



The Ceresco Messenger ~ Ceresco Baptist Church

Pastors Pen - December 2015

Oh Christmas, that wonderful time of the year! That feeling of joy! That time of the year where all appears wonderful and magical. The Christmas trees all lit up, with beautiful colors. The beauty, especially at night. How the Christmas lights illuminate out into the darkness of the night, bringing light to darkness.

Psalm 119:105 gets me to thinking. Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. The three wisemen followed the light of the star to find baby Jesus. The light shone so bright on the shepherds in the field that glorious night. Light has always followed Jesus from birth to death, and to Jesus' resurrection.

In 1 John 1:5-10, the message is God is the light of the world. There is no darkness at all in God's Son Jesus Christ. Light is the goodness, found in walking with Jesus. Proof of that light is found in fellowship with Jesus' followers, and the blood of Jesus which purifies one's mind and heart. Purification through the blood of Jesus exposes the darkness of life. If then we can see the dark areas of life - yet remain in the light, we as Christian people will remain clean and pure through the light of the world. Jesus Christ our Savior will lead us to share the love of Jesus. And perhaps, a few of the dark corners of life will get a glimpse of the light of Jesus Christ this Christmas!

Merry Christmas! May the Light of God's Holy Spirit lead us into the new year.

Love in Christ, Pastor Gary and Phyllis Schooler.



From the Choir Director . . .

A big "Thank You " to ALL who were able to stay after church on Nov. 29th for the Hanging of the Greens. You did a great job and your help was much appreciated. Also, thanks to all who provided food for the lunch. AND.....to all 17 men who so willingly sang "O Come, All Ye Faithful ".....you sounded great and everyone enjoyed it thoroughly.

We would like to have a choir sing on Dec. 27th....will have one practice on Sun. morning the 20th of Dec. at 9:00 am.

On Wed. Dec. 9th, anyone that would like to go Christmas caroling at Maplewood, then on to Marshall Rehabplease meet at the church by no later than 5:30 so we can sing at Maplewood at 6 and then try to be to Marshall Rehab by 6:30 or so. All are welcome....the more the merrier. Only 5 or so songs will be sung at each place and they are all familiar. We'd love to have you join us. Just so we do not leave anyone out...please make sure to be to church NO later than 5:30....that's our deadline to leave. Thanks

In all we do.....it's for His Glory.....Merry Christmas to all.....Joanne Henley

Help celebrate Margaret Pray's 99th Birthday!!!

On Jan. 3, 2016 she will be 99 years old! We would like to 'shower' her with birthday cards! Please send them to her at:

Margaret Pray, Maplewood of Marshall,
200 Westbrook Court, Room 339, Marshall, MI 49068

Thank you! ~ Nadine Coats

With Sincere Appreciation

Joanne Henley!

We pray God's blessings be with you in abundance even more,

For you have been so special to us, a blessing from the Lord

We just want for you to know how much you mean to us,

For all you've done, and for who you are, we appreciate so much!

By M.S. Lowndes

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

Presents are due Sunday, Dec. 6th! We will wrap presents Thursday. If you can't be here, and you would like for us to wrap your presents, **please mark family # and name** and we will wrap them for you. If you have already wrapped your gifts, there are boxes downstairs with family numbers on each box. Thank you! ~ Deacon Ministry Team

On Joanne Henley's Retirement

We give thanks unto the Lord
For your love and faithfulness
In all the little things you do
With a heart of thankfulness
We do so appreciate you
And cannot truly express
Just how much you mean to us,
For we are truly blessed.

By M.S. Lowndes



"Christmas gift suggestions: to your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect." ~ Oren Arnold

"Good news from heaven the angels bring, Glad tidings to the earth they sing: To us this day a child is given, To crown us with the joy of heaven." ~ Martin Luther

Church Attendance

November 1 ~ 42
November 8 ~ 49
November 15 ~ 52
Nov. 22 no church
November 29 ~ 52



Flower Schedule

Dec. 6 ~ Anthony
Dec. 13 ~ OPEN
Dec. 20 ~ OPEN
Dec. 27 ~ OPEN
Poinsettias all month!

