

FRANCIS ASBURY
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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 faumc1@bellsouth.net
 www.FAUMC.com

*Dear God,
 Please Bless:*



Open House at the Parsonage

Sunday, December 20th from 3—6 PM

As their gift to the congregation,
 Pastor Fred and Renee would like to invite you to
 visit the Parsonage and share in some Christmas
 fellowship and delicious refreshment.

The Parsonage is located at 12 Fairfield Terrace.

THE COMMUNICATOR



Francis
 Asbury
 United
 Methodist
 Church

December, 2009
 Volume XXVII Issue 12

*"For we are God's
 fellow workers;
 you are God's
 field, God's
 building."
 1 Corinthians 3:9*

IN MINISTRY

Minister	Fred Carpenter
Interim Choir Director & Organist	Jamie Bryson
Admin. Asst.	Danya Sellers
Custodian	Glenda Shook
Nursery	Sharon Lutz
	Amy Dayton
Ushers	Melanie Hudson
	Beth McCain
	Brenda Rhinehart
	Christine Worley
Acolyte	Brandi Turner
Greeters	Robert & Beth McCain

District Superintendent—Dr. John S. Boggs
 Resident Bishop—Dr. Larry M. Goodpaster

The need for food is so severe again this year, that in lieu of sponsoring families this Christmas, we will be collecting as much food as possible by **Sunday, Dec. 20th.**



**HOMINY VALLEY
 ABCCM Needs:**
 cooking oil, dry milk,
 self-rising flour,
 jelly, sugar, jello,
 spaghetti & sauce,
 ravioli, saltines,
 canned fruit, and
 toiletries.

Also needed: *Good, Clean clothing for all ages,
 pillows and linens*

Please take items to the Single's Classroom or
 leave in the large basket in the Narthex. Help
 us bless our neighbors here in Hominy Valley.



HE WAS BORN TO DIE SO WE COULD BE BORN TO NEW LIFE

The sounds of the first Christmas...
The clip-clop of the donkey as Mary and Joseph enter the quiet streets of Bethlehem. The rustling of straw as they make their bed for the night. The music of angels over those lonely hills. And the cooing of a baby.

The sounds of that night are full of joy. Even the angels' announcement of Jesus' arrival roll out like hymns of grace---Immanuel, Savior, a light for the Gentiles, the Son of the most High, glory...! The notion of violence is nowhere to be found.

You and I would like to keep it that way. Who wants to ruin a story of such beauty and hope with even a hint of pain?

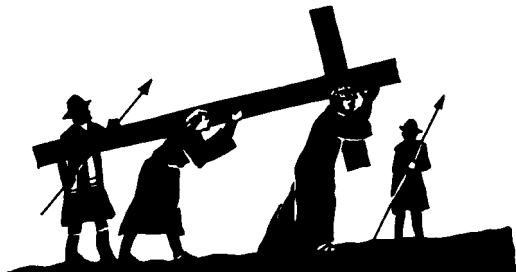
Certainly Mary and Joseph didn't. But when the proud parents took their newborn to the temple for His dedication, it was there. A hint. A scarlet thread. After Simeon, an elderly, devout temple attendant, blessed the child, he turned to Mary and said, "A sword will pierce your own soul" (Luke 2:35). His words were unexpected. How could Mary have understood them? How could she not have been frightened?

Simeon's words were the first faint whisper that the grace baby Jesus had come to lavish on a fallen world would be bought at a terrible price. Within months, the scarlet thread turned to blood in the streets. Herod's soldiers swept through Bethlehem and the surrounding towns, slaughtering all male infants under two years old. Cries of horror and disbelief rose from the lips of bereft mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters and grandparents. Those, too, are the sounds of Christmas.

Only Jesus understood. During His ministry, Jesus often spoke of hard-to-grasp paradoxes: He was both king and suffering servant; both healer and wounded one; both everlasting God and crucified outcast.

