



Loxley United Methodist Church

Church Family News

1062 S. Cypress Street, Loxley, AL 36551

251-964-5241

December 2011

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The Newsletter staff
would like to wish
everyone a Happy and
Blessed New Year.

WARRIOR'S PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
Your warrior prepares for battle.
Today I claim victory over Satan by putting on
the whole armor of God!

I put on the Girdle of Truth!
May I stand firm in the truth of Your Word
so I will not be a victim of Satan's lies.

I put on the Breastplate of Righteousness!
May it guard my heart from evil
so I will remain pure and holy,
protected under the blood of Jesus Christ.

I put on the Shoes of Peace!
May I stand firm in the Good News of the Gospel
so Your peace will shine through me
and be a light to all I encounter.

I take the Shield of Faith!
May I be ready for Satan's fiery darts of
doubt, denial and deceit
so I will not be vulnerable to spiritual defeat.

I put on the Helmet of Salvation!
May I keep my mind focused on You
so Satan will not have a stronghold on my thoughts.

I take the Sword of the Spirit!
May the two-edged sword of Your Word
be ready in my hands
so I can expose the tempting words of Satan.

By faith your warrior has put on
the whole armor of God!

I am prepared to live this day
in spiritual victory!

Amen

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THE PASTOR'S CORNER

2012 HIM

A couple of years ago we projected our growth and advancements as a church to include the removal of the parsonage, as the additional parking was obviously needed. I am still in agreement that we need better parking arrangements, but I believe God wants us to be about the business of Jesus Christ first. Rather than the “Field of Dreams” mentality – “If you build it they will come”, develop growth that would actually cause us to re-work our parking arrangements. Let us be about the business of building a church rather than a parking lot.

Also a couple of years ago the annual conference challenged the churches of the Alabama West Florida Conference to become Acts 2 churches. What does it mean to become an Acts 2 Church? *Acts 2: 1 all of them were together..., 4 they were filled with the spirit-which gave them ability..., 12 all were amazed, perplexed and said what does this mean..., 21 everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved., 38 repent and be baptized..., 40 save yourselves from this corrupt world..., 43 Awe came upon them..., 47 and day by day god added to their numbers those who were being saved.*

I believe God is going to rise up leadership within the four walls of our little church like has never been done before. I believe we are going to experience spiritual maturity in folks that didn't know they had it in them, because it will be of God and all we have to do is be willing to let God work in and through us. I stated earlier we need to be focused on “building a church”. This “building a church” is what it means when we say being about the business of Jesus Christ. God sent His Son because mankind is incapable of attaining that right relationship with God, on its own. Jesus Christ came, not because we deserved Him, but because of the Grace of God. Yet, we still have to choose to follow Christ, God doesn't force us to accept or follow Christ. The Bible is filled with promises and forgiveness offered by God but we must be willing to commit to following God's Word to receive these promises and forgiveness.

Being an Acts 2 church says we must be willing to be in the Word, always. We must be willing to learn God's Word, practice God's Word and share/teach God's Word to others. It all begins with one. One hour at a time leads to one day that leads to one week that leads to one month, you get the idea. It begins with one person as well and we teach that one to share as we have shared and each one will share with one more and before you know it we are an Acts 2 church and teaching others to do the same.

It is “2012 Him” – or if you spell it out 2 (to) 0 (owe) 1 (one) 2 (to) HIM- To owe one to Him. One at a time we can share what we are willing to learn about Jesus Christ with others then what is written will be who we are.

The New Year is about new patterns in our lives about new responsibilities, beginning with being responsible to ourselves. So, the question is presented to you this day in this New Year. What are you willing to do to begin your journey in giving your life to God? What are you willing to do in your lives, your families, and your church?

Inspirational Message

Torn from her family at age 18 in Poland and sold into slavery for 10 reichsmarks, Gerda Weissmann toiled for three years in a Nazi forced-labor camp under conditions of unimaginable depravity. As one of 2,000 girls on the "death march," fewer than 150

lived. Klein, liberated by US soldiers at the end of the war, was her family's sole survivor. She learned after the war that her parents died in the concentration camps in Auschwitz. She never found out how or where her brother died.

