



ECHOES

From the Heights

A monthly newsletter from **Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church**

Good News of Great Joy!

Special Advent and Christmas events this year include:

Pastor Judy's Country Christmas Open House
Saturday, December 3 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (*see page 2*)

Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, December 10 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. (*see page 4*)

A Thrill of Hope!
Sunday, December 11 and Thursday, December 15
(*see page 3*)

Carols and Cocoa
Sunday, December 18 - 4:00 p.m. (*see insert*)

CHRISTMAS EVE Saturday, December 24
7:00 p.m. Traditional Family Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
Morning worship begins in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.



**Shawnee Heights
United Methodist Church**
6020 SE 44th Street
Tecumseh, KS 66542
(785) 379-5492
SHUMC@cox.net
www.ShawneeHeightsUMC.org

Office Hours:

Monday
9:00 AM — 12:00 PM
Tuesday thru Friday
9:00 AM — 3:00 PM

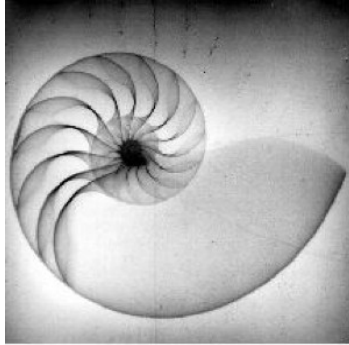
Sunday Schedule:

Adult Sunday School
9:00 a.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary
at 10:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School
at 10:15 a.m.
Fellowship
at 11:00 a.m.
Youth Group
at 6:00 p.m.

Church Staff:

Pastor
Rev. Judy Long O'Neal
**Administrative
Services Director:**
Cristie Standifer
Treasurer:
Jo Scott
Music Director:
Dong-Hyun Son
Custodian:
Ralph Nelson

Greetings from My Spiral Notebook



"In that regions there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid...'"

- Luke 2:8-10(a) NRSV

Four simple words appear many, many times throughout the Bible as words of recognition, encouragement, and instruction. **Do not be afraid.** The speaker of these words, very often speaking for God, seems to understand our tendency to be afraid of something new, something unexpected, something unplanned. These simple words provide comfort and assurance to those central to the story of the birth of Jesus the Christ.

Do not be afraid is the title of my sermon series for this Season of Advent. The scripture readings for each Sunday are:

November 27	Luke 1:5-17
December 4	Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-33
December 11	Luke 2:8-14
December 18	John 14:15-19, 25-27

As we venture toward the manger together this Advent Season, I pray that we will see ourselves in those in the Nativity Story – chosen and encountered by God, fearful yet obedient, nervous, excited, open and amazed.

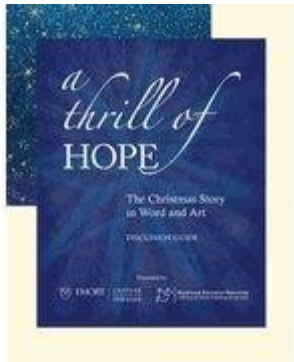


YOU ARE INVITED
to Pastor Judy's Country Christmas Open House
Saturday December 3rd 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

I hope you can plan to share some time of holiday sparkle and refreshment with me in my home. Whether you can plan to come and stay for awhile, or only stop by as part of a busy pre-Christmas weekend, I hope you will plan to come!

For driving directions to my home, please call or email the church office.

Merry Christmas to you all!



*You are invited to experience
the Christmas story in word and art.*

A Thrill of Hope

On Sunday, December 11 (after morning worship) we will gather in the Wesley Suite to view the 50-minute DVD presentation of the story of Christmas as told in Luke and Matthew and interpreted by the fabulous artwork of John August Swanson and members of the Chandler School of Theology faculty.

Our Discipleship Team is creating an evening experience of meditation and worship based on *A Thrill of Hope*. This creative, multi-dimensional experience will be held in the Aldersgate Room on Thursday evening, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.

You are welcome to attend either or both of these unique experiences with the Christmas Story. No previous registration is required for either gathering. Please come as you are able.



