.

### **Neighborhood Blitz**

The Radical Hospitality Team assembled and canvassed the Riverside neighborhood in early September. Nearly 600 invite bags were hung on doorknobs from Centennial to Riverside and Wheeling to the campus. The effort produced enough fruit to start an informal class that had been meeting following Sunday morning service. Thanks to Sandy Hunter, Bob Harvey and Ann Beuoy for their faithfulness and guidance.

## **Adopt-A-Pot**

Again this year Riverside will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Dec. 16<sup>h</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 8:00pm.

A poster schedule will be available for you to sign up for specific times on those two days. We will be ringing bells in front of MCL Cafeteria and J.C. Penney.

## **Prayer Walking**

Prayer Walking will meet for the last time this year on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and resume again next spring on Tuesday, March 6, 2012.

## **Fellowship Time**

Coffee and snacks are being served each Sunday morning in the Joseph W. Rankin Library. Volunteers are needed so this ministry can continue. A sign up sheet is available in the library. Just talk to Amy Clevenger or Tom Schamp if you have any questions or need to know how to operate the coffee brewer.

## **Riverside United Methodist Women**

To the Women of Riverside,

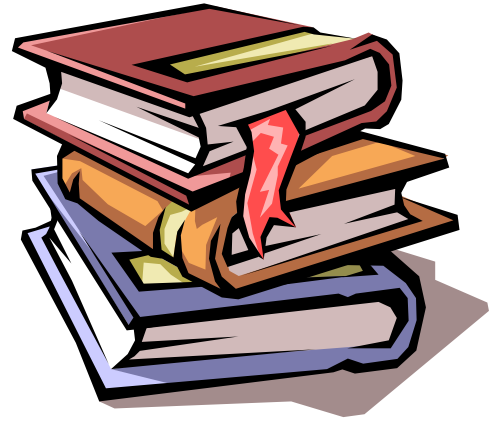
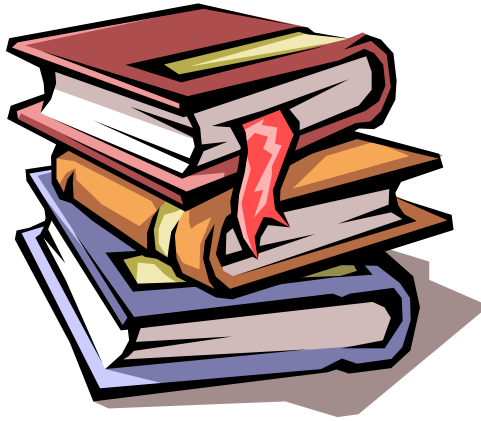
All are invited to attend the November program and dessert meeting on Thursday, Nov. 17th, at 2:00 p.m. Mary Schumacher will share her mission experience to Sierra Leone held in the sanctuary with coffee and dessert following the program in Fellowship Hall. Reservations may be phoned in to the church office, 288-4257, or to Florence Shelby, 282-7172. Please come, we think you will enjoy seeing Mary's slide presentation and listening to her talk about her experiences.

## **Annual Charge Conference**

Since the inception of the North Muncie Cluster a few years ago, the Charge Conference has included all eight churches in the cluster. This year the meeting will be held at High St UMC in honor of their 175th year in ministry in Muncie. In addition to the normal business matters, Pastor Rusty Clements, pastor at Center Chapel UMC and Director of the North Muncie Cluster, will be making a special presentation. The plight of the homeless in Muncie, specifically single women and single women with children, has come to the attention of the North Muncie Cluster. Pastor Rusty will be speaking about the challenges the homeless shelters face on a daily basis just to remain open. You are encouraged to attend the Charge Conference this year.

The Charge Conference will be held on the 15th of November at 6:30pm. Please make a note on your calendar to attend this very important and informative meeting.

North Muncie Cluster: Riverside, Gethsemane, College Avenue, High St, Center Chapel, Selma United, Selma Christ, Union Chapel



## NOVEMBER BOOK OF THE MONTH

*I DARE YOU*

*By: Joyce Meyer*

(Comments from Amazon review)

CHECK IT OUT OF THE JOSEPH W. RANKIN LIBRARY!

Joyce Meyer dares you to live a life with purpose. She tells us that we all need a reason to get up everyday, we need a dream to strive for, a goal to reach. If we don't have that passion we're working toward, then we get depressed and don't have any reason go on.

With stories and illustrations from her own life and those she knows, she shows us that even something as simple as baking cookies and giving them away to others can lift us from the pit of depression and make our lives worth living.