One day, amid the numbing cold of winter, gnawing hunger, and constant fear of death, her childhood friend, Ilse Kleinzahler, was stricken by a starkly beautiful image. Ilse found, laying in a gutter, a single bruised raspberry. Ilse delicately wrapped the fruit in a leaf that had gotten caught on a barbed-wire fence, and hid it in her pocket all day long.

Later, that night, she gave the raspberry to her best friend Gerda.

Ilse Kleinzahler died later during a three-month march of female prisoners from Germany to Czechoslovakia just before the end of World War II. But her gesture gave Gerda Weissmann faith in the "ultimate goodness of humanity," a belief that endures today, the 79-year-old Holocaust survivor -- who uses her married name, Klein. -- told Marlborough High School students last week.

When she was liberated, Gerda Weissman weighed only 68 pounds, had not bathed in three years, and her hair was a ghostly white. She was 20 years old.

Her friends act of kindness "illuminated a love and kinship that shone through the darkest nights", said Klein, who was also forced to make the brutal march. Ilse's "gift" lives on as a symbol of hope amid despair -- indeed, it is inscribed today on the New England Holocaust Memorial in Boston.

Submitted by: BD Thrasher



DIME is coming in February 2012. Believe me you don't want to miss out!

I am reminded of a conversation between Jesus and Peter; [John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep."]

Special Note of Thanks

Thank you so much to all who help with the meals delivered to 17 families. The smiles and hugs said it all. Each was full boxes of food, ham or turkey, rolls and a pie. These people needed our help and sent their thanks to all.

Our food pantry is bare. We need to start the first of the year filling it again. We always want to be able to help the people that need us. As a church with a big heart and a full pantry we can do it.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year, Willie and Mary Lois Bray

JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 AM Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 6 PM Bible Study Gospel of Mark	2	3 6 PM Boy Scouts	4 6 PM Wed. Night Dinner 6:30 Youth Meeting 7 PM Choir Practice	5 6 PM Girl Scouts	6 3 PM Girl Scouts	7
8 8 AM Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 6 PM Bible Study Gospel of Mark	9 6 PM Girl Scouts Service Unit	10 6 PM Boy Scouts Admin. Board Meeting	11 6 PM Wed. Night Dinner 6:30 Youth Meeting 7 PM Choir Practice	12 6 PM Girl Scouts	13 3 PM Girl Scouts	14
15 8 AM Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 6 PM Bible Study Gospel of Mark	16 6:30 PM UMW/UMM Meetings	17 6 PM Boy Scouts	18 6 PM Wed. Night Dinner 6:30 Youth Meeting 7 PM Choir Practice	19 6 PM Girl Scouts	20 3 PM Girl Scouts	21
22 8 AM Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 6 PM Bible Study Gospel of Mark	23	24 6 PM Boy Scouts	25 6 PM Wed. Night Dinner 6:30 Youth Meeting 7 PM Choir Practice	26 6 PM Girl Scouts	27 3 PM Girl Scouts	28
29 8 AM Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 6 PM Bible Study Gospel of Mark	30	31 6 PM Boy Scouts				

Those having Birthdays in December are:

3rd Judy Simpson, Margo Devine
 5th Cameron Harville, Noah Parker
 10th Gloria Wilson Hodges
 11th Louis Villanova, Sean Sinclair,
 Charles Robinson (ARC)
 12th Mark Henderson
 13th Sammy Hollis
 14th Scott Harville
 15th Claudia Swinney

17th Jessica Havard
 19th Todd Wilson
 20th Stan Godwin
 21st Marti Hammitte, Parker Parrott
 23rd Roger Hinote, Johnny Parker, Jr.
 24th Charlesten Quinby
 25th Krysti Nelson
 27th Kellee McBride

The following couples are celebrating their Anniversaries in December.

6th - Lisa & Michael Brown

22nd - Charlotte & Johnny Parker

Acolytes

*January 1
January 8
January 15
January 22
***January 29**

Ushers

Hayley Aycock
Brody Wilson
Cody Devine
Hayley Aycock
Emily Sinclair

Duane & Marlene Felch
Irvin Mosley & Bob Hughes
Jerry Feazell & Steve Wilson
Gordon Dyess & Don Myrick
Judy Baker & Irvin Mosley

If for some reason you cannot be present on the dates assigned to you, it is your responsibility to swap out with another person on the list. Be sure to call the church office to let them know in time to make the change in the church bulletin.