SEE YOU(TH) IN DECEMBER!

5 p.m. Sunday, December 4

YOUTH COUNCIL for all youth officers
and parents of 7th - 12th grade youth

6 p.m. Sunday, December 18

Youth Group and Christmas Party!
(bring your favorite Christmas treat)

with visions of sugar plums.....

news from Children's Ministry



Congratulations, kids! Your ideas and your participation in the October pumpkin-carving contest and the November decorated cookie sales were very successful. You have raised \$251.35 so far for your own Christmas mission project!

Don't miss our Sunday School Christmas Celebration
"Happy Birthday, Jesus" Sunday, Dec. 18th



Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 10

8:00 am - 10:00 am

sponsored by Heights of Learning

December Circle Meetings:

Susanna Circle will meet on Saturday, December 3rd, at 8:00 am in the Wesley Suite of the church. Barb Hoskinson will be the hostess.

****We will be putting together the College Student Care Packages. Members are reminded to bring the items they signed up to bring for these packages. Also needed are shoe boxes and brown wrapping paper.**

****A reminder to all Susanna Circle Members -- our Holiday Baskets will be assembled on Sunday, December 18th, before worship. Please remember to bring the "goodies" for these baskets before worship on that Sunday.**

Sarah Circle meets on Tuesday, December 6th, at 7:00pm in the home of Scarlett Ford, 5526 SE US Hwy 40, Tecumseh, KS. *(This is a change from what is printed in our date books)* Our lessons leader will be Merta Fulton.

****All members are reminded to bring a Christmas ornament for their annual Christmas ornament exchange.**

Cookie Trays for Shut-ins The United Methodist Women will again be making and delivering cookie trays to our shut-ins. Please bring cookies and/or candy to the Church by Tuesday, December 6th or to the Sarah Circle meeting. We will be putting the trays together at the church on Wednesday morning, December 7th, at 9:00 am.

Reading Program Deadline is December 1st Those United Methodist Women who are participating in the UMW Reading Program for 2011 are reminded that the list of books they have read are due to Barb Hoskinson by December 1st.



SINCERE THANKS

from your Missions and Outreach Committee!

Thank you! to those who contributed goods for this year's **Bishop's Round-Up for Hunger**, held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Lawrence on Saturday, November 19th. With your generosity, our total contribution was valued at over \$3200.

Thank you! To those who shopped for ingredients, prepared food and served **Thanksgiving Dinner at Breakthrough House!** Your ministry is truly appreciated. This is the last year for Sharon Bolyard and Kathy Selig to lead this ongoing mission project. THANK YOU, Sharon and Kathy, for your wonderful commitment to those in need and mission service through your church. (Our Missions and Outreach will lead our ongoing commitment to Breakthrough House.)

The Angel Tree will be set up soon in our church narthex. Please stop by and choose an ornament or ornaments that represent gifts needed by the youth of Fellowship and Faith and the families of Sullivan Chapel.

Fellowship & Faith is planning to help approximately 65 families through the Christmas Bureau this year, and they could use your help.

On December 3 and December 10, volunteers are needed between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon to prepare boxes of food and gifts for the families.

On December 17, volunteers are needed between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon to finish preparations and distribute the boxes to the families.

For more information please contact Kathy at Faith & Fellowship (785-354-7262) or Bev at 785-232-4213 or bevmccurdy@cox.net.

Any help you can provide would be appreciated very much!

We welcome our newest member!

Cinda Beatty joined our church Sunday morning, November 20, 2011. Cinda recently moved to Topeka from the Fort Worth, Texas area where she was a member of Alliance United Methodist Church. Cinda is now at home on Shiloh Court in Tecumseh. (For Cinda's contact information, please call the church office.) **Welcome to the SHUMC Family, Cinda!**



Thank You

The Finance Committee wants to thank you for your continual financial support of our church. Completed 2012 Ministry and Mission (pledge) cards will be consecrated during our morning worship on Sunday, November 27th. A special **Thank You!** to those who have returned completed pledge cards. Pledge cards are still available and may be placed in the offering plate this Sunday. We are truly grateful for all of those who support our church regularly.