Christmas' True Meaning

by Deborah Ann Belka

Let Christmas' true meaning,
rise up in you today . . .
may you see the real splendor
of Jesus' birth on this day.

May His beauty and grandeur,
cause your heart to sing
may the gift of His excellence
become your eternal spring.

May His majesty you behold,
with all dignity and honor
may the fullness of His truth
glorify His heavenly Father.

May the wonder of His grace,
reveal its magnificence in you
may the gratefulness you feel
be in all you say and do.

Let Christmas' true meaning,
bring your Savior near today
may you see the need for Him
today . . . and every day.

Rejoice This Christmas Day

by Deborah Ann Belka

Unto us a Son was given,
~rejoice this Christmas day~
a gift from God to you and I
the Truth, the Light, the Way.

To the world a Savior's born,
~rejoice this Christmas day~
He fills the soul's hunger pain
the Bread, the Life, the Way.

To every heart bound in sin,
~rejoice this Christmas day~
the gift of grace will set you free
the Christ, the Lord, the Way.

To thirsty souls everywhere,
~rejoice this Christmas day~
and drink from the Fountain of Life
the Grace, the Mercy, the Way.

To all those who are heavy-laden,
~rejoice this Christmas day~
for He is the Prince of our Peace
the Door, the Lamb, the Way.

Rejoice on this Christmas day,
your Lord and Savior is here
rejoice, I say again rejoice
let His birth bring your heart cheer.

“Bless us Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; Teach us to be patient and always to be kind.” ~ Helen Steiner Rice

“Off to one side sits a group of shepherds. They sit silently on the floor, perhaps perplexed, perhaps in awe, no doubt in amazement. Their night watch had been interrupted by an explosion of light from heaven and a symphony of angels. God goes to those who have time to hear him—and so on this cloudless night he went to simple shepherds.” ~ Max Lucado



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
1st Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens		Bible Study 10am	Martha Circle 6:30 pm			Men's Breakfast 8:00 am Admin. Council 9:00 am
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2nd Sunday of Advent Memorial Service at Church		Bible Study 10am	Christmas Caroling at Maplewood 6pm and at Marshall Rehab at 6:30 pm	Family Night Potluck & Wrapping Gifts for the Christmas Families 6:30 pm		Youth Day! Happy Birthday, Jesus! Party 10am-2pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
3rd Sunday of Advent		Bible Study 10am				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
4th Sunday of Advent		Bible Study 10am Worship Ministry Team Meeting 5:30 pm		Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm	Christmas Day! 	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Fellowship Sunday		Bible Study 10am	Information due by noon for the January 2016 Messenger	New Year's Eve		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec 2 Michael Wood
 Dec 5 Cindy Combs
 Dec 7 Mike Lutz
 Dec 13 Glennie Swann
 Dec 14 Pat Yost
 Dec 17 Shirley Young
 Dec 19 Scott Wood
 Dec 21 Rayna Sommers
 Dec 24 Carl Clem
 Dec 26 David Smith
 Dec 27 Candace Ivey
 Dec 27 John Paschen
 Dec 28 Marilyn Mead
 Dec 28 Donna Ruthruff
 Dec 30 Viviana Anthony

Jan 2 Alexandria Hamaker
 Jan 3 Margaret Pray #99
 Jan 4 Avery Blair Goodman
 Jan 4 Elise Kidder
 Jan 5 Kathryn Straub
 Jan 7 Olivia Gary
 Jan 11 Richard Schlee
 Jan 13 Bob Beltz
 Jan 13 Amelia Schooler
 Jan 18 Sam Henley
 Jan 18 Christin Berry
 Jan 18 Brian Gary
 Jan 19 Jean Clark
Jan 20 Gary Schooler
 Jan 23 Paul Mead
 Jan 24 Chelsea Kilbourn
 Jan 25 Emily Ivey
 Jan 25 Bryan Davis
 Jan 28 Harlynn Casey
 Jan 28 Brad Kidder
 Jan 28 Diane Burrows
 Jan 29 Ava Marni Bene
 Jan 31 Bailey Davis



Happy Anniversary

Dec 17 Bill & Irene Raabe
 Dec 23 Ken & Kay Davis
 Dec ?? DJ & Julie Holton
 Dec 20 Richard & Kathryn Straub
 Jan 2 John & Ruth Paschen

Happy Birthday, Jesus!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
JESUS CHRIST
 MERRY CHRISTMAS TO US ALL

Martha Circle of Ceresco Baptist Church

Members of the Martha Circle met on Wednesday, Dec. 2nd, 2016 at the church. Gretchen King gave a devotion from an old Ideas magazine "The God of New Things" - we feel uncomfortable when things change, and we don't like it. This Christmas, rejoice in the newness God brings to you!