On communion Sunday four ushers may be needed, if so it is the responsibility of those assigned to draft two others.

Memorial Contributions

We want to thank Bill and Eunice Chavous for their generous contribution in memory of George and Lonie Devine.

Please help ensure the Food Pantry stays well stocked by bringing a non-perishable food item to each Wednesday Night gathering. The more food in the pantry the more people we can help.

Financial Report for the Month of December

December, 2011	Operating Budget	Building Fund	Designated Funds
Funds Needed	\$11,401.80	\$1,772.08	
Total Collections	\$14,901.09	\$1,550.00	\$23,873.14
Over/(Short)	\$3,499.29	(\$222.08)	
Annual Budget 2011	\$148,244.00	\$23,037.00	
Total Collections	\$138,262.32	\$23,926.28	\$40,908.99
Over/(Short)	(\$9,962.08)	\$889.24	

Note: \$20,000 of Designated Funds was donated for the Wednesday Night Gatherings.

Anyone wanting to submit articles or items for the newsletter is encouraged to do so by sending them to lumcnews@gmail.com or give them to anyone on the Newsletter Team: Bob Hughes, Tom Hammitte, Pastor Jim, Barbara Davis, BD Thrasher or Eric Hall.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Let me start out by saying: "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year"

The UMW would like to invite all the Ladies of the Church to come and see what all the UMW is about. We have a wonderful time of fellowship, food, mission programs, unit programs, etc.....We meet the 3rd Monday of each month @ 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

This coming year, instead of having hostesses for each month, all the Ladies will be the hostess. Each lady will bring a dish to share with the other Ladies and sometimes, we even invite the men over to enjoy it with us.

December was a busy month for the UMW, with Christmas Bazaar, selling of Poinsettias and baked goods, and last but not least Our Annual Christmas Dinner at O'Charley's in Daphne, AL. A great time was had by all.

Coming in January, I know we have a upcoming Baby shower in for Teri Lyn Waldrop.(date and time still to be determined).

If you would like to know more about the UMW, please contact Pam Knight, Judy Baker, Deloris Dyess, Diane McCrary or Barbara Davis.

UMW President
Pam Knight



UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM had a great year in 2011 and look forward to an even better 2012. We finished up our year with a very exciting December. Let me share some of what took place and offer this as an invitation to ALL the men of the church to come out and share in a time of fellowship with us every third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm.

November 26th found us hanging the greens after the pancake breakfast was prepared.

December 1st we went to Sam's and purchased the meat and supplies for the bazaar.

December 3rd began early as we had to cook thirty Boston Butts and get them chopped up in time to get home to watch the ball games on TV.

December 5th we spent a short time getting the FAC ready for the Mexican Consulate.

December 6th – 9th we helped direct some of the parking challenges and helped with a few other adjustments for our guests I the FAC.

December 6th Jerry, Tom, Jim and Lil Jamey painted Mater for the Christmas Float.

December 7th we moved some of the tables from the FAC to the small fellowship hall for the Wednesday night Dinner.

December 8th a couple of us went to Lowes and picked up a small storage unit for Barbara and made sure she had a secure pump house in place for the cold weather.

December 10th was another early morning as the Bazaar begins with a pancake breakfast and we have to get our famous BBQ in the slow cookers and get our assembly line in place for the crowds that come and get it.

December 12th a couple of us went out and purchased two angel tree gifts 1 boy-1 girl

December 13th we delivered the gifts to the school for them to distribute as needed
December 14th a few of us helped get the tables and chairs set out for our annual Wednesday night Christmas Dinner in the FAC
December 16th we got some of the items ready for our trip to Blue Lake and many attended the Church Dirty Santa Party.

December 17th another early start had some of the group headed to Andalusia to help with repairs at Blue Lake. We repaired light fixtures, lighted exit signs, repaired concrete steps with Quickcrete and assisted with misc. work in the kitchen. For four of the group this was their first time to experience Blue Lake, and that is what you do when you go there is experience it. We were greeted by five deer that actually made us slow down so they could cross the road in front of us near the director's cabin. The lake was gorgeous as the cool breeze rippled the blue-green water while there was no sunshine. There were only a handful of people on site and everyone was working in different areas. We had a very productive day and look forward to maybe adopting a cabin on behalf of the church that we can be responsible for.

