

December 2013

SCOOP

First United Church of Christ

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

The end of the church year, like the turning of the calendar year, presents an opportunity to make some assessment of the past and look to the coming year with hope, anticipating growth and improvement. Our recent celebration of the Reign of Christ Sunday on November 24th emphasized both the character and purpose of Christ and the characteristics and activities of those who bear his name.

As citizens of Christ's kingdom, we are called to participate in his ministry. We are not to be passive recipients of the blessings of citizenship within Christ's kingdom. Recipients also have responsibility. We have been blessed to be a blessing, and how we bring that blessing is an important part of our ministry and mission. We are to lead lives worthy of Christ, fully pleasing to him as we bear fruit in every good work and as we grow in knowledge of God. We are made strong in Christ's strength. Having ourselves been rescued from the power of darkness we have been transferred into Christ's kingdom. Having experienced this transference, we become agents of transformation in the church and the world.

As participants in Christ's reign, we share this same power. How we use this power says much about how we see Jesus as king and how we see ourselves as citizens of his kingdom.

The cycle of the Christian year moves us from the culminating celebration of Christ as king back to the beginning again. The new Christian year is set to begin on December 1st, which will be the first Sunday of Advent. In the season of Advent, we eagerly anticipate the birth of our messiah and king.

Just as we continue to pray, "Thy kingdom come," the seasonal transition between church years reminds us that, yes the kingdom of God is here, but there is a very real sense in which the kingdom is still arriving. Yes, Christ the king has come and Christ will come again. This forward movement from one completed church year into a new church year reminds us that Christ's kingdom is both an accomplished reality and a continuing work in progress.

As participants in the reign of Christ, each of us claims our identity as Christians. May God bless you this Advent season as that growth and development continues.

With the Greatest of Hope,
Pastor Bill

In honor and loving memory of our beloved friend, Margaret Wittwer, and to each of you, in memory of the loved one(s) you are thinking about this holiday season.

"I'M SPENDING CHRISTMAS WITH JESUS CHRIST THIS YEAR"

*I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
With tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.*

*The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear;
For I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.*

*For I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring;
For it is beyond description to hear as angels sing.*

*I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart.
For I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I can't tell you of the splendor or the peace here in this place.
Can you just imagine Christmas? With our Savior, face to face?*

*I'll ask Him to light your spirit as I tell Him of your love,
So then pray one for another as you lift your eyes above.*

*So please let your hearts be joyful and let your spirit sing;
For I'm spending Christmas in heaven,
And I'm walking with the King!*

Author Unknown

Surrounding the Manger: An Advent Study Series

Led by Carolyn Kennedy

Need a way to get your spirit ready for Christmas? Come meet the people surrounding the manger, anticipating Jesus' birth, preparing to sing praise. Once again hear the stories of the ones who prepared the way for Jesus, and welcomed him. How do their lives and ministries inspire our own? Is there anything new we can learn from these old stories? Join us for Bible study and conversation between worship services, 9:10 to about 10:00. Attend each session, or just the ones that pique your interest. See you there!

November 24, *A Cloud of Witnesses: Jesus' Family History*-- Is there anything more deadly dull than a Biblical genealogy? We're not really going to study them are we? Well, yes! Guess what, the genealogies aren't as dull as they look! (How could they be, since they look pretty dull...). We'll look at a few of the names, including some questionable characters, among Jesus' relatives. What do their names on these lists say about Jesus and his ministry? How do their stories affect us today? How do our family histories shape the way we follow Christ?

December 1, *Mary & the Angel: Agreeing to a Lifetime of Pondering in Her Heart*—It's an ordinary day when an angel appears, with an extraordinary challenge. Mary agrees to embrace God's plan for her life, even though she must know it will be dangerous and difficult. Have you ever had to meet a great challenge in service to God? What do you think made this possible for Mary? What makes difficult tasks possible for you?