Once when Jesus told His disciples that He would suffer and die, Peter cried out, "Never, Lord! This shall never happen to you!" (Matthew 16:22). No doubt he spoke for the Twelve. If I had walked with Jesus then, Peter would have spoken for me as well. But Jesus sharply rebuked Peter. He would not be turned aside from His mission. Luke wrote, "As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51).

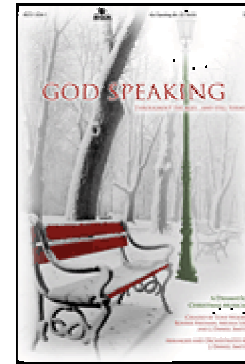
Every day of His adult life stretched out ahead of Him like a narrow road. More than anyone else, He knew that the script for His life had already been written across the pages of the Old Testament. As He made His way toward Golgotha, with every step He knew---detail for detail, agony by agony---how it would end and what it would cost...



THIS CHRISTMAS, TRULY REMEMBER WHO IT IS ABOUT!

Taken from Michael Card's A VIOLENT GRACE

"GOD SPEAKING" Christmas Cantata Sunday, Dec. 13th at 5 PM



This musical is a look at life during the Christmas season. Sometimes hurried, filled with joy, frantic, yet full of traditions. The drama takes place in a very busy shopping mall between shoppers of all kinds. The choir will present many beautiful selections that you

will enjoy. It emphasizes that more than any other time of the year we need to stop and hear "God Speaking". There will be a Christmas Dinner for you and your friends after the service. We would love to share this experience with you.

All the ladies of the church are invited to the WOW Luncheon at IHOP on Tuesday, Dec. 1st at 11:30 AM. To RSVP or for questions contact Dot Peebles at 665-1443.

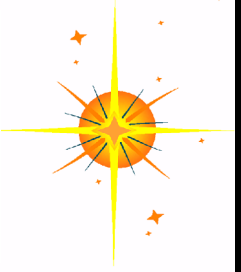
ABCCM's Return to Bethlehem "A Journey of the Heart"

Experience the exotic Bethlehem marketplace as it might have been on the day Jesus was born.

Groce United Methodist Church
954 Tunnel Road

Thursday, December 10: 6—8:30 PM
Friday, December 11: 6—8:30 PM
Saturday, December 12: 2—8:30 PM
Sunday, December 13: 2—6:00 PM

Special Christmas Services



Hanging of the Greens
Wed, December 2nd at 6:30 PM

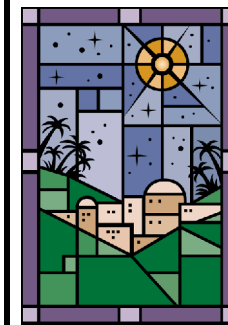
**Youth & Children's
Christmas Program**
Wed, December 16th at 6:30 PM
Supper served at 5:30

Christmas Eve Service
Thurs, December 24th at 5 PM



Christmas Remembrances

Remember your loved ones during this advent season by giving a gift in their memory or honor. The proceeds from the remembrances will help defray the cost of the new, green altar cloths. Please return completed forms and payment to the office by **Dec. 13th**. Forms are available in the Narthex. The Christmas Remembrance booklet will be available on Sunday, **Dec. 20th**. Please consider a gift to the church that will be enjoyed for many years to come. *Your support is greatly appreciated!*



Snip-it from Sandy:

I was trying to think of a funny story for my Snip-It. Something lighthearted and funny will do the trick. Hmm ~ Okay, here it is.



Ronnie, Amy and I were all teenagers, still living at home with Mom and Dad. We had this little, old dog named Ginger. Ginger was a little black dog with floppy ears and tan colored accents. She was part Pekinese and part Chihuahua and always had crooked teeth. I got Ginger when I was 3 years old and my Aunt Anna Lee laid her in my arms. My parents didn't have the heart to take her away. I named her after Ginger Grant on "Gilligan's Island" because I loved that show! Although, I don't know if actress, Tina Louise would take that as a compliment. Anyway, Ginger had lived a full life with us, but was now getting to where she couldn't get around well and starting having accidents on the floor.