December 19th found us celebrating our Christmas party in the fellowship hall with burgers, potato salad, chips and desert. We fellowshiped with each other and shared some of our favorite Christmas memories as we reminisced about the good old days.

December 20-31 will also hold a few activities for us as we will participate in caroling, Christmas Eve and day as well as making sure the greens come down in their usual fashion. We are going to renew our charter membership on January 1st which will allow us to be more involved on a district and conference level if we choose to participate in any of the programs. Our first meeting of the new year will be January 16th and all of the men in the church are encouraged to attend at 6:30 pm.



The Blue Lake Team (less Bob Hughes, who along with Jim repaired the concrete steps.)



Mater was our special guest for our Christmas Parade Float this year. The parade was awesome, especially (our float). The yard sale, Bake sale, Pancakes and BBQ's were very successful, as well.



Our Angel Tree Ministry blessed a lot of Children that would not have a happy Christmas without the gifts we gave them.



Ruben Dip

1 LB Sauerkraut drained/chopped—do not rinse
 ¾ LB Lean Corned Beef – chopped
 ½ LB Swiss cheese – chopped

1 – 8oz pkg. Cream cheese (fat free)
 1 TBS. Ketchup
 ½ TBS. Mustard

Chop and mix all ingredients and microwave until all cheeses are melted – make this a day prior to serving as it gives the flavors time to blend. I like to serve this with little pieces of rye or pumpernickel bread.

Submitted by: Marti Hammitte (for those who like sauerkraut this will make a great Super Bowl Party Dip)

WORD SEARCH

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the puzzle below. Words are down, across, diagonal, and backwards. You will find a list of these words in the word box at the bottom of the page.

F	E	M	A	N	E	T	S	T	B	C	G	H	P	F	Z
E	C	A	E	E	D	C	R	R	L	E	T	A	L	I	P
U	I	R	A	B	Y	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	X
W	F	Y	H	X	K	B	U	E	J	Z	W	T	S	H	O
V	I	N	T	B	E	A	N	O	I	N	T	F	N	E	Z
T	R	L	A	V	B	N	U	I	K	O	N	S	O	R	S
S	C	A	M	T	X	G	N	G	A	Z	E	R	I	M	Y
R	A	U	I	F	N	E	W	O	H	C	E	G	R	E	F
Q	S	B	R	N	I	L	V	P	I	T	N	Z	U	N	I
O	E	S	A	E	C	S	N	Y	E	S	R	A	T	T	C
N	C	P	F	X	O	B	S	Y	J	O	N	A	N	G	U
P	A	B	O	U	D	M	N	Z	H	N	E	E	E	Y	R
M	I	Q	H	H	E	O	Q	T	B	K	V	I	C	N	C
L	A	N	P	B	M	T	G	O	V	X	A	H	J	S	T
F	P	W	E	I	U	O	J	S	U	S	E	J	G	D	A
A	H	V	S	O	S	Q	U	Z	N	B	H	N	I	Z	L
C	A	D	O	U	B	T	I	N	G	T	H	O	M	A	S
D	S	X	J	N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R

WORD BOX

1. ANGELS	7. CRUCIFY	13. HOPE	19. PILATE
✓2. ANOINT	8. DISCIPLES	14. JESUS	20. RESURRECTION
3. ASCENSION	9. DOUBTING	15. JOSEPH OF	21. SACRIFICE
4. BRIBE	THOMAS	ARIMATHAEA	22. SIMON PETER
5. CAIAPHAS	10. EARTHQUAKE	16. MARY	23. SPICES
6. CENTURIONS	11. FISHERMAN	17. NETS	24. TOMB
	12. HEAVEN	18. NICODEMUS	

Kids Corner

(And big kids who like word search.)

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1062 S. Cypress Street
Loxley, AL 36551

Loxley United Methodist Church
Rev. Jim Batchelor
251-964-5241

Email: loxleyumc@gulftel.com
Web Site: www.loxleyumc.org