December 8, *Joseph's Dilemma: Faithful Risktaking*-- So... your girlfriend turns out to be in an interesting condition, and as far as you remember, you didn't help get her that way. Do you **a)** have her stoned to death, **b)** break up quietly, or **c)** obey a dream angel who wants you to make wedding plans? Has God ever called you to do something that seemed crazy but turned out to be exactly right? How can God help us to make tough decisions? When does being faithful mean going against expectations, tradition, or even common sense? How can Joseph's courage inspire our lives?

December 15, *Zechariah's Journey from Temple Prayer to Praise Song: A Pregnant Silence*-- Spend some time with Zechariah and Elizabeth as they await the birth of their unexpected latecomer. At the same time as a child grows within Elizabeth, a greater understanding of God's graciousness and mercy grows within her husband. A temporary disability brings home to him the truth about God's power. Have you ever had to learn something the hard way? Has God's grace ever appeared to you in an unexpected, even miraculous way? Has something wonderful ever taken a long time to come to fruition? See what Zechariah's life says to you today.

December 22, *Elizabeth & Her Young Cousin: Singing at the Dawn of a New Creation*-- Two pregnant women, one young, one old, both carrying miracle babies, greet each other with great hope. Can we share their hope more than 2,000 years later? They announce a world about to tip on its axis, go topsy-turvy. Is this a good thing? What would you like to see made new, and what scares you? Do you think Mary and Elizabeth were scared about everything happening to them? How do we serve God even when the prospect is deeply unsettling?

Grab your coffee and a Bible and let's get going. No homework, no quizzes, just interesting stories, lively discussion, and possibly breakfast treat. Blessings.

*December 1st
and*



*Christmas Eve
Communion*

<u>8:00</u>	<u>December 1</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>December 24 : Christmas Eve</u>
Pam Alwin, Chair		Ed Larsen, Chair	Rose Kleinert, Chair
Galen Alwin		Tim Homar	Rick Breininger
Barb Brock		Rita Larsen	Carol Hehenberger
Debbie Tschudy		Todd Pieper	Larry Johnson
			Lyle Kuhnau

*January 5, 2014
Communion Schedule*

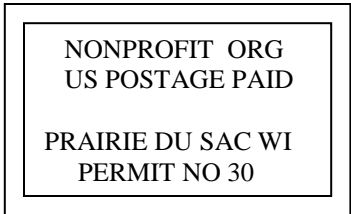
<u>8:00</u>	<u>January 5</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Herman Tschudy, Chair		Jamie Wittwer, Chair
Pam Alwin		Carol Hehenberger
Galen Alwin		Tom McFarlane
Duane Woerpel		Bill Steckelberg

“No Room! No Room!” the innkeeper cried, only a stable for the holy Christ Child. I ponder this thought as Christmas draws near, “Is there room in my heart for this Savior so dear?” OH, I send bulging boxes to people in need, bake cookies for shut-ins and do other good deeds. I sing Christmas carols as I decorate the tree and wrap pretty presents for friends and family. But deep in MY heart where no one can see, I hear Jesus whisper, “Is there room for me?”

Louise Tucker Jones

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER 2013 SCOOP

*This month's SCOOP is sponsored by
Harland and Lorraine Hartmann.*

- 1 * Caroling during Sunday School hour
- * Grades 4, 5, and 6 paint windows for Christmas ~ 1:00 p.m.
- 2 * Sunday School Teachers' Staff Meeting ~ 6:30 p.m.
- 4 * H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 6 * H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- * "Date Night" sponsored by the First U.C.C. Confirmands ~ 5:00-8:00 p.m.
- 7 * Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.
- 8 * Christmas Music Festival
- * Coffee Fellowship between Worship Services
- 9 * H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 10 * H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- * Christian Fellowship Committee will be helping wash toys for
H.E.L.P. ~ 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 13 * H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 14 * Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.
- 15 * Christmas Bake & Craft Table
- * Sunday School Christmas Program ~ 10:30 worship
- * Sunday School White Gifts ~ at the 10:30 worship service
- 16 * H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 18 * H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 19 * Consistory ~ 6:30 p.m.
- 20 * H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 21 * H.E.L.P. Toy Distribution ~ beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- 24 * Candlelight Christmas Eve Service ~ 7:00 p.m.

