

# December 2011

### In the Hospital

Randy Robinson (in Baylor Hospital, room 910 Dallas)  
Art Stone (home from hospital)



### In Honor of :

**Karn & Jennifer Schmidt's  
40th Wedding Anniversary**  
**Given By:**  
**Mary Pike**

### In Honor of:

**Ayden Hobbs**  
**Given By:**  
**Paul and Nita Maxwell**

CRUSADERS and Parents, Thank you for the wonderful job you did at the Hanging of the Greens service. The singing was fantastic. Thank you, parents, for allowing your children to be a part of this service.

We will sing again on Sunday, December 11, at the 10:45 service. The song is entitled "Donkey's Lament" composed by a local, nationally known, Methodist composer, Arnold Sherman.

Hope to see you Sunday for practice at 4.

Beth and Christina Clifton

The Crusader Children's Choir needs a full sized 88 key electronic keyboard. If you have one you would like to sell for a reasonable price, please contact either Christina Clifton, Beth Clifton, or let Mary in the office know.



## Music Notes from Tommy

- Many of our most beloved carols are not truly written for Advent but Christmas and Epiphany. Since we know that, the plan over the next 6 services is to sing and enjoy as many of those familiar carols and songs as possible.
- Please continue to pray for both "regular" and "special" services during this time of Advent and into Epiphany.

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- ★ **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**
- ★ **Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
8-10 am Community Breakfast
- ★ **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Second Sunday in Advent
- ★ **Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
6:30 pm Church wide Adult Christmas party
- ★ **Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
3:30-8:30 pm Winter Fest at the Park  
4:30 pm Christmas Parade
- ★ **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
5:30 pm Supper with Santa
- ★ **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
6:00 pm Trustee Committee meets  
7:00 pm Finance Committee meets
- ★ **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
10:45 am Cantata "I Hear the Prophet Callin'"
- ★ **Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
5 pm Christmas Eve Service
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### Sunday Attendance

#### November 13 2011

Sunday School	
Early Service	32
Late Service	113

#### November 20 2011

Sunday School	
Early Service	29
Late Service	92

#### November 27 2011

Sunday School	45
Early Service	31
Late Service	92

# The Messenger

## Whitehouse United Methodist Church

### Love - Serve - Share Christ

December 2, 2011

<p><b>Pastor: Rev. Matt Thomas</b> 903-839-2173 Cell 903-279-7903  <a href="mailto:whitehouseumcpastor@suddenlinkmail.com">whitehouseumcpastor@suddenlinkmail.com</a>  <a href="http://www.whitehouseumc.com">www.whitehouseumc.com</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:whitehouseumc@tyler.net">whitehouseumc@tyler.net</a></p>	<p>Coffee Hour 9:30 am          Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am          Worship Services 8:30 &amp; 10:45 am</p>
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### A Season of Inspiration

We have just entered the season of anticipation, preparation and inspiration. I love Advent for many reasons, but one stands out head and shoulders above the rest. The fact that it points to the Savior's birth is a good start. Giving all of us an opportunity to refocus and recommit our lives on Christ is another really good reason. As simple as this is going to sound, the main reason I like this season is because it is the beginning of a really great and unbelievable story. You and I know how the story goes. We know the characters, setting, circumstances and perhaps even where the story ends. Do we know why?

Do you know how we arrived in Bethlehem; the reason God came to be among us? WE certainly have heard of the motivation for God's decision to enter human history-LOVE for His creation was the motivation. In order to answer these questions we must move back and ahead. To understand the story we are beginning in Advent we must travel back to Eden. From lush Eden the human race is propelled to Bethlehem. Our first parents disobeyed God and were expelled from the Garden. Something was seriously broken in Eden, and Adam and Eve experienced isolating estrangement. Between Eden and Bethlehem the human race struggled with God and one another.

