

Non Profit
US Postage Paid
Bloomington, Illinois
Permit No. 10

Return Service Requested



February 2012

Special points of interest:

- Did You Know???
- Money Matters
- February Birthdays
- Pastor Andy's Trivia

From Mary Alice . . .

First off, I want to say thank you, thank you, thank you to all the kids, youth, and adults who put in time and effort to help with the Christmas Cantata. It went so well and I thought told the story of Jesus' birth beautifully! The singing of the choir, kids choir and the congregation was also lively and lovely, adding to the experience. I'm glad many of you really seemed to enjoy it. I will be gone most of January because I will be taking a Greek class at my seminary in St. Louis, but I will miss you all and will see you in February!

A word about the holidays: The holidays are a joyful and wonderful time for many of us because we get to see family and friends and celebrate. For many though, they are also a difficult time. Christmas and New Year's Day are often times when we would have celebrated with family and friends that have passed on and

missing them can feel like it leaves a hole in our lives and the holidays. It is important to remember during the holidays that it's okay and normal to grieve for those who have gone before us, that we loved so dearly. Take time out for yourself and as a family to remember those you love. My family tries to remember my Grandparents who have passed not only by talking about them, but by singing the Christmas carols we all loved to sing together. So, if you had a blue Christmas, that's okay, just try not to let it lead to a blue New Year by helping yourself. Just remember that talking and remembering with others helps, so call your friends and neighbors or come to church and be social. All these can help us in dark days and nights.

Christmas, with all its presents, trimmings, and trappings that we like to throw in from Santa and celebrate, can often be hard on our wallets. For

some of us this means not eating out as often, but for others it is a real stress and hardship. We collect hats and mittens and items for families, but we must also be cognizant of those among us and close to us who may not be able to afford all that we can. As the bitter cold sets in, energy and gas bills are higher and hard to pay for many. I would challenge all of us to continue to hold to giving Christmas spirit in our hearts as we go into the New Year, remembering those out in the cold and with little food, most especially. May you have a happy New Year! Blessings one and all!

Peace,
Mary Alice Suter



New Directions

Did You Know???

Answered Prayers -

The church has an "Answered Prayers" wreath. The wreath is located on the west wall as you enter the Sanctuary. So every time God has answered your prayer, place a silk flower in the wreath in thanks and praise to God.

Every Sunday the sound tech records the service -

If you missed a Sunday, or if you wanted to again enjoy the music and the sermon, you could request a copy of the service.

Thank You

Thanks so much for your sympathy cards, phone calls, visits and prayers at the time of Denny's illness and death.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness and

Money Matters As of December 31, 2011

GENERAL FUND	JAN/DEC BUDGET	JAN/DEC ACTUAL
Receipts	\$245,000	\$251,875
Disbursements	\$243,425	\$246,703

Thank you for your financial support. Year-end financial reports are available in the annual report mailed to all members.



A basket located on the sound console contains request forms. Fill out the form and either put it in the collection plate or give to the sound tech. John Otto will then burn a CD for you to enjoy or share.

Pastor Andy's sermons will soon be on our website -

Stay tuned!

concerns at this difficult time.

*Margie Marquardt,
Diane Swanson &
Families*

Save these Dates!

April 20th - 22nd
Women's Retreat at
Pilgrim Park, Princeton, IL

April 27th - 28th
Spring Group & Bake Sale

With Sympathy -
Some of you might remember, Dorothy Ruth Shinn. She moved to Toulon, IL to be near her family. Dorothy passed away in December, 2011.

Also, Francis Sprague passed away in Roseville, IL.

Congratulations to Victoria & Graham Cowger! They are the proud parents of Elliott Matthew born January 11, 2012 weighing 7lbs 5 oz.

He is the little brother of Alex.

February Birthdays

Heather Burns - 1
Stuart Tabor - 3
Robert Little - 8
Dick Rice - 8
Charles McLean - 9
Kyle Strong - 10
Michael Verplaetse - 10
Braxton Campbell - 12
Doris Koppersmith - 13
Ryan Tarter - 14
Selma Feicke - 16
John Otto - 16
Dick Swanson - 16
Seth Baker - 18
Jessie Cavitt - 19
Olivia Hamilton - 19

Thank You

Thank you for the cards, calls and visits while I was in the hospital and since returning home.

Ed Bork

Pastor Andy's Trivia

Did you guess the answer to the January trivia question?

In what book of the Bible do we read the words, "For the love of money is the root of all evil?"

Pauline Justin - 23
Christopher Povilaitis - 23
Carol AuYeung - 24
Arnold Hering - 24
Miles Keeton - 24
Marcia Nagy - 24
Theodore Streenz - 27
Ellen Marquardt - 28
Carson Schaefer - 28

No February Anniversaries!



I would like to thank everyone for the thoughts, prayers and cards after the death of my brother, Morris (Bud) Blair a week ago. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Chris Bateman

You are invited to celebrate Pauline Justin's 90th birthday, Saturday, February 25th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at St. Luke Union Church.

No gifts please.

1 Timothy 6:10

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains."

Evelyn Thomas was the lucky winner again!

Congratulations Evelyn!

February Trivia Question

Who was Azazel and what was his function?