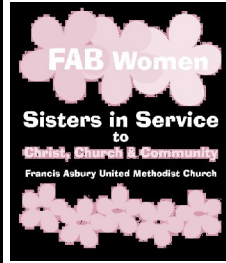
One day, Ronnie, Amy and I were sitting at the kitchen table eating some Hershey kisses...imagine that! Amy gets this bright idea. "Hey, watch this!" She went over near the dog bowl and allowed herself to drool melted chocolate onto the linoleum. We started snickering and could barely contain ourselves. Then Amy put the plan into action...She yelled out, "Mom, Ginger did it again!" Mom came downstairs and looked over at the "accident" and exclaimed, "I just cleaned up a spot!" At that very moment, Ginger moved as though on cue and hobbled over and began licking up the melted chocolate! My Mom gasped, covered her mouth and ran upstairs gagging! We of course laughed until we cried! Now, for all of you dog advocates...Ginger lived to be 19 years old and wasn't affected by the small amount of chocolate. The moral of this story!?



Well, things aren't always as they seem. You might think that a particular movie is going to be so good because it was nominated for all of these awards. You watch it and then ask yourself, "How can I get that 90 minutes of my life back!?" So again, the moral??? Well, Jesus is not in any way, shape or form deceptive. If you have him in your heart, your life will not be perfect, but at no time, will he deceive you. Having his peace is everything and more that you hoped he would be! Blessings to all! Hershey kisses ~ Sandy

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. **John 14:6**

LAST MEETING: Mollie Scott hosted our meeting and Mollie & Brenda provided us with a warm and tasty meal!



Veronica Crook provided us with devotion based on Mark 10: 46-52. Jesus heals the blind.

She reminded us how we need to ask God to "fill our cup."

FIRST STEP FARM:

FAB Women support the First Step Women's Farm all through the year. If ANYONE would like to donate: small containers of laundry detergent, new or gently used clothing, please leave them in the FAB Room! Thank you to everyone who helped purchase recovery bibles for the girls at the farm. We will be delivering a Pizza Supper to the girls on Friday, December 4th at 5PM.

Our 4th Advent Tea was a great success. Our many thanks to all our gracious hostesses, wonderful guest speaker-Deborah Wood, talented pianist-Jamie Bryson and all the ladies who attended.

NEXT MEETING:

Friday, December 4th, 6:00 p.m.... at the home of Veronica Crook. Don't forget to bring a tasty dish to share, a wrapped Christmas ornament for the ornament exchange and a card for your Secret Sister along with your donation to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund! Be prepared for a fun night ladies!!!

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE??

FAB Women welcomes women from aged 16 to 116. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. At the December Meeting, we always do an ornament exchange. If you would like to participate, bring a wrapped ornament and be prepared for a great time! Contact a FAB Woman if you need more info.



As you read this we will have just finished the holiday season where on a Thursday we give thanks for all our blessings. Then the following day, "Black Friday," we transition to the season where we promote giving. Christmas, that wonderful time of the year where we practice what the Good Book says when Jesus is quoted as saying "it is more blessed to give than receive."

However, do we actually practice what Jesus says? Are we truly giving because there is something better in giving than in receiving? Most all of us do truly give much during the Christmas season. My question is why?

We give to our boss because we hope to stay on his/her good side. We give to those who work for us because we want them to do an even better job next year. We give extravagantly to our children because we want them to love us and forget that we spent too much time away from them. We give to our parents because we want them to keep us in their will. We give to our preacher because, uhhhhhhhhh . . . , OK, I have no idea why you would give to your preacher, he only works an hour a week.

Do you get the idea? We really don't always give because it is more blessed than receiving. We give because we are looking for something back. I can say this because practically all we give is given to people who can and do give back to us.

