

# THE UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER



Sycamore United  
Methodist Church  
160 Johnson Avenue  
Sycamore, Illinois 60178

Phone: 815-895-9113  
Fax: 815-895-1042  
www.sycamoreumc.org

Saturday Celebration  
5:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship  
8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School  
10:15 a.m.

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## Pastor's Pen

### "God's Extras"

by Pastor Bill Landis

*"You prepare a table before me . . . , you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."*

Psalm 23: 5

As a pastor now serving in my 37<sup>th</sup> year, I have read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm thousands of times—and not just at funerals. This is the Scripture that is most requested when I am out visiting. I really enjoy saying the first portion because David's analogy is so easy to understand: God our Heavenly Shepherd provides us with the necessities of life—food, water, and a place to rest.

The second part is a bit more mysterious. After talking about God providing for the necessities of life, the writer suddenly starts praising God for all the extras—the oil, the cup and a table of honor in the presence of enemies. Why the shift?

A couple of weeks ago I got two letters in the mail each with a small check that I knew nothing about. One said it was a refund for having been overcharged \$18.27 on my trip to Israel way back in February, 2007! The second was from Ebay from having paid \$6.56 too much in shipping sometime in 2010! Both were totally unexpected.

Later that afternoon I was over at Kishwaukee Hospital visiting with one of our members who asked me to read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. As I read the second section, it suddenly made sense. Just like those unexpected checks that I had received, *God often sends extra gifts!*

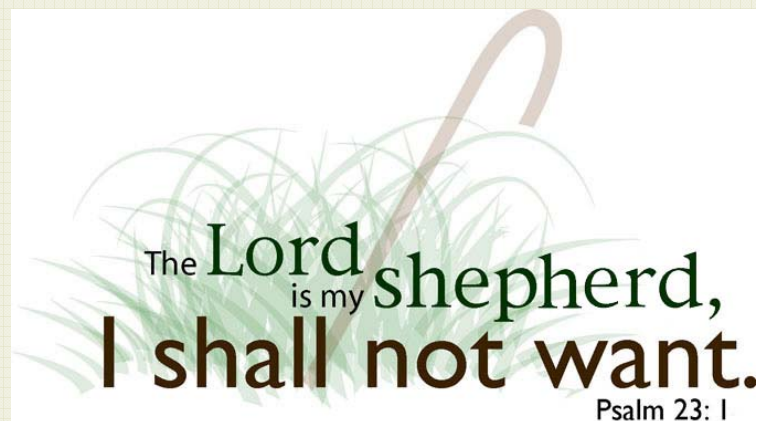
As soon as I had finished reading the Psalm, without any prompting from me, the woman I was visiting starting listing all the special blessings she had received from God: a loving husband after she had given up on getting married; two great children; a good job where she felt like she was needed; a caring church where she had found her place; and many more.

I left her room with a new understanding of the second section of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and praising God for the "extras" He has sent my way.

Often, when we least expect it, God blesses us with little (and sometimes big) "extras". Be sure to say "Thanks!"

See you in church this weekend!

Pastor Bill Landis



Psalm 23: 1

### February 2012 Worship Schedule

February 4, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Bishop Zothan Mawia

February 5, 2012 at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Diana Campano

February 11, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. and

February 12, 2012 at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Scripture: Mark 1: 29-39

Sermon: Finding Happiness

Rev. Bill Landis

February 18, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Harlene Harden with the

Marcy Newberry Children's Choir

February 19, 2012 at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Melwyn Algodí

February 22, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service led by

Confirmation Class of 2013

Rev. Bill Landis

February 25, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Robert Santuri

February 26, 2012 at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Scripture: Mark 10: 13-16

Sermon: Helpful/Harmful Relationships

Rev. Bill Landis

#### Baptisms:

To schedule a baptism, please call the church office at least 2 months in advance. Baptisms may be scheduled at either the 8:30 or 10:00 a.m. service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

#### Holy Communion:

Holy Communion is observed the first Sunday, and the second Saturday, of each month. If you are homebound and would like to partake of Holy Communion each month, please contact the Church office.



- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Aunt Kathy     | Rev. Tom Moe    |
| Rob Dusek      | Carolyn Watson  |
| Dean Curtis    | Bettyann Walker |
| Callie Rodgers | Megan Merchant  |
| Bonnie French  | Camilla Metcalf |
| Jim Whitehead  | Vera Worden     |
| Mary Jo Myers  | John Wilson     |



### Pray for our Military Men & Women

- |                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| *LT Robert Ortman             | MSgt. Bianna Yeager |
| *PFC John Z. Talmage          | *LCPL Brett Gulke   |
| LCPL Derrick R. Wells         | *PFC Ben Bushno     |
| SGT Shaune Clark              | SGT. Neil Smith     |
| SGT Matthew Einhorn           | CPT Garrett Slack   |
| *CPL Kyle Keneway             | PFC John Harris     |
| *CPT John C. Whitehead        | David Whitehead     |
| *SSGT Andrew Sheehan          | Jason Abitua        |
| *SPC Mitchell Stewart         | *SGT Dustin Bell    |
| SPC Timothy Stewart           | *PFC Eathon Larson  |
| *SGT Christopher Isabel       |                     |
| *CPL Anthony Dewitz           |                     |
| *PVT Sam Summers              |                     |
| *SGT Matthew "Scott" Stewart  |                     |
| *indicates deployed personnel |                     |

## Sycamore United Methodist Youth Ministry

February 2- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.  
 February 6- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.  
 February 16- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.  
 February 19- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.  
 March 1- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.  
 March 4- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.  
 March 11- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.  
 March 15- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.  
 March 29- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.— Spring Break  
 April 8- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.  
 April 12- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.  
 April 22- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.  
 April 16- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.  
 May 6- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.  
 May 20- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.

*Thank you to everyone who supported LIFE Missions by purchasing a pizza.*

## Scholarships

The Memorial Committee will be offering scholarships to students planning to attend a 2 or 4-year college or university next year.

The **Church Scholarship Funds** will award one or more scholarships with a minimum of \$500 for each.

The \$1,000 **Marion B. Marsh Memorial Scholarship** will be given to a person entering the freshman year.

The **Barbara J. Rodgers Memorial Scholarship** of at least \$1,000 will be given to a student who has completed the freshman year with priority given to prior recipients of the Marion B. Marsh Memorial Scholarship.

Applications and criteria are available in the church office and on line at [www.sycamoreumc.org](http://www.sycamoreumc.org) and need to be completed and returned to the church office by March 31, 2012. Be sure to use the 2012 scholarship application to be considered for a scholarship. The scholarships will be awarded in June. If you have questions, please contact Diane McQueen at 815-899-8878.

## UMM

Thanks to all who worked and supported the pancake supper this year. Our Pancake Supper helps us fund so many worthy missions during the year. I hope you will join us in February on the 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the evening for dinner and devotional. Our speaker will be State Rep Robert Pritchard. And then on the 25<sup>th</sup> for Breakfast and devotionals. Our speaker will be Lynnea Erickson she will talk about her mission in Sierra Leone. Both will be great programs we hope to see you at both.





## Caring Ministry

Caring Ministry Network needs four of our churchfolk to make a monthly visit to nursing homes so those of us who are no longer able to attend church will still feel connected to our church and to God. This is an important ministry and takes just a few hours once a month. Check with Midge Hartsuch for details and she will get you started with this rewarding service to our church. Women or men needed. Telephone 815-784-5216; email, [mbhartsuch@gmail.com](mailto:mbhartsuch@gmail.com)

## Red Cross Blood Drive

What can you do in less than an hour?

- Update your Facebook page
- Play Angry Birds
- Read on your Kindle

### SAVE 3 LIVES

Use your time wisely - give blood on **February 11th from 9AM-2PM**

On February 11th our church will participate in a Red Cross blood drive.

Reserve your appointment time to fit into your schedule.