October Memorials

Memorials were received in
October in loving memory of:

Chuck Henning

Radio Broadcasts

We thank the November sponsors of our 8:00
a.m. Sunday worship service radio broadcasts:

Cliff & Jan Lawton, In loving memory of their
sons, Russell Lawton and Jason Barry
Herman & Debbie Tschudy, In loving memory
of Emil & Martha Tschudy; Dale & Anna Mae
Dennis; and Peter and Dominic Giacomino
Harley Lichtenwalner, In loving memory
of his wife, Bennie Lichtenwalner.
VaLera Accola and Alton & Patrice, In loving
memory of their husband and father,
Roy Accola.

♥ December Anniversaries In Our Church Family ♥

Frank and Georgia Selden, 51 years on December 8
Bev and Herb Feierabend, 60 years on December 19
Edward and Marlene Larsen, Sr., 61 years on December 20
Dave and Jane Litscher, 51 years on December 22
Dorothy and Lyle Kuhnau, 52 years on December 28
Ron and Roberta Lipka, 50 years on December 28

Greetings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in December!
We acknowledge 1st anniversaries; anniversaries ending in 5 or 0; and all over 50.
Please let us know if we missed you on the October birthday calendar!!

Ushers

<u>8:00</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>8:00</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Cecy Haines		The Larsen Family	Tim, Sue, & Carrissa		Bill Steckelberg
Tina Wilkinson			Herbrand		Jamie & Karen
Gloria & David Ramsey					Wittwer

Pastor Bill Kapp Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 8:00-Noon;
Saturday: 8:00-10:00 a.m. and by appointment
Office phone: 643-8387; Home phone: 370-2249
E-mail: bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org

Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m.-Noon
Cindy Baker Phone Number: 643-8387; E-mail: office@ucc-saukcity.org

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (broadcast over WRPQ 740AM & 99.7FM) & 10:30 a.m.
Confirmation: 9:00-10:20 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:10-10:10 a.m. ~ ages 3 years and older

Sunday School News

by Margaret McFarlane



Thanks to all who sang on November 17. It was a great Sunday!



We raised \$150.00 for UNICEF. Thank you for helping with this worthy project!



Students will be scheduled to light candles before worship from now until the end of the Sunday School year. Please let me know if your child would like to do this but has not signed up.



We will be Christmas caroling at Maplewood Village and The Pines on Sunday, December 1, during the Sunday School hour. Everyone in the family is welcome to join in! We will have a short class period before our departure. Meet in the hall on the 2nd floor at 9:30.



The Sunday School choir will sing on December 8 for the Music Festival at the 10:30 service.



The Sunday School hour has been extended until 10:20 through December 15. This will allow extra practice time for the Christmas program.



We will have program practice on Saturday, December 7 and 14, at 9:30 a.m. All students taking part in the Christmas Program need to be present. Please let me know if your child/children aren't participating in the program. Pre-K, K, 1st grade, and choir only students; will be dismissed immediately after they practice, at approximately 10:15. Practice will run until 11:30 for grades 2-6.



White Gift Sunday will be December 8. Students are asked to bring a gift (new or gently-used item) wrapped in white tissue for our H.E.L.P. project. They can bring the gift to the 10:30 service or to their Sunday School classroom.



The Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 15, at the 10:30 service.



There will be no Sunday School on December 22 and December 29. Classes resume on January 5.

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

Bobby - age 7

Help Excite Little People this Holiday Season!

The H.E.L.P. project will be collecting good, used toys and items for teens through December 16. Donated items may be placed in the red sleigh, located inside the Washington Avenue entrance. If you have time to wash your donations, please mark your bags/boxes "clean" toys. Monetary donations are, also, welcome. We need "elves" to wash, repair, and organize the toys for distribution. Please consider helping with this all-church project on one or more of the following days:

Wednesday, December 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Friday, December 6, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Monday, December 9, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Tuesday, December 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Friday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Monday, December 16, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Wednesday, December 18, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Friday, December 20, 10:00 a.m.-Noon

We work in the Sanctuary basement at the listed times. Questions? Call Margaret McFarlane at 643-6327.