Joyce Meyer says that now is the time to take action and make your life count. You need to sit back and discover why you are here. Ask God what your gifts are, and use them. If you are a teacher, teach. If you are an encourager, encourage. And if you do this then you will develop a passion for your life and will be able to direct that passion to the other areas of your life such as spirit, mind, emotions, finances, and the physical.

Joyce Meyer's message is unoriginal, but sound, and listeners won't be disappointed listening to these five CDs with a total listening time of six hours. I listened on a recent road trip. The message is good--but the reader sounds rather harsh, making already blunt, sometimes harsh, statements even more so.

If you are unsatisfied with your life today, Joyce Meyer says "I Dare You" to start living life to the fullest. To find your potential. To embrace your dreams. And to start living your passion.

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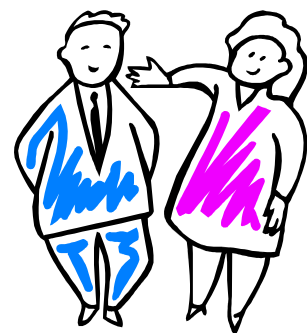
## November-December Reminder

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### November and December Hosts and Minglers

DATE	OUTSIDE DOOR	INSIDE DOOR	LOBBY MINGLER	SANCTUARY MINGLER
11/6	Joe & Judy Van Winkle	Pat Brown	Marge Salisbury	Karen Blank
11/13	Jerry & Ann Golden	Nellie Campbell	Bill Campbell	Hester Mitchell
11/20	Jack Richardson & Dick Garringer	Virginia Sharp	Cindy Miller	Lynn Wright
11/27	Larry Campbell & Ron Brown	Nancy Campbell	Pat Ashcraft	Dorothy Bowman
12/4	Rex Pittenger & Harry Shelby	Sandy Hunter	Betty Lacey	Florence Shelby
12/11	Jack Stanton & Susan Reno	Linda Keyton	Sara Mitchell	Mary Schumacher
12/18	Bob & Earlene Harvey	Bill Campbell	Nellie Campbell	Margaret Ann Deboy
12/24	Bob & Fred Wallace		Earlene Harvey	Janet Schamp & Bob Harvey
12/25	Jack Richardson & Mark Clevenger	Jeanne Richardson	Margaret Ann Deboy	Amy Clevenger

Having Greeters each Sunday is an important ministry at Riverside. If you are unable to serve when scheduled please ask someone to fill in for you.





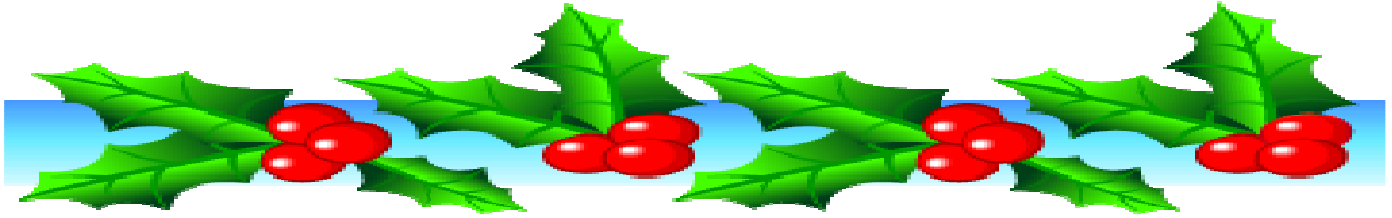
Start planning now for the  
2011 Christmas Celebration.

“Once Upon A Holy Night” produced by Riverside UMC & Gethsemane UMC. It will be presented on two days; Saturday, December 10th at 1:00pm and Sunday, December 11th at 5:00pm and will take place at Gethsemane UMC. Once again we will serve a meal, during which entertainment will be provided by Karl Hinkle...a wonderful solo artist from the Indianapolis area. Following the meal and entertainment by Mr. Hinkle we will move into the sanctuary to enjoy the choral presentation of  
“Once Upon A Holy Night.”

This year there will be NO charge for tickets, (a freewill offering will be taken for the meal), and it is our hope and desire that you feel free to invite friends and family to join us by giving a couple of tickets to them. The tickets will be specifically for either December 10th or December 11th and they will be available beginning November 13th. You will be able to get them through either church office.

Make plans to attend now!

This will prove to be a wonderful addition to your Christmas time celebration.