Beginning January 15th we will have a table in the Concourse to sign up blood donors, you can call Cheryl Callighan 815 748-5714, or reserve your spot by following the link on our church's website: [www.sycamoreumc.org](http://www.sycamoreumc.org)



## Thrift Sale

It's called a Thrift Sale, but it's really a mission trip. We don't travel far, but its results have a ripple effect. Cast-offs are gathered, yet sold as treasures. Want to come along? It's during the school's spring break. Donated items such as spring and summer clothing, shoes, books, puzzles, toys, housewares, linens, and home decor will be accepted Tues.3- 20 through Thurs.3-22. The sale will be on Fri. with a \$5 bag sale on Sat. morning. The Fri. morning Bake Sale is always a big hit too. Start planning now.

## UMW

Sycamore's United Methodist Women are starting the month of March off with a social event. It's our quarterly unit meeting on Thursday, March 1 at 12 noon in the concourse. This potluck luncheon will have salads of all kinds. Think "salad bar" with many healthy choices and some delicious dessert options too. Yum! Our Esther Circle will host and provide a lovely cafe atmosphere to enjoy with friends old and new. The program will be presented by Katie Mehne, the director of the We Care Pregnancy Clinic. Come and hear about their mission to show Christ to young women and men. A unit meeting is a great way to take a look at all the circles in UMW and see how you can get involved.



## Military Ministry News

Christmas was merrier for some veteran patients at Edward Hines Veterans Hospital when Dan Stanbery walked in with a big bin, complete with a red bow, full of asked-for toiletry and clothing items. Thanks to you generous churchfolk we collected over 200 very welcome items. This was a new project for us, where we placed a tree with listed items on the Mission table. We are also looking into helping the newer wing at Rosecrance, which services veterans with adjustment problems. We also like hearing from our returning service people and their families whenever possible for them to attend our meetings.

We are very glad to see that several of our deployed military personnel have come home or will come home in the next month. Thanks again for all of you who signed cards to send for Christmas. we continue to send boxes to our deployed personnel, and we frequently hear how much this means to them. Plans are being made for the Health Fair here in April and we are looking ahead to February and Valentines Day, so the mail gets there on time. We look forward to a busy and rewarding year helping our service personnel and their families in any way we can.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

On a cold mid-January morning six Methodist women met for our first Prayer Shawl meeting of 2012. Among the many thank-you notes read we especially appreciate two from new mothers whose new born babies had received baby hats made by our group.

Prayer Shawls were selected for eight persons in our church family who are coping with health issues and/or the loss of a loved one. These shawls along with hats, scarves, mittens, head bands, baby hats and a lap cover were given the Ritual of Blessings. Even though we were few in number, each one of our prayers held power, hope, and faith in a living and loving God.

### February/March Meeting Dates

Monday, February 6– 9:30 a.m.

Monday, February 20– 9:30 a.m.

Monday, March 5– 9:30 a.m.

Monday, March 19– 9:30 a.m.

### Questions? Please call:

Phyllis Anderson (815) 899-9957

Jeanne Johnson (815) 895-5594



*“May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.”*

Psalm 90: 17 NIV

## Red Cross Blood Drive

Sit back

Relax

Save 3 lives!

Give blood February 11th



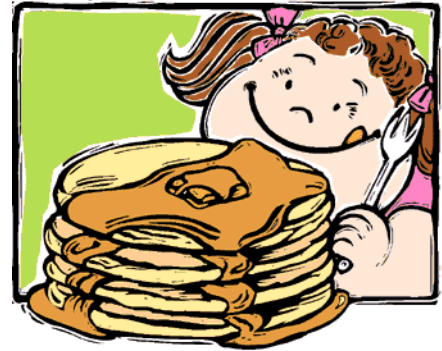
Join  
UMM

### UMM Pancake Supper

Yum!

February 2, 2012  
4:30-7:00 p.m.

**PANCAKE SUPPER**



# Blood DRIVE

Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday to do list:

Pick up batteries

Return library books

**Give blood**

*Be a blood donor on February 11 from 9AM-2PM*

*Visit the church website at [www.sycamore.org](http://www.sycamore.org)*

*to schedule your appointment now.*

### Seaside Escape



Need a day at the beach? A time to slow down, wiggle your toes in the sand, and bask in the warmth of God's presence? Join us at SeaSide Escape. It's a beach-themed retreat you won't want to miss!

