

# 1<sup>st</sup> Things



December  
**2010**

## STAFF

**Mark A. Baugh, Pastor**  
Nora Sargent, Secretary  
Mike & Trudy Tierney, Custodians  
Debbie Klenk, Pianist/Choir Director

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		7:00 PM	Visitation
		<b>Wednesday</b>	
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		7:00 PM	Prayer Meeting

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focusing on the ONE

## reMark

**Have** you ever received a gift at Christmas that just didn't look like it would ever be anything you could use, or maybe even want? There have been several instances of this in my life. Many times the gift lived up to its appearance, but there were a few that surprised me. They turned out to be of more value to my life than I could ever imagine.

There have been some people like that in my life, too. I looked at them and thought they had nothing to offer me that I could ever need. They were a lot like an elderly cleaning lady I read a story about not so long ago. There was nothing special about her. She was exactly what she appeared to be – elderly, poor, and poorly educated.

**The Bible can keep you away from sin; and sin can keep you away from the Bible.**

The lady had worked at Tewksbury Institute since it had opened. Doctors and nurses had passed her by countless times without a notice. One patient named Annie discovered there was more to this little old lady than showed. Annie was a patient at Tewksbury. She was wild and unruly, so bad the staff had her locked in a steel cage in the basement. The nameless cleaning lady was the only one to show Annie some kindness.

Afraid of Annie's outbursts, but drawn with compassion, she wanted to help Annie. The only way she could think of was to bake some brownies for the wild woman. It was a simple act, but it opened a door in Annie's spirit. That small act allowed the cleaning woman to develop a relationship with Annie that aided the medical staff in treating her.

Years later, after Annie Sullivan had become the teacher and friend of Helen Keller, she stood next to Helen at the Nobel Prize Awards. An interviewer asked Helen who had the

greatest impact on her life. Helen replied, Annie Sullivan." But Annie responded, "No, Helen. The woman who had the greatest influence on both our lives was a floor maid at the Tewksbury Institute."

Sometimes a gift doesn't look like it has much value for you. A baby in a manger wouldn't look like He was the greatest gift ever given, unless you took the time to look closer. There are people in your life that need to know about this great gift. Will you give it to them? Will you help them see the true value He has for their lives? Will you look beyond the outer appearances of those people and see they are of value? That's what Christmas is really all about.

Focusing on the One,

*Pastor Mark*

### ENCOURAGING WORDS



#### [Psalm 119:105](#)

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

#### Thoughts on this verse

God's promises, God's Scripture, help us find our way in a darkened world. The competing voices seek to lead us astray but His Word lights our path in these times of confusion and despair. What great grace we have to know God's presence with us, guiding us to His throne!

#### Prayer:

Loving Father, thank you for giving me your truth in Scripture. To know that you love me enough to communicate in language I can read is truly awe inspiring to me. Make my heart hunger for your truth revealed in your Word. I want to grow to be a righteous and gracious child in your family. With love through my older brother I pray. Amen.

in the **1<sup>st</sup>** place

If you weren't with the **1st Family** last month, here's what you missed.

**OUR CHRISTMAS OUTREACH:  
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Shoebboxes  
for Kids



**57**

The total number of boxes we donated was 57 — we exceeded our goal. Money designated by Vacation Bible Schoolers was used to fill six of those boxes. Thanks to everyone for helping children in need.



**ATTENDANCE**

Following is our average attendance  
October 31—November 24:

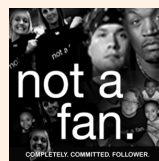
Sunday School	—	25
Sunday Worship	—	45
PM Bible Study	—	10
Prayer Mtg. Noon	—	3
Prayer Mtg. PM	—	22



*Thanksgiving*

Our Thanksgiving Dinner was shared with 54 of our friends and family. The food was delicious and

the fellowship was very loving. The children had made table cards with mixed-up Bible verses about thankfulness that the guests had to put in order. These helped us focus on the many blessings God has given us.



Pastor Mark began a new series on 10/24 entitled **NOT A FAN**. Sermon titles:

- 10/24 *Fan or Follower*
- 10/31 *The Open Invitation*
- 11/07 *Choosing Intimacy*
- 11/14 *The Comfortable Cross*
- 11/21 *More Than Rules*
- 11/28 *Is Jesus Enough?*

**GAME NIGHT—Sunday,  
November 28—6:00 to 8:00 PM**

Have you taken control of your health today? We will be hosting **LIFE LINE SCREENING** at our church on **Tuesday, November 30, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM**. **Life Line Screening** offers five safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. For only \$139 you can learn your risk of having a stroke or vascular disease. Call to register at 1-888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners)

## Coming Soon...

In the future, you have an opportunity to experience God's blessings through these upcoming events.

### BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, December 8—7:00 PM

The proposed budget for 2011 will be discussed and voted on. Please plan to attend and be a part of the financial decisions for next year.

### PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 11 at 9:00 AM



Woman-To-Woman

Woman to Woman will sponsor City Gospel Mission's "HAVING THE COURAGE TO CHANGE." We are collecting hotel or sample or full size toiletries: bar soap/body

wash, shampoo, Q-tips, baby and/or foot powder, razors, shave cream and deodorant.

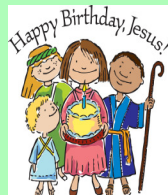
All items must be received by Sunday, December 5. There will be a prayer of dedication on that date. Items then will be assembled at our December meeting.

On FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 6:00 PM the ladies will meet for our Christmas Gathering in the church Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited to attend. Dinner will be provided. See Jan Smith if you would like to bring something. We'll just have a good time of food and fellowship while we prepare the collected items.

If you would be interested in "leading" this group next year, please let Jan Smith know.

### Children's Party during Sunday School

Sunday, December 19—9:45 AM



The idea was brought up about giving our children a little gift at our Happy Birthday Jesus Party on Sunday, December 19 (up to \$10.00). If you would like to help, please let Nora or Holly know by December 12. Make your gift suitable for either boy or girl.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

### Christmas Celebration Day

9:00 AM  DECORATE the Church

Help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

12:00 PM — Our Christmas Luncheon will be catered by The Clermont Inn. Cost is \$8.95 per person for a complete meal. **Get your reservation and payment in by November 28.** The menu is

- Roast Turkey
- Ham
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Sweet Potato Casserole
- Oven Roasted Green Beans
- Corn
- Tossed Salad
- Pumpkin Pie
- Chocolate Bundt Cake
- Rolls & Butter
- Beverage



Christmas Luncheon

### 1:00 PM—White Elephant Gift Exchange

Following the luncheon, we will have our White Elephant Gift Exchange. Bring something from your home you no longer need or desire. It will be a treasure to someone else. Don't miss the fun.

### December 19 - 6:00 PM—EMMANUEL—Celebrating Heaven's Child—a presentation by the Choir.

Bring the passionate Bethlehem miracle experience to life with glorious sounds of music. Experience majestic carol medleys; the tender cradle-side moments with Mary and her newborn Son, Jesus; and the passionate invitation to us all to allow the infant King of all kings to call our hearts His home.



Fellowship following. Bring your favorite Christmas snack or dessert to share.



Friday, December 24  
7:00 PM

A time to worship the  
New Born King

Following is a summary of the latest Business Meeting.



**Regular Meeting—November 10, 2010**

**The Budget Director's Report** for October showed that income exceeded expenses by almost \$5700. We will be sending \$693 to the State Convention and \$173 to the Cincinnati Association. Year to date income exceeds expenses by \$2850. Our mortgage balance is \$61,724.26.

Benevolence Fund Report—There is \$332.38 in the fund.

Constitution Review Committee—Ron Sargent read the proposed changes under Article I. Membership: **Section 1. Qualifications; Section 3. Responsibilities of Membership; Section 4. Rights of Membership;** and the new **Article IX. Dissolution of Church.** The Committee will discuss possible changes in Article I. Membership before distributing copies.

**NEXT BUSINESS MEETING - WEDNESDAY, December 8 at 7:00 PM.**



Thank you so much for your love and show of kindness. I appreciate the gift very much.  
Pastor Mark



**We extend our deepest sympathy to Paul Ferenc on the death of his brother on November 2. Please remember the family in your prayers.**



Please provide your e-mail address to Nora. We are trying to be better stewards of God's resources. We will be making fewer copies of First Things, our monthly newsletter. This and other communications will be e-mailed where possible in order to save printing and paper costs. So if you have email, be sure to let us know. Help us be **"Green."**

**Lottie Moon Week of Prayer—11/28 through 12/5**

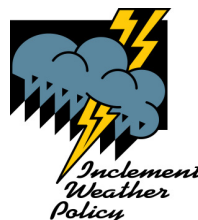
Our goal for the Lottie Moon Offering is \$500.00. Your gift to Lottie Moon provides help to our missionaries all around the world.



**Prayer Chain Volunteers**

If you would like to be a part of our Prayer Chain Ministry, please let Nora know.

We have a day group and a night group. The Word of God instructs us to call upon each other to fervently pray for one another (James 5:15).



It's time to start thinking about WINTER (**Brrrr!**) and the bad weather that it can bring. Watch Channel 9 for announcements of any cancellations or changes in services.

# 1<sup>st</sup> dates December

Lottie Moon Week of Prayer—November 28 through Dec. 5  
Offering collected through December

Saturday, December 4

9:00 AM—Decorate the Sanctuary

12:00 PM – Christmas Lunch in Fellowship Hall

1:00 PM – White Elephant Gift Exchange

Wednesday, December 8 – 7:00 PM – BUSINESS MEETING

Friday, December 10 – 6:00 PM – Ladies Christmas Party

Saturday, December 11 – 9:00 AM – PRAYER BREAKFAST

Sunday, December 19

9:45 AM – Happy Birthday Jesus Party for Children

11:00 AM – Christmas Worship Service

6:00 PM – Musical— EMMANUAL: *Celebrating Heaven's Child*  
Fellowship following musical

Friday, December 24 – 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Service



- 1 Shannon Reeves
- 1 Charity Smith
- 2 Paul Patterson
- 6 Evelyn Thornton
- 9 Eugene Thornton
- 23 Paul Ferenc
- 26 Allison Klenk
- 27 Dale Bratton



- 03 Ruth & Dale Bratton
- 08 Pat & Lyn Farmer

# 1<sup>st</sup> teams

<b>GREETERS</b> Trish Michael Jan Smith	<b>SERVING THIS MONTH</b>	<b>CHURCH CLOSER</b> Ron Sargent
<b>EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS</b>		<b>SOUND SYSTEM</b>
12/05 Diana Schaefer 12/12 Trish Michael 12/19 Christa Smith 12/26 Nora Sargent  Alternate: Trudy Tierney Sunday Evening: Holly Baugh Substitutes: Tinika Schaefer, Shirley Upchurch		12/05 Sarah Baugh 12/12 David Moughton 12/19 Jason Smith 12/26 Sarah Baugh