I want to challenge you as we enter this season of giving. Calculate how much you will spend this year, or spent last year, giving gifts to people that most likely will give you gifts in return. Include, children, grandchildren, parents, friends, coworkers, employees, employers. Include every gift you give. Take the total amount and then give **ten-percent** to buy food to give to **ABCCM** to help those who are in need this year.



Last year we collected over 3300 pounds of food, five pickup trucks filled with food were delivered to **Hominy Valley ABCCM**. That was great. This year let's do even more. The need is certainly greater, therefore our giving must be even greater.




In this season where we claim it is better to give, let us give not only to those who will give back to us,

let us give to those who will never give back and never even know we gave. That's what Christmas was all about, God giving us His Son freely for our benefit. Bring your food and we will store it in the Single's Class or bring your money if you want someone else to do your shopping. Let's show the world that we believe that *"it is more blessed to give than to receive."* Acts 20:35

Love, **Fred**

DECEMBER

2009

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SATURDAY																																																									
 <p>Our Communion Offering on Dec. 6th will be for <i>The Children's Home.</i></p>		1 11:30 WOW Luncheon @ IHOP 2:30 HVWT Prep 6:30 Costa Rica Trip Meeting	2 11:30-1 Welcome Table 6:30 Hanging of the Greens Service 7:15 Choir Practice		3 2-6:30 PM Blood Drive 5:30-7PM Weight Watchers	4 5PM Pizza Supper for FSF Women 6:30 FAB Women Christmas Party at the Home of Veronica Crook	5 9:30-11AM Weight Watchers																																																								
6 COMMUNION 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Prayer Time 11:00 Worship 5:00 Church Council Meeting	7 7AM Mondays @ Mosaic 4-8PM Gym Reserved	8 2:30 HVWT Prep 6-8:30 Gym Reserved	9 11:30-1 Welcome Table 6:00 Choir Practice		10 6PM Cantata Dress Rehearsal 5:30-7 W.Watchers 6-8:30 Gym Reserve 6-8:30 Return 2 Bethlehem Starts	11 6-8:30 Return to Bethlehem	12 9:30-11AM Weight Watchers 2-8:30 Return to Bethlehem																																																								
13 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Prayer Time 11:00 Worship 5:00 God Speaking Cantata & Dinner 2-6 Return to Beth.	14 7AM Mondays @ Mosaic 	15 2:30 HVWT Prep 6-8:30 Gym Reserved	16 11:30-1 Welcome Table 5:30 Supper 6:30 Youth & Children's Xmas Program		17 5:30-7PM Weight Watchers 6-8:30 Gym Reserved	18	19 9:30-11AM Weight Watchers																																																								
20 7:30 UMM Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Prayer Time 11:00 Worship 3-6 Open House at the Parsonage	21	22 2:30 HVWT Prep	23 11:30-1 Welcome Table		24 5PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service		26 9:30-11AM Weight Watchers																																																								
27 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Prayer Time 11:00 Worship	28 	29 2:30 HVWT Prep	30 11:30-1 Welcome Table		31 5:30-7PM Weight Watchers	The FROG Youth Christmas Card Delivery Service opens for business on Sunday, Nov. 29th. 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">January 2010</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	January 2010							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
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Francis Asbury
 United Methodist
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 667-3950



- 1 Glenda Faye Shook
- 2 Peggy Milroy
- 10 Joyce Horn
- 10 Bill Moody
- 15 Doug Sluder
- 19 DeeAnn Henderson
- 21 Kathy Brown
- 21 Christopher Davis
- 25 Lily Deel
- 26 Joan Shuford
- 30 Brandi Turner

Happy Anniversary to.....

- 7 Dewey & Paula Davis
- 15 Dale & Shelly Cloud
- 28 Dick & Connie Greene



FRANCIS ASBURY UMC
 Thursday, Dec. 3rd
 2PM — 6:30 PM

DECEMBER CC TEACHERS
 12/6: Brenning & Jenny
 12/13: Lynn & Cindy
 12/20: Beth & Travis
 12/27: Shelly & Mollie