On Friday, November 11, the **Heights of Learning Board of Directors** accepted the resignation of Kim Moege, who had been serving as Director of HOL. Virginia Naylor, who had been serving as Assistant Director, is now serving as Acting Director. The HOL Board of Directors will meet next on Monday evening, November 28th. Details of the process for identifying and hiring a new Director will be announced after that meeting. According to the HOL Bylaws, our SPRC Committee is responsible for filling this position. Representatives of SPRC and the HOL Board of Directors will work together in this process. If you know of anyone interested in this position, please call the church office. More information will be available very soon.

Are you interested?

John and Judy Reimer, former members of our church who now live in the McPherson, Kansas area, have a reservation for 2-bedroom condo in Branson, Missouri for December 10-17 that they are unable to use. They are willing to make this condo available to someone in the church for a much reduced rate. If you are interested, please email jandjreim@att.net

Dear Church Family,

Please join us in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Bruce and Brenda Price. Our celebration for them will be on New Year's Day from 2 - 4 pm in the church gymnasium. Appetizers, cake, and beverages will be served. Your presence is your present. We hope to see you there.

Love,

The Price Family

The Topeka Civic Theatre

Presents:



Our own Andrew Johnson has been cast as the young Scrooge in this production.

For more information and tickets, go to <http://www.topekacivictheatre.com/>

SHAWNEE HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**6020 SE 44th Street
Tecumseh, KS 66542**

Non Profit Org
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Tecumseh, KS 66542
Permit # 5

Return Service Requested

This newsletter was prepared especially for

Please notify church of address changes.

Christmas Eve at Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church

Saturday, December 24

7:00 p.m. Traditional Family Candlelight Service

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Communion

Morning worship on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th

will be held in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.

Joys and Concerns



December Birthdays:

1st	Carolee Dahl
2nd	Bob Ragan
3rd	Jon Hardesty Cindy Locey
4th	Ray Haywood John Leuszler
5th	Scarlett Ford
6th	Ben Taliaferro
8th	Melissa Lewis Alicia Nelson
9th	Jamin Landavazo Nita Roseberry Shane Warta
10th	Mason Burns Darcy Kraus Naida Swallow
11th	Mina Haywood Taylor Wilson
15th	Staci Fleischer Diana Warta
16th	Keesha Cooper Kay Hurford Brandon Lambrecht
17th	Linda Meredith
19th	Trey Shandy
21st	Karen Mace Phyllis Worthington
23rd	Lorene Cranwell Elizabeth Lane
24th	Ethel Wulfkuhle
27th	Pat Carrick
29th	Leah Everhart Dani Harris Ozzie Lane
31st	Colleen Brennan Chris Moore



happy anniversary

December Anniversaries:

18th	Bob & Jane Clelland
20th	Don & Annette Brownlee
22nd	Bill & Virginia Robinett
23rd	Robert & Kelly Badenoch
25th	Wayne & Ethel Wulfkuhle
31st	David & Toni Boyles Bruce & Brenda Price

We are a **Church Family in Prayer** for those with specific, immediate concerns and for those supported by our ongoing prayers. The most recent prayer requests are represented here in boldface print. *As we life others in prayer, so shall we be lifted.*

Kurt Budke
 Dave Engler
 Gale Kling
 Logan McCrory
 Myra Mohr
 Bruce Price
 Jean Ragan
 Christy Ruff
 Glenda Shepler
 Don Taliaferro
 Barry Wilt
 Terry and Beth Dahl
 Deb & Gary Dumas, friends of the Bolyards
 Kathy Griffith, Cindy Nelson's Mother
 Rebecca, Charles & Sophie Burgess, Cindy Nelson's sister and family
 Brody Keil, great-great nephew of the Fultons
 Beau McCure, great-nephew of Tami Fulton
 Lois Moss, grandmother of Tanner & Jake Moss
 Shari Lambrecht and family following the death of her mother, Nola Logan
 Jonah Johnson, Carrie Rutherford's great-nephew