Jump ahead with me. Move through the story of Jesus Christ: incarnation, baptism of Jesus, miracles, suffering, death, resurrection and ascension. Saint Paul unpacks what the story of Jesus means to him and the human race. Paul was once a great persecutor of Christians but had a personal encounter with the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). What would compel and inspire a Christian persecutor to suddenly advocate the Good News? Easy! Paul had an encounter with Christ. Paul was reconciled to God and would spend the rest of his life helping others do the same.

I don't want to leave you hanging. We really need to know how we ended up with this unbelievable story! God came to be among us and showed up in Bethlehem to reconcile an estranged creation. Motivated by love, God came. God still comes. God showed up in Bethlehem, on the Damascus Road and continues to show up.

I love this story! What I love most about this story is the living Jesus who still is reconciling estranged souls to himself. I hope you are inspired in this season of Advent and hear the call to journey to Bethlehem.

God Bless You,  
 Matt



### Adult Christmas Party hosted by Side-by-Side Class

All adults in the church are welcome and urged to attend!

Friday, December 9th, 2011 at 6:30 in Friendship Hall

Please bring a side dish and a dessert. Also, bring a *table decoration*. Choose one object from the list below, to help decorate the tables. It doesn't have to be Christmas-like, just fit a category below. You will get it back at the end of the party:

- |          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| Angel    | Jesus                         |
| Shepherd | Wise Men                      |
| Star     | Mary and/or Joseph            |
| Cross    | Stable animal                 |
| Bible    | Gift (wise men brought gifts) |

Meat will be provided by the  
 Side-By-Side Sunday School Class.

- Jessica (Lori's niece has CF)
- Lisa Reeves (cancer)
- Providence Scelsa (in hospital)
- Ida Bernholtz (in Waterton Plaza)
- Dick Fortenberry (bladder cancer)
- Bret Langford (cystic fibrosis)
- Matthew Ford (kidney failure)
- Kim Godwin (health problems)
- Trey Hamm (Tucker's nephew) has CF
- Julia Staron ( advanced Crohns)
- Glen Keller (cancer treatment)
- Patricia Hobbs (Eddy Hobbs's aunt)
- Becky Crain (medical issues; Jessie M.'s mom)
- Tom Jordan (health problems, Margaret T.'s dad)
- Mary Tucker (thyroid problems)
- Bill Phillips (cancer) Molly W. co-worker's husband)
- LaDelle Tuley (Carrie Hobbs mother)
- Randy Robinson (Baylor hospital)
- Ashley Hotcave (health problems)
- Cindy Baker (cancer, Marty & Debby's Sister -in-law)
- Susan Hargett (brain tumor; Polly's niece)
- Joy Turner (broke hip; Rehab room 415)
- Maddie Penn (lost sight in right eye)
- Kevin Fisher (liver & colon cancer; Spencer Fite's cousin)
- Stephanie Cochran (brain tumor)





# Supper with Santa



**Whitehouse United Methodist Church**  
invites you to come join us on

**December 11th at 5:30 p.m.**  
for the story of Christmas, children's  
Christmas carols,  
supper, games and more.

**Bring your camera for those treasured  
pictures with Santa!**

**We will celebrate the birth of Christ  
in Friendship Hall  
(located at the back of the church.)**

A big Thank You to everyone who helped with the Hanging of the Greens Service. I am very proud of the youth and the Crusaders. They did an outstanding job celebrating the beginning of the Advent Season and the coming of Jesus' birth.

On Saturday, December 10, the youth will participate in an outreach program to serve members of the community

SPC Kristopher Hendley - Iraq  
PFC Martell Hays - Home  
LCPL Travis Bernholtz -Home  
SPC Jeremy D. Stafford -  
Fort Lewis , Washington  
PFC. J. D. Longfellow - Camp Pendleton, CA  
A1C Michael Robinson - Fort Knox, KY  
A1C Christopher Voudrie -  
Capt. Richard Keith Wise - Home



Thanks to everyone who made their monetary donations to Philadelphia Blessing. Monetary donations should be designated to Philadelphia Blessing in the "for" line of your check made out to WUMC. Also, they can always use canned goods which can be placed in the labeled box in our Welcome Center.