Joy read minutes from previous meeting. \$22 for RADA turned in by Joanne. Checking balance should be around \$800.

Sunshine - Pam has sent several cards. Need to send a card to Danny & Rayna, thinking of you. Card & plant for Jerry Bailey/family, Jeri Wood - cell phone# 967-8131. We signed a birthday card for Margaret Pray.

November Family Night was very nice with Missionary Anita Gutierrez. Hanging of the Greens went very well.

New Business - RMMO Offering - motion by Ruth St. John, second by Joanne Henley to give \$25 to RMMO. Motion by Gretchen King, 2nd by Vi Halder to send \$25 to Missionaries Anita & Rick Gutierrez.

Collections:

Dec. Love Gift \$19.91, Dec. Devotional \$16.00, Nov. Love Gift: \$11.04, and Nov. \$10.00

Bible discussion, we discussed Matthew 2:1-18. Read John 2:1-11 for January 13, 2016 meeting.

Meeting closed with prayer and then we enjoyed refreshments brought by all, and then opened Christmas gifts.

Submitted by Secretary, Joy Sommers

JESUS is the Reason for the Season!

We're online! Have you checked out our web page?

www.cerescobaptist.org

We're also on Facebook! Look for Ceresco Baptist Church!

During the month of December we are collecting for the Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering (RMMO). There are special envelopes in the pews. Thank you!

Ceresco Baptist Church ~ Administrative Council /Annual Meeting

Minutes ~ December 5, 2015 ~ 9:00 a.m.

Devotion: “A Good Thing” read by Joy Sommers

Clerks Report: Joy Sommers

1. Minutes from September meeting were in Messenger

All email to Joy regarding church information, please send to: CerescoBaptist@gmail.com

1. Need to have electronic copy of latest Church Directory when it is done, since it goes along with duty to “*Maintain a current and complete roll of the members of the Church and their addresses*”
2. Jenny Markos transferring membership back to Ceresco Baptist Church.
3. WWMT Updating Website for Closings. Waiting for additional information.
4. Website annual fee was auto-renewed, \$99 owed to Martha Circle.
5. Website domain name (cerescobaptist.org) annual fee will auto-renew Dec. 17th, cost is \$26.

Any correspondence needed? None

Treasurers Report: Mary Ivey

Report distributed - \$91 bill for nursery ceiling & back wall not yet submitted (Rick).

Pastoral Relations Committee:

Members: Don St. John (Chair), Stacey Goodman, Art Wood, Darlene Anthony, Joy Sommers.

Committee suggesting we increase pastor’s annual vacation leave. The Ministers & Missionaries Benefits Board suggests pastors be given three weeks in the first year of service. This was determined in collaboration with the Ministers Council of the American Baptist Churches, USA.

Pastor Gary discussed what other pastors in the area receive. Also, he was told to accept no less than 4 weeks paid vacation upon being hired by CBC. However, he felt CBC was where he needed to be, so went ahead and signed the contract with just a one week vacation the first year. He currently has 2 weeks of vacation.

Discussion about what should be given. Motion by Dawn Frey that at pastor’s anniversary date he be given 4 weeks of paid vacation. Vacation time will not be carried over from year to year. Second by Joanne Henley. Motion passed, and will be put before the congregation for a vote after published in bulletin for two weeks, and then vote.