This season, as we prepare to celebrate Christ's coming into our world, may we await Him in silent prayer, recognize Him in all we encounter, and welcome Him into the dwelling place of our heart.

Thank You and Happy Holidays, From Tim Herbrand and Family:

The most wonderful thing in this world is life. This month, the person that blessed us with life was born himself. I am so grateful to Him for my life, my family's life, and also my church family. We are blessed to have a wonderful church family. We all know that there are no guarantees in life, I would like to personally say "thank you" to one of our church families that has donated a machine that could give you a second chance in life, it's called an A.E.D. **defibrillator**. Those people that are trained to use this machine and to perform CPR could give a person a second chance at life. So, I give thanks to God, who gave us life; to the family for donating the A.E.D.; and to my church family who will take the training to save a life.

Church Directory Update

This is a tentative schedule for the church directory. Layout materials were submitted to Lifetouch on Monday, November 18. Lifetouch takes about 4 weeks to put this together and sends us back a draft of the directory to review. We take about a week or less to proof it for any corrections that may need to be made and then we send it back to Lifetouch. They take about 4 weeks to make any corrections and print copies. The estimate of when we can expect our final new directories is about the end of January or beginning of February.

Thank You

FROM THE HEART

Sincerely, Larry Gander

God's Blessings for everyone's help during my surgery and my two trips to the hospital. Many thanks to Pastor Bill for his prayers and visits and to my friends at First U.C.C. for the delicious food, visits, cards, and phone calls.



With Appreciation To

★Our members who delivered Mobile Meals: **Lynn Luchsinger, Carol Crow, Peggy Ganser, Liz Bongard, Stormy & Ginny Diske, Micki Cruse, Cathy Brewer, and Lyle & Dorothy Kuhnau.**

★**Dana Gee** for painting the outlines for the windows we decorate for Advent. Thanks to the **students and parents** who painted them on December 1st.

★**All our elves** who helped decorate the Church for Christmas on Saturday, November 30th.

★Storage areas are hard to find in our church. Whooppie!!! Thanks to the efforts of **Chris Garcia, Jamie Wittwer, Eagle Construction, Dave Bongard,**

Dave Uselman, the Christian Fellowship Committee and others through the years, the Bell Tower area has been updated so that materials used for decorating our Sanctuary can be stored in a clean, bright area. Thanks to all who helped complete the project. Check it out if you're in that area and consider that at one time, the area was used for the choir to don their robes before entering the church. Must have been tiny singers!!!

A special thank you to **Dianna Woerpel** for her time setting up the Bell Tower room repair work.



Thank you to everyone who donated food items for the Food Pantry during our church directory picture taking. The Food Pantry is always in need of food items. A special thank you again to our committee who worked on the church directory. A very special thank you to **Rose Kleinert and Amanda McFarlane** for all their time spent getting our layout set-up for the directory. A special thank you to Rose for all her time working on the layout and scanning in our committee pictures and other church event pictures. I think everyone will be very pleased with the final directory. We could not have gotten this done without all the hard work of members volunteering. Blessings to all!!!

Thank you from Christian Fellowship

A special thank you to **Dianna Woerpel** and the other ladies that helped to get our Bell Tower room repair work done. It was a long time coming and looks really nice. There is finally room for more storage of church decorations. This work was paid for out of the Christian Fellow-ship committee fund. Blessings to all involved!

A special thank you to **Cecy Haines** for keeping track of supplies and replenishing them for our church kitchen. It is appreciated!

And, as 2013 comes to a close, thank-you's, also, go out to:

★ **Tammie Huerth** for sharing her gifts of artistry by decorating the Church bulletin board every month.

★ **Everyone** who baked and brought and/or bought items from the "Pastry, Pantry, and Produce" tables this year.

★ **All of our members** who served as Liturgists, Ushers, Communion Servers, and on Church Committees in 2013.