March 9 and 10

Registration fee is \$25.00, includes materials and lunch on March 10

Register on Sundays between services, or contact Jennifer in the Church Office at (815) 895-9113, ext. 101.

Registration deadline is February 19— so hurry!

## Mission Focus

As you may know a portion of the special Christmas offering goes toward local area and global mission service agencies. This year the Missions Committee again reviewed agencies for Rainbow Covenant “extra mile giving” and determined a portion of the offering will go to the following:

### *Church World Service Blanket+ Program*

Church World Service’s Blanket+ program provides blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster, tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields, wells for families living in drought prone areas, and literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential. UMCOR and CWS work together jointly to distribute and supply needed aid.

### *Prisoner Release Ministry, Inc.*

Contributions to this agency helps find employment for hundreds of clients upon release from serving time in jail. Prisoner Release Ministry helps change and improves the quality of lives knowing that 70% of those that find a job do not go back to prison.

### *Rockford Urban Ministries*

Rockford Urban Ministries (RUM) has expanded its Work Camp experience with funding assistance, and does home repairs in poor Rockford neighborhoods. Volunteers spend a day or a week doing meaningful work doing needed home improvements. RUM also works on social justice issues. They also operate JustGoods fair trade store for sales to benefit the foreign country craftsman or farmer, returning a fair price to the countryman for the goods sold in the U. S.

### *Missionary Support*

We continue to support our UM Africa University missionaries Larry and Jane Kies who are assigned to the university in Zimbabwe. Jane teaches intensive English to students from non-English countries. Larry is a technical advisor working with the farm manager in developing agricultural practices, and teaching classes in crop production and farm management. Also support goes to Reverend Nkemba and Mbwizu Ndjungu of Cameroon, who visited SUMC in October and told of their efforts in church development and construction while Nkemba serves as a district superintendent. The husband-wife team also is involved in Christian education, health instruction, and youth and prison ministries and Volunteer in Mission teams.

## Thank You

We want to thank all the people that helped with the craft show in any way. We feel it went very well. We earned almost \$7,000.00 this year. Because of the people who helped us this year we were able to apply \$10,500.00 to the church mortgage.

THANK S TO ALL .

The Budget Booster Committee



*“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven”*

*Ecclesiastes 3: 1  
NIV*



# February

8:30 AM Sunday Worship 8:30 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School	9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music 12:00 PM Sycamore Food Pantry 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study	8:30 AM Christian Circuit 9:15 AM Christian Condition- ing 9:00 AM Craft Group (1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th) 9:00 AM Beth Moore Bible Study 9:05 AM ABC Preschool Chapel (1st & 3rd) 9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music 10:30 AM Preschool Parables with Mrs. S and MDO 11:30 AM Clergy Staff Meet- ing 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Music 1:00 PM Craft Group (2nd)	6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:05 AM ABC Preschool Chapel (1st & 3rd) 9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music 12:50 PM ABC Preschool Chapel (1st & 3rd) 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Music 3:15 PM Christian Kids' Conditioning 5:00 PM Sonshine Ringers 5:30 PM With Joy! Dinners 6:00 PM Confirmation: 2013 Confirmands 6:15 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Confirmation: 2012 Confirmands 7:00 PM Adult Choir	9:00 AM Christian Conditioning 9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music 10:45 AM Worship Staff (2nd & 4th) 12:00 PM Church Staff Meet- ing (2nd & 4th) 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Music	9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music	5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study at Oak Crest 11:00 AM Leadership 4:30 PM UMM Pancake Supper 7:00 PM Adult Handbells	3	4
5 10:00 AM Acolytes	6 6:00 PM Budget Boosters 6:00 PM Finance Committee 7:00 PM Church council	7	8 9:30 AM Esther Circle 6:00 PM Stewardship	9 6:00 PM UMM Dinner 7:00 PM Adult Handbells	10	11 9:00 AM Red Cross Blood Drive
12 9:15 AM Blood Pressure Checks 11:30 AM Family, Food and Fun	13	14 9:15 AM ABC Preschool Board Meeting 9:30 AM Mary Circle 7:00 PM Adult Handbells	15 1:15 PM History & Archives Committee	16 6:30 PM Military Ministry 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	17	18
19 9:30 AM Children's Minis- try Meeting 11:00 AM LIFE Missions: Souper Sunday	20 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Caring Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM Adult Ministries 7:00 PM Ruth Circle	21 7:00 PM Leading Ladies	22	23 7:00 PM Adult Handbells	24	25
26	27	28 1:00 PM UMW Missions Team 6:30 PM Worship Commit- tee 7:00 PM Adult Handbells	29			