New address for:  
Glendean Williams  
Azalea Estates Apt 201  
4380 Old Sterlington Rd.  
Monroe, LA 71203

Randall J. Robinson  
Room 910  
Baylor Medical Center  
3500 Gaston Ave.  
Dallas, TX 75246

## TREE OF LIGHT



Each Christmas season we display the "Tree of Light" in the narthex. We invite you to purchase lights as a memorial or in honor of a loved one. The money collected for these lights will go to the Children's Orphanage in Waco and the Rainbow Room. Please fill out this form and make checks payable to Whitehouse UMC with "lights" specified on the memo section of your check.

**Lights – \$2.00 each**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ lights,**

**In memory of:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ lights,**

**In honor of:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total number of lights \_\_\_\_\_ @\$2 each = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_**



Each Christmas season we decorate our sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias. We invite you to purchase a poinsettia as a memorial or in honor of a loved one. Please fill out this form and make checks payable to Whitehouse UMC with "poinsettia" specified on the memo section of your check.

**Poinsettias – \$7.00 each**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias.**

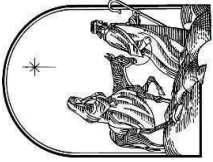
**In honor of:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias,**

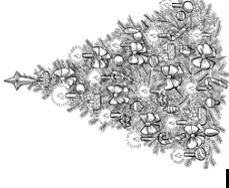
**In memory of:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total number of poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ @\$7 each = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_**



# December 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>4</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Coffee/Prayer 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship 4-5 pm Crusaders 4-5 pm Youth 6:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>5</b> Quilts for Kids 9 am-1 pm Pastor Matt's Bible Study 6-7 pm	<b>6</b> Quilts for Kids 9 am-1 pm Pastor Matt's Bible Study 6-7 pm	<b>7</b> Beth's Ladies Bible Study Classes 9 am & 1 pm Youth 6-8 pm	<b>8</b> Pastor Matt's Bible Study 9-10 am SPRC Meets 6:30 pm	<b>9</b> Church wide Adult Christmas Party 6:30 pm <b>Last day to bring detergent for Project Joy</b>	<b>10</b> Winter Fest 3:30-8:30 pm Christmas Parade @ 4:30 pm
<b>11</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Coffee/Prayer 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship 4-5 pm Youth 5:30 pm <b>Supper with Santa</b> 6:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>12</b> Trustees 6 pm Finance 7 pm	<b>13</b> Quilts for Kids 9 am-1 pm Pastor Matt's Bible Study 6-7 pm	<b>14</b> <b>Ministerial Alliance</b> Beth's Ladies Bible Study Classes 9 am & 1 pm Last class until next year	<b>15</b> Pastor Matt's Bible Study 9-10 am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Coffee/Prayer 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Cantata 4-5 pm Crusaders 4-5 pm Youth 6:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>19</b> UMM @ 6:30 pm	<b>20</b> Quilts for Kids 9 am-1 pm Pastor Matt's Bible Study starts back	<b>21</b> Youth 6-8 pm	<b>22</b> Pastor Matt's Bible Study starts back Jan. 5 2012	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Service 5 pm</b>
<b>25</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Coffee/Prayer 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship 4-5 pm Crusaders 4-5 pm Youth 6:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> No Quilts for Kids No Pastor Matt's Bible Study CHURCH	<b>28</b> Youth 6-8 pm OFFICE CLOSED	<b>29</b> No Pastor Matt's Bible Study FOR THE	<b>30</b> WEEK	<b>31</b>



## December Birthdays

Denise Taylor - 6  
 Sydney Theiring - 11  
 Shiril Shamburger - 13  
 Homer Stokes - 16  
 Michael Robinson - 16  
 Sarah Green - 19  
 West Robertson—19  
 Betty Stokes - 22  
 Tom Campbell - 24  
 Jesse Polston - 26  
 John Taylor - 29  
 Ruth Polston - 31