★ **Our Radio Broadcast family** for sharing their time and talent with us while sitting in the Sound Room on Sunday mornings: **Harley Lichtenwalner, Tom Litscher, and Herm Tschudy.**

★ **Our Radio Broadcast sponsors** who make it possible for us to reach our

many shut-ins in the community on Sunday morning.

★ **Our Christian Education Superintendent Margaret McFarlane** and our **Sunday School and Confirmation staff** who create a fun and loving atmosphere for our children to learn about Jesus.

★ **Chris Garcia**, our Custodian, who keeps our Church and Education Building spic 'n span.

★ **Our members who shared their "gifts of music"** with us throughout the year: **Dennis Kahn, Kristy Litscher, Sherri Roberts, First Choir, Men of A Chord, our Sunday School Choir, and the Summer Singing Sensations!**

★ **Everyone** who served as a hostess for the funeral luncheons - helping meet/greet the family/friends, serving food, and helping clean up.



2013 Charitable Giving Deadline

Please remember that gifts to the Church must be received by **Noon on December 31st** in order for you to get credit for that donation in 2012.

She brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7



CONSISTORY MEETING
First United Church of Christ
November 21, 2012
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Pastor Bill, Tom Litscher, President, Lyle Kuhnau, Deb Tschudy, Amanda McFarlane, Tim Herbrand and Rose Kleinert

Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill

Opening Devotion: Rose

Secretaries Report: Motion to approve by Deb, second by Amanda, motion carried.

Pastors Report: (1) Thanksgiving eve service is scheduled for Wednesday, November 27th (7:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church). (2) December 1st – *Welcome Advent!* Pastor Bill will be making visits and offering communion to the shut-ins and nursing homes. (3) Continued involvement with the Wisconsin Conference Minister search committee to find a new Conference Minister. (4) Youth Ambassadors will welcome students from Germany July 7th through July 21st. Their theme is "Poverty", and they will be involved with an urban project in Milwaukee and Chicago.

Committee Reports:

Sunday School/Church Youth Program:

(1) Sunday School collected \$150 for UNICEF. (2) Ornaments were made by Sunday School students and will adorn our Christmas tree at the top of the stairs. (3) Christmas caroling is scheduled for **December 1st** – Sunday School will be visiting The Pines and Maplewood Nursing Home. (4) Date Night is scheduled for **December 6th** from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (5) Birthday party for Jesus is scheduled for **December 8th**. (6) Christmas program is scheduled for **December 15th**. (7) Help Excite Little People (HELP) distribution is scheduled for **December 21st**. (8) The youth will be

servicing supper at The University of Wisconsin Madison Campus (Crossings) on February 16th. (9) Youth retreat is scheduled for March 21-23, 2014 (reservations will be made December).

Members in Ministry: Are very actively making visits to the shut-ins, nursing homes, and hospitals weekly.

Christian Fellowship: (1) Church decorating for Advent is Saturday, **November 30th**. (2) Upcoming coffee fellowship between services **December 8th** and **January 19th**. (3) In lieu of a meeting in December, Christian Fellowship will extend their hands to clean toys for H.E.L.P. on **December 10th**. (4) Christmas Bake and Craft Sale is scheduled for **December 15th**.

Finance: Finance Committee met on November 12th to discuss 2014 budget and review of Endowment Fund.

Stewardship: Reviewed Stewardship Sunday activities; requested approval for a Gospel band to perform at church on February 23rd with a luncheon to follow, motion to approve by Todd, second by Amanda, motion carried. Next meeting is scheduled for January 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

Building & Maintenance: (1) Knox box is installed; hot water heater replaced in parsonage. (2) Building fire inspection scheduled for December.

Bills and Financials: Motion to approve by Tim Herbrand, second by Lyle; motion carried.

Ongoing Business: (1) First UCC webpage is done – minor tweaks, hash tags, and snap chats are on-going and a work-in-progress.

THANK YOU Laura, Kay, and Theresa!