## Bishop's Christmas Offering

Continuing Bishop Coyner's request to "Pray for all the children of the world" this year, the Bishop's Christmas Offering will be received and distributed in early 2012 using these percentages for distribution.

- Indiana Conference Camping program will receive 20 percent to go to first-time campers and children in need;
- Indiana United Methodist-related children and youth homes will receive 30 percent;
- Indiana Conference-related Operation Classroom will receive 10 percent;
- Local outreach projects will receive 20 percent;
- Bishop's fund for emergency children's projects will receive 10 percent;
- United Methodist Advance Projects (global and national) will receive 10 percent.

Programs supported by this offering are selected by the Indiana Conference Special Offerings Committee. These programs are among those endorsed by the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries or by the Indiana Conference Advance Special.

## Christmas with Heifer

Once again it is time to bring "Joy to the World" by participating in Riverside's Heifer Project. Start thinking about who on your list would like to receive a heifer, llama, goat or sheep. Your generous gift given through Heifer International provides food for the hungry, income to lift families out of poverty, and hope to families in despair.

Over the past four years, Riverside has met its goal of providing a "Joy to the World" collection of two sheep, four goats, one heifer, and two llamas, plus additional pigs, chickens, and goats. When you give a gift through Heifer, you are helping others to "pass on the gift". Each family who receives an animal agrees to give one of its animal's offspring to another family in need. By giving families a hand-up, we can help them become self-reliant and independent.

It is the perfect gift to give children, grandchildren, family members, friends, and co-workers. You can also give in honor or memory of a loved one. Christmas shopping just became very easy...visit the Heifer display at Riverside beginning in December.

Help spread "Joy to the World" (you may purchase an entire animal or a share of an animal).

Llama	\$150.00	or	\$20.00/share
Goat	\$120.00	or	\$10.00/share
Sheep	\$120.00	or	\$10.00/share
Heifer	\$500.00	or	\$50.00/share



Christmas Party

Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall



## UMW Mitten Tree

Riverside United Methodist Women will again sponsor the decorating of a Christmas tree with hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens which will then be given to needy children within our community. Please help us decorate this tree by bringing your contributions and placing them on the tree. Little heads and hands need to be kept warm during a cold winter and you can help. As you place your donation on the tree, please say a prayer for the child who will receive your gift. Thank you for your help with this project.

## Dates to Remember...

<i>Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>9:45 a.m.</i>	<i>Consecration Sunday with Rev. Dr. Doug Anderson preaching followed by a celebration luncheon.</i>
<i>Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Charge Conference at High Street UMC Everyone is encouraged to attend</i>
<i>Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>2:00 p.m.</i>	<i>UMW Thanksgiving Program</i>
<i>Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>1:00 p.m.</i>	<i>"Once Upon A Holy Night" at Gethsemane UMC</i>
<i>Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>"Once Upon A Holy Night" at Gethsemane UMC</i>
<i>Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>6:00-8:00</i>	<i>Kids Hope Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall</i>
<i>Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>10:00-8:00</i>	<i>Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Muncie Mall</i>
<i>Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>10:00-8:00</i>	<i>Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Muncie Mall</i>
<i>Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>
<i>Sunday, December 25</i>	<i>9:45 a.m.</i>	<i>Christmas Day Worship (no Sunday School)</i>
<i>Sunday, January 1</i>	<i>9:45 a.m.</i>	<i>New Year's Day Worship (no Sunday School)</i>

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## November-December Reminder

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### **REACH OUT RIVERSIDE – MISSIONS**

A thank you to the family of Riverside who has supported the below accomplishments recently...and will be supporting others mentioned through the end of the year.

Blessings to those with a giving heart!

- So far this year we have collected 589 bags for Covenant Partners
- So far this year we have collected 801 cans of food for Christian Ministries
- First Choice for Women Baby Bottle project raised approx. \$347. This will go to help women who choose life to help with their needs as a mom
- Our final YES kit number was 50 bags that were sent to Baoma in September. Another big thank you to those who donated the supplies to go in the kits and to those ladies who gave their time to make the bags – Inga Hill, Bev Reese and Margaret Ann DeBoy
- We collected for the disaster victims in Japan and North Dakota through UMCOR
- Coats Against the Cold collected 24 coats
- Crop Walk collected a whopping \$1,400 this year! Way to go!
- On October 16<sup>th</sup>, we served dinner at Covenant Partners and Mary Schumacher talked about her trip to Baoma
- Coming up will be YWCA collection for bedding and other needs from Nov. 7 through Nov. 28
- We will be working at the Food Pantry Nov. 16-18
- We will be working as bell ringers for the Salvation Army again this year on Dec. 16 & 17 from 10-8:00 at the mall
- We will be doing Heifer Project again in December
- For 2012 we will continue with the same missions as this past year – Christian Ministries, Covenant Partners, Baoma, Food Pantry and Habitat for Humanity
- We will be having a fund raiser next year to be determined – for Baoma