Property Management Ministry Team: Rick Frey

Parsonage – have a new contract for parsonage rental, Dec. 1 2015-Dec. 31, 2016

Church Roof – problem with roof around chimney, need to re-flash around the belfry – what if we took the chimney down flush with the roof. Repair estimate is \$500. Rick has asked X-Tream Roofing, LLC to proceed with the repairs. Motion by Roger Sommers to approve the roof repair of \$500, including removing chimney down to the roof level, second by Linda Chisholm. Motion passed.

Need an outdoor light on the parking lot side of the church. Will talk to Bob Beltz. Roger estimates \$300 for the fixtures, and Bob to install dusk-to-dawn lighting. Motion by Roger Sommers, second by Dawn Frey. Motion passed.

Fellowship hall ceiling – will plan to work on it during the winter months. Haven’t decided what needs to be done with it yet.

Dave Hadley noticed the baptismal steps are very shaky. He plans to fix them (inside and outside steps). Will also work on step into the library.

Administrative Council Minutes, 12/5/2015 (continued)

KITCHEN COMMITTEE: Roger Sommers

1. Committee is dissolved. (This section will move to Property Management Ministry Team)
2. Still some things that have to be addressed for Health Department. Health Dept. approved our license, but wants pictures of completed kitchen.
3. Joy will get necessary signage and kitchen rules that must be followed. Information will be put in the January Messenger.
4. The Annual Report will be submitted by January 31, 2016.

Deacon Ministry Team: Linda Cole / Linda Chisholm

1. Kathryn Straub – Directory Photos, would like to be reimbursed for cost of supplies. What fund? Motion by Joanne Henley that we reimburse Kathy for the ink, taking funds out of the General Memorial Fund, second Roger Sommers. Kathy will need to submit bills in order to be reimbursed. Motion passed.
2. Telephone directory listing \$396 to be in yellow pages. Will not pursue.
3. Christmas Families – 4 people left yet. Deacons will do the additional shopping that is needed. Will wrap gifts at Family Night on Dec. 10th.
4. Food Pickup Dec. 14th from the Food Bank. Can place another order at the end of December.
5. Prayer Chain & Emergency Listings were handed out. New ones will be put in January Messenger. Will not include these in the Web version of the Messenger.

Worship Ministry Team: Joanne Henley

1. New opening & closing songs for December (King of Kings / Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus)
2. Special Music during Dec. 6th – trio, Kathy Straub 13th, Youth 20th, Choir 27th
3. Joy choosing hymns for this month.
4. Christmas caroling Dec. 9th.....leave church at 5:30....to sing at Maplewood at 6:00 and then at Marshall Rehab at 6:30 or so.
5. Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24th at 6:30.....may use battery operated candles for children to hold while singing Silent Night (that way, no hot wax on little hands or pew seats) dripless candles? Joy will order some dripless candles.
6. Take down decorations Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016. Need to discard sanctuary Christmas tree. Joy will donate new tree for 2016.
7. My last Sunday to lead congregational singing is: Dec.27th
8. I will gather any and all music pertaining to choir or church and bring it back in Jan., also will write the Annual Report before the end of Jan. 2016.
9. WMT meeting Dec. 22nd, will be with the new members too, and will review team's duties.
10. Mary Ivey will hopefully be the chair, Joy will be congregational song leader. Although Joanne will lead on Jan. 10, 2016 in Joy's absence.

Educational Ministry Team:

1. All Sunday School teachers are part of the EMT. Chair is Jeri Wood, other members are Sharon Hadley, Phyllis Schooler, Linda Cole, Kay Davis, Pam Kirkland, and Joy Sommers.
2. Toddler Worship & Youth Choir are meeting 1st & 3rd Sundays, and other Sundays as needed.
3. Youth Day is Saturday, Dec. 12th, 10am-2pm "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" theme
Family Night Thursday, Dec. 10th, 6:30 pm. Wrapping gifts for Christmas families.

ABW: Joy Sommers

In 2016, ABW Ministries will celebrate 65 years of ministry. The Region Board is trying to identify Michigan women who have been involved and serving all 65 years. If you have women in your church who have been serving with American Baptist Women since its beginning in 1951, contact President Yvonne Hackett @ 313 273-8099 before December 20, 2015! Check with Bessie & Olive.