**NewsLetter**  
**DEADLINE**

The deadline to submit articles for the March newsletter is  
Sunday, February 19.

Please e-mail all newsletter articles to:  
office@sycamoreumc.org to make sure your submissions are received.

**Open/Lock Team**

- Feb 5 Lane McMillon
- Feb 12 Rich Kaler
- Feb 19 Gil Larimer
- Feb 26 Marv Wildenradt



- 8:30 a.m. Service*
- Cliff McConnell
  - Clay Kloster
  - Jean Gilmer
  - Becky Brown
  - Bob Brown
  - Tony Sgarlata



- 10:00 a.m. Service*
- Larry Thomas
  - John Toles
  - Rodney McQueen
  - Gene Miller
  - Brad Shortridge
  - Eric Menzer
  - Rob Dancey

**Church Van**

- Feb 5 Marty Roush
- Feb 12 Jim and Marcia Stoddard
- Feb 19 John and Linda Toles
- Feb 26 Kara and Michael Morris



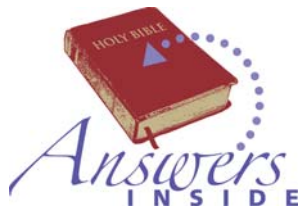
**Men and Women of SUMC!**

Save the date(s)  
 Women's Retreat: Sea Side Escape  
 March 9, 10 \$25.00 registration  
 Men's Retreat March 16, 17  
 Registration begins soon.  
 Watch the bulletin for more info.



**Church Staff e-mail directory**

Rev. Bill Landis, Sr. Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastorbill@sycamoreumc.org">pastorbill@sycamoreumc.org</a>
Rev. Harlene Harden, Associate Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastorharlene@sycamoreumc.org">pastorharlene@sycamoreumc.org</a>
Craig Fritz, Organist	<a href="mailto:craigfritz@sycamoreumc.org">craigfritz@sycamoreumc.org</a>
Barb Johnson, Mother's Day Out Director	<a href="mailto:barbjohnson@sycamoreumc.org">barbjohnson@sycamoreumc.org</a>
Jim McCue, Business Director	<a href="mailto:jimmccue@sycamoreumc.org">jimmccue@sycamoreumc.org</a>
Joe Munro, Youth Director	<a href="mailto:joemunro@sycamoreumc.org">joemunro@sycamoreumc.org</a>
Bev Rauch, Music Director	<a href="mailto:bevrauch@sycamoreumc.org">bevrauch@sycamoreumc.org</a>
Julie Sgarlata, Education Director	<a href="mailto:juliesgarlata@sycamoreumc.org">juliesgarlata@sycamoreumc.org</a>
Jennifer Snow, Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:jennifersnow@sycamoreumc.org">jennifersnow@sycamoreumc.org</a>
Lisa Szydłowski, ABC Preschool Director	<a href="mailto:abcpreschool@sycamoreumc.org">abcpreschool@sycamoreumc.org</a>



## Education News

Dear SUMC Family,

Family Food and Fun will have their first 2012 event on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> right after the second service in the Commons. We will have pizza for lunch and a sundae bar for dessert and will share God's love with a SUMC Valentine's party. We will make Valentine's, play games and eat together. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the Commons or call 895-9113 ext. 107 and leave a message. Please indicate which topping you will be bringing and how many people will be attending by February 10<sup>th</sup>.