### **Longest Night Service**

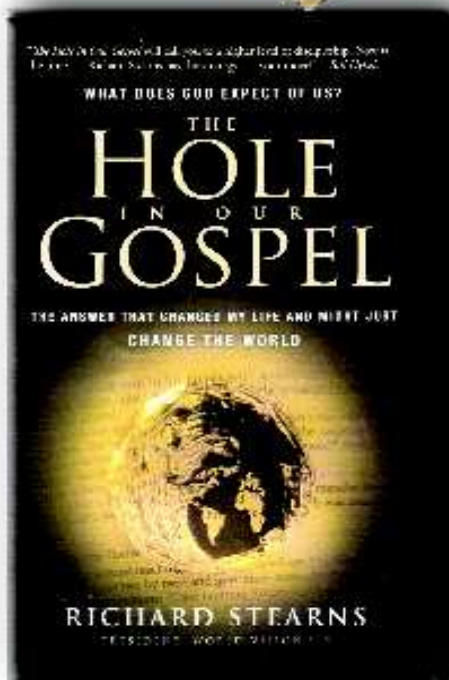
December 21 every year is the day with the least amount of daylight. Indeed many of the nights of this Christmas season may feel especially long since your loved one is no longer with you to share in this season.

In cooperation with two of our local funeral homes, we would like to invite you to a special one-hour Christmas-time service on Wednesday, December 21, at 7:00 p.m. The service will be held in the sanctuary of the church. The church is located at 219 S High Street, across the street from the MITS bus station.

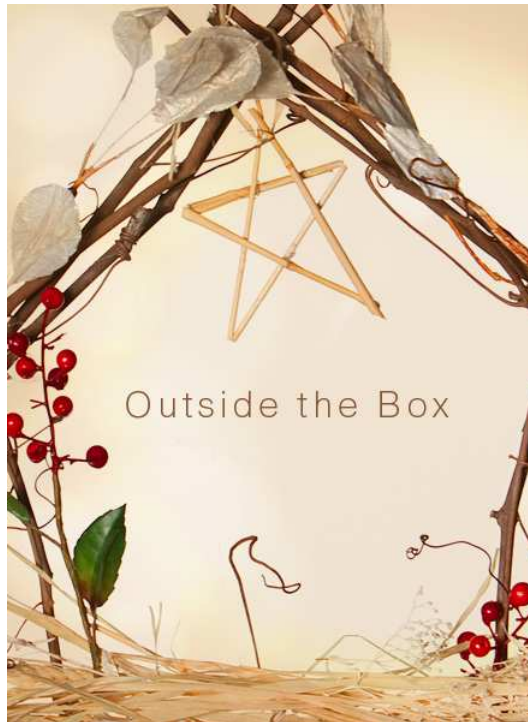
The worship service on Wednesday, December 21, is designed to be an uplifting service while honoring your time of grieving and the memory of those recently lost. The service will include the singing of Christmas carols, special music, prayers, and a message of hope. A time will be offered when you can light a candle in memory of your loved one. The service will close with each person holding a lit candle to light the darkness that surrounds us.

There will be a special reception one-half hour before the service and immediately after the service. We will be serving light refreshments in the church parlor. You may come and go as you desire.

COMING  
JANUARY 2012  
THE HOLE IN OUR  
GOSPEL



- 1 READ THE BOOK
  - 2 DO THE JOURNAL
  - 3 JOIN A LIFE GROUP
- CHANGE THE WORLD



## Outside the Box

The Gift  
That Can't be Contained

November 27	<i>Open up...expectation</i>	<i>Mark 13:32-37</i>
December 4	<i>Open up...acceptance</i>	<i>Isaiah 40:1-6a</i>
December 11	<i>Open up...family</i>	<i>Isaiah 61:1-4</i>
December 18	<i>Open up...yourself</i>	<i>2 Samuel 7:1-3</i>
Christmas Eve, 7:00 p.m.	<i>Open up...self-giving</i>	<i>Luke 2:1-20</i>
December 25, 9:45 a.m.	<i>Open up...keep giving</i>	<i>John 1: 1-14</i>