Boy Scouts: Pastor Gary/Rick

1. Things are going well, Talked with Peter Brooks about the Scouts Charter, which has expired. Peter has renewed it.

Missions: Joy Sommers

1. Update from Wayne & Katherine Niles – will put on bulletin board.
2. Anita Gutierrez shared with us at our November family night potluck.
3. Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering for the month of December.

Pastor's Report:

September through November included: Bible study AM & PM, Deacon meetings, Worship meetings, Education meetings, Fall pumpkin children/family, Family nights, MLT & MLGW meetings, Service at Maplewood, Communion at Maplewood, Preached at St. Luke Tabernacle 10 year celebration, Council meetings, Young couples time at my home, Bill Raabe funeral, 30 visitations, 1 hospital visit, Pastor relations meeting, Office meetings and counseling, Numerous phone calls, text, Emails, Writing sermons - prayer, Membership class, Thanksgiving baskets - hand out.

Will be preaching at Fairfax on Dec. 13th at 4 pm.

Quarterly offset of Social Security for December pay on the 15th instead of the 30th. Motion by Dawn Frey, second by Rick Frey. Motion passed.

Need to start thinking about a "Roof Fund" – will need to replace the roof in a few years. Could use Souder Fund, and ask congregation for donations from time to time. When it's time to replace the roof, we'll get 3 estimates, maybe get a metal roof. Guessing about \$25,000 to replace the roof.

What is the cap on council spending before taking to congregation? Motion by Joanne Henley to setup a \$1,000 cap for spending on church matters that does not require a congregational vote, second by Rick Frey. Motion passed.

For Annual Report – Pastor would like a written statement from each committee as to what they do. The Chair person, members, etc.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN ITEMS:

1. Swiss Steak Supper – February 20, 2016 – Roger will head it up.
2. Church t-shirts & hats. Design approved – Joy to get pricing.
3. Have a dedication potluck on a Sunday after the kitchen is completed – maybe in January.
4. Are we still saving JESUS dollars? Yes – for the Renovation Fund.
5. Announcement: Margaret Pray's 99th Birthday is Jan. 3rd, and would like to have a card shower for her.

Motion by Dawn Frey, second by Joy Sommers to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 am. Closed in prayer by Dawn.

Christmas Tears

by [Patricia Joan Polhans](#)

I wonder if God cried when
He sent us His only Son,
His most precious gift to offer
All of us with love.

Did a tear trickled down
His precious holy cheek
When He handed us His Little Boy
Did He then begin to weep?

I wonder if He cried when
Jesus was rejected.
Did His lips turn downward?
Was His heart broken and dejected?

For He'd given us His all,
His ultimate sacrifice,
Sending us His only Child,
Were God's tears a surprise?

Christmas is a happy time
For all of those we see
But for the Heavenly Father
Maybe this could not be!

How He must have wept
Over His Little Boy who'd die.
His life, vanished in the wind.
Christmas had to make Him cry!

My Present to Jesus

by [Ken Leath](#)

He was born to a virgin, the King of all Kings.
The creator of the universe, now a babe of all things.

What was He thinking, He'd give up His throne?
To come to this earth, to call this His home?

What's in it for me? Is what I would ask.
I don't see any point, of undertaking this task.

They're an ungrateful lot, given over to sin.
So prideful and greedy, it's a game we can't win.

Most are on a path, so broad and so wide.
It'd be next to impossible, getting them by your side.

But the Lord in His wisdom, had a plan don't you see.
To pay the penalty for mans' sin, even for you and for me.

"God so loved the world", it says in His word.
"That He gave us His son". Now here's the point to be
heard.

"That whosoever believeth, on Him, Jesus Christ."
"Shall not ever perish, but have eternal life."

The truth of the matter, is that on that sweet morn.
Had it been only for me, Jesus would still have been born.

So on this Christmas, knowing all He did give.
My present to Jesus, is my life, how I live.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



*Let us celebrate the glorious birth
of Jesus and may your Christmas
be filled with His Goodness.*

Ceresco Baptist Church

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Pastor Gary Schooler

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Church Schedule

Sunday Worship

9:45 am

Sunday School

11:15 am

Bible Study Tuesdays

10 am