We will be providing Christian Kids Connection five days a week next year. Academic, physical and spiritual activities for Kindergarten students through fifth grade will be provided along with transportation and an afternoon snack all for a suggested \$5 donation per day. All proceeds after expenses will go to the church offering plate. Registration is limited. SUMC members may register beginning April first. This program is open to all SUMC members living in Sycamore, DeKalb or surrounding towns. If there is room, we will accept open registration for Sycamore students only beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. Participants do not have to sign up for all five days. We will start with twenty openings per day. We will still have Christian Kids Connection on Wednesdays free of charge for those students who began the program this year. Happy Valentine's Day!

God Bless,

Julie Sgarlata

## From Myanmar, the Philippines, and India, to Sycamore...

The Sycamore United Methodist Church is preparing to celebrate its annual "Multi-Cultural Celebrations". To better understand the diversity of our community, we are offering the opportunity to see how our brothers and sisters in Christ worship throughout the world, beginning February 4, 2012 and concluding February 25, 2012. This special series of worship services will include a variety of dynamic speakers from around the globe and feature music and song from guest musicians.

The Bishop, Reverend Zothan Mawia of Myanmar, a country in Southeast Asia near China, will be the guest speaker on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 5p.m. Myanmar, formerly Burma is a country in political and social transitions after more than 40 years of military regime. From Myanmar, we go to the Philippines, where the Reverend Digna Campanano will be our speaker on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

This multi-cultural experience will also include the Marcy-Newberry Children's Choir in concert on Saturday, February 18, with the Reverend Melwin Alagodi from India and Pastor of the Hope & Fairhaven UMC's in Chadwick as well as the Rev. Robert Sathuri, Pastor of first UMC of Elgin, Illinois.



## Music Matters

With the weather FINALLY turning wintry, we turn our attention to SPRING—our **Spring Choral Celebration** to be exact. Put **Saturday, April 21, 5:00 p.m.**, and **Sunday, April 22, 8:30 & 10 a.m.** on your calendars. I'm still writing the script and developing a name for this production, but I can tell you that it will follow the format of a radio call-in show, and will incorporate some popular tunes—Beatles, Kansas, LEAN ON ME, etc., into scripture and scriptural principles for dealing with life's problems. It's always good to invite guests and visitors to worship, but this would be an excellent service to invite people who might otherwise be a little hesitant to step into a church.

I was unable to come to the January 14 concert, but I heard great things about the O'Reilly Quartet, and we had about 140 in attendance.

The Adult Choir was very saddened by the sudden death of choir member Lynn Crawford. Lynn joined the choir in the fall after searching this area for almost a year to find a dynamic, passionate church and a choir that felt like home for her. She will be missed.

If you ordered a DVD of the Christmas Choral Celebration, please see Bev Rauch or Jim McCue for pick-up. Donations are accepted.

I'm still looking for someone to make or re-make some majestic king's costumes for the Christmas production next year. Ours are starting to look shabby. Here's the schedule for February Children's and Youth Choirs:

February 5	Both	Junior Choir
February 12	Both	Cherub Choir
		<i>Youth Ensemble practices after 10:00 service (note it's 2 wks. before we sing)</i>
February 19	Both	Kid's Choir
February 26	Both	Youth Ensemble (Portillo's after the 10:00 service)

Blessings,  
Bev

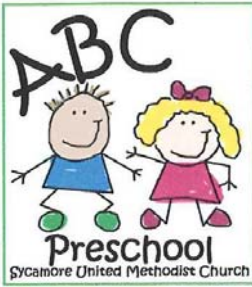
## Finance Committee Thank You

We would like to thank all of you who assisted both financially and through prayer to insure that we finished the 2011 year in the "black". When we take the time to listen to God's will for our lives, wonderful things always happen. At our Charge Conference our new District Superintendent, Richard Wisdom, stated that of the 70 some churches he oversees, Sycamore United Methodist Church is one of the most active churches in his District. That is the result of the sharing of our many talents, including our financial contributions, which make our programs possible.

The Finance Committee will continue their efforts to make the income and expenses transparent. This will enable you to see how your pledges and contributions are being utilized. December, 2011 truly was an example, that "God is at work" within Sycamore United Methodist Church.