(2) Strategic goal planning is set and ready to move forward, Todd to contact members.

New Business: The defibrillator has arrived; it will be centrally located at the educational building entryway. If you are trained for CPR/AED or are interested in training, please contact the church office.

Next Consistory meeting: Third Thursday, December 19, at 6:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

**Christian Fellowship Committee's
November 12 Minutes**
from Debbie Tschudy

In attendance: Pastor Bill, Carol Hehenberger, Dorothy Kundert, Rita Larsen, Margaret Mauch, Sherry Pieper, Sandy Schlender, Debbie Tschudy, Dianna Woerpel

Old Business

Bell Tower repair/remodel – Dianna mentioned that the work is all done except for the bottom of the doors where the carpet was laid – needs to be trimmed and then shelves will be purchased. Thanks Dianna!

Fall church cleaning days – October 18-19 at 9:00 - we had a better turn out than our spring cleaning. Thanks to all members who helped. Much thanks to Dianna for typing up a nice check-off list we can use for future cleaning projects. She will get a copy to Cindy, also, so she has it.

Debbie is working on putting together the list for a SCOOP insert on what our committee works on and descriptions – it may help new members who might be interested in helping. Draft copies were given to committee members for them to review and comment on – ONGOING – we will work on this again in January.

October 20 – **Coffee fellowship** – Melissa Brickl, Dorothy Kundert and Carolyn Kennedy – thank you to all for helping and bringing treats.

November 10 – **Coffee fellowship** – Kapp family thank you to all for helping and bringing treats

New Business

November 30 – **Advent Decorating** for church starting at 9:30 – Tammie Huerth is Chair and has a committee put together and put out a sign-up sheet for helpers.

Coffee Fellowship dates

*December 8 (Music Sunday)

*January 19


December 15 – **Christmas goodies/ treats bake and craft sale** (Sunday school program). Debbie will have Cindy put out a sign-up sheet


Any other new business?


Carol, Rita and Debbie are working on assigning families for **Advent Candle lighting**


Next Meeting:

There will be no regular Christian Fellowship committee meeting **December 10** – instead the committee will be working with the H.E.L.P. project that evening cleaning toys, etc. **Anyone is welcome to join us!**

 **First U.C.C.'s website** is being updated. A big thank you to **Laura Kapp, Theresa Grimes, and Kay Roherty** for all of their hard work and time!

 We continue to **collect new and gently-used clothes and diapers** for children ages newborn through 5 years. Please place your items in the bassinette in the back of church. Our donations have been very appreciated by the families who have received them!!

 We acknowledge 1st **anniversaries**; anniversaries ending in 5 or 0; and all over 50. Please let us know if we missed your **birthday** on the birthday calendar or your **wedding anniversary!**

 **How About Sponsoring A Radio Broadcast or Our Newsletter?** If you would like to remember or honor a family member or friend by sponsoring a Sunday morning worship service radio broadcast or our monthly newsletter, please call the Church office. The cost of sponsoring a radio broadcast is \$75.00, and the cost of sponsoring a monthly *SCOOP* is \$50 (cost of paper and postage).



 If you use **Facebook**, please think about being “our friend” at First United Church of Christ- Sauk City.

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW

One white and wintry Christmas Eve in a village long ago, a young child took a journey, leaving footprints in the snow. Clutched within her tiny hand, she carried a small tattered heart, fashioned from some scraps of cloth, wrapped in the charm of childlike art.

A manger scene of wood and straw was the child's destination. Her only Christmas wish, to join Christ's birthday celebration. She placed her precious handmade gift upon the straw with care; and before she turned to leave, whispered a simple prayer.

The villagers who stood nearby recall that night with awe, retelling every detail of the miracle they saw. A second set of footprints appeared next to the girl's own. They seemed to walk right by her side, to see her safely home.

But there's no mystery in the presence of this unseen Friend ~ *for once God's touched your heart, you'll never walk alone again.*



Through October 2013

Actual Expenses: \$172,766.83

Actual Income: \$141,004.16

Net Ordinary Income: - \$31,762.67