Mark your  
calendar:  
April 21 & 22  
Spring Cantata





## ABC Preschool Ministry News

ABC Preschool is now registering for the fall 2012/2013 school year! We have many opportunities for new and exciting classes for next year. We will also be offering SUMC members monthly discounts. If you or someone you know is looking for a quality early childhood education for their child, have them call to schedule a tour!

Our mission project for February is to "Pack the Pantry"! We will be collecting non-perishables for the Sycamore Food Pantry. Our goal is to collect 1000 items during the month of February to donate. If you are interested in donating anything, just drop off items to the ABC Preschool office.

Please note that we are still collecting Campbell's labels for our Labels for Education Program. The Campbell's Company has a wonderful program that allows us to clip and turn in labels from their products and redeem them for points to spend in their education catalog. Please cut out the UPC code on the acceptable products and drop them off in the ABC Preschool mailbox located at the south end of the Concourse. See the table by the bulletin board for more information.

ABC recycles! Give us your trash for us to make into treasures! We are collecting packing peanuts and stickers during the month of February. Feel free to drop off either of these in any preschool classroom or the preschool office. Thank you in advance.

We thank Sycamore United Methodist Church for all your support of ABC Preschool. We look forward to working together on many projects during the year.

Blessings,

The ABC Preschool Staff

## World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 2 is the World Day of Prayer and will be held at Sycamore UMC at 9:00. The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions to develop closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. Through participation in the worship service, women worldwide learn how their sisters in other countries understand the biblical passages in their context. They become aware of the concerns and needs of those women and empathize and feel in solidarity with them. The 2012 country we will learn about is Malaysia with the theme "Let Justice Prevail". Along with prayer, there will be a time of education, music, and refreshments. Join with other women in our local community as we learn about how this country's diverse religions, races, and cultures live in harmony with one another.

**WORLD**  
Day OF  
**PRAYER**

## UMCOR Sager Brown Trip

If you have never gone on a mission trip, or if you have and found it rewarding enough to go again, now is your chance---You Too Could Be Part of Our Team!! Many of those who have taken part in this mission opportunity have experienced a spiritual reawakening. There are still several openings left of the 20 spots reserved for our Mission Team traveling to the Sager-Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana for a week of mission work in April, 2012. We leave Saturday the 7th and return Saturday the 14th.

Here at this UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) Sager-Brown Depot, approximately \$4 million in supplies are shipped worldwide each year for disaster relief. More than 2,000 volunteers annually, including the team from our church, make these shipments happen. UMCOR Sager-Brown also reaches out to the local community through a housing rehabilitation and food distribution program.

*Our church has been lending a hand for 10 years now!*

No matter what task you choose to do at Sager-Brown--be it assembling and packing various kits in the depot, cutting and sewing various goods in the sewing room or rehabbing mobile-homes and houses in the community or distributing food--there is something for everyone to do. The camaraderie of helping folks who really appreciate anything you do for them. Meeting and doing God's work with other folks from other places, and the chance of becoming closer to God and those in your own group through daily work and devotions---priceless!!!

## Instruments For Children

Kevin Loitz with BSA Troop 2810 continues working on his Eagle Scout Project, "Instruments for Children". He is collecting musical instruments, repairing and cleaning them as needed, and will donate them to the Sycamore School Music Department to be loaned to music students that cannot afford to rent an instrument.

Kevin is still currently collecting all types of band and orchestra instruments. A Community Instrument Drop Off Day has been scheduled for Saturday, February 18 at the Salem Lutheran Church at 1145 DeKalb Avenue in Sycamore from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. Just drive into the semi-circular front driveway and drop off an instrument! Arrangements for instruments to be picked up at a different time may also be arranged by contacting Kevin Loitz.

Anyone interested in donating an instrument, making a contribution, volunteering your time or talent on this project or needing more information may contact Kevin Loitz at 815.991.1101 or via E-mail at [Instrumentsforchildren@gmail.com](mailto:Instrumentsforchildren@gmail.com).

## Gift of the Heart

A Gift of the Heart has been received in celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays of Gil and Alice Larimer for benefit of Habitat for Humanity.





Non-Profit Organization  
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