

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

The March to the Manger changed my Christmas when I first experienced it in 1972. I've seen the same changing joy on the faces of people at Paradise. We will share this special time at worship on December 22. Here are a few things to remember:

Your gift is for Jesus for his birthday. Many of you have been planning the amount of this gift all year long. If you have not made this decision, spend time in prayer. Ask God how to determine an amount that would help you feel good.

Place your monetary gift in a white envelope. White is the symbol of victory and also the purity of Christ. Put a red bow or ribbon on it. The red reminds us that Jesus's gift to us was his blood upon the cross.

During the last hymn in the worship service, you may bring your gift to the manger at the front of the church. You may give a gift as a family or each family member give their own.

This service has been so meaningful to my family that we will be there to share it with you because of the blessing we receive. It is Pastor Judy's Sunday to preach so I could attend somewhere else, but I need to be with you that day. "O Come Let Us Adore Him."

Pastor Larry

MEN OF PARADISE

Paradise Men's Group will meet on Monday, December 2, at 6:30p.m. at the church. We will continue our study of Genesis and will pick up our study at Chapter 32. All men are

encouraged to bring a bible and join us for informal study and fellowship.

OUTREACH/MISSIONS

In November, we collected 141 cans of soup and approximately \$15 worth of other items for the Food Pantry. The December collection for the Food Pantry is cereal and the monetary collection for December is for NO MORE MALARIA.

Thank you for your continued support of these mission projects. If you have questions or suggestions regarding any of the collections or mission projects, please contact Linda East or a member of the Outreach and Missions Committee.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

December 24 at 7:00p.m. we will gather in the sanctuary for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are planning a simple service with the singing of carols, some special music, the Scripture of the Christmas Story, Communion, and lighting of our individual candles as we sing "Silent Night."

This is one of the highlights of our year with family and friends gathering with smiles on their faces. Bring your family and invite others to join us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Fellowship Sunday is on December 8 at 10:00a.m. Come join us for breakfast and an opportunity to catch up on the news, as well as get to know fellow church members.

The Sunday School class is working on the book **Confronting the Controversies - Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues** by Adam Hamilton. We have books available and everyone is invited to participate.

DECEMBER MESSAGES

December 1 (Larry) - **“Wake Up”** from Romans 13:11-14;

December 8 (Judy) - **“Abounding in Hope”** from Romans 15:4-13;

December 15 (Larry) - **“Messenger”** from Matthew 11:2-11;

December 22 (Judy) - **“Called to be Saints”** from Romans 1:1-7; and

December 29 – (Laity) – Expect lots of carols.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Adopt-A-Highway trash pickup will be held on Sunday, December 8, weather permitting. Please plan to meet at the church at 9:00a.m. to gather supplies and get organized. We should be done in time to join in Fellowship Sunday at 10:00a.m.

POTLUCK MEAL

Due to the busy holiday season, there will not be a potluck meal in December after the worship service. However, plan on one in January!

VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED

At the beginning of the year, the church will be in need of a volunteer, or volunteers, to clean the church. If you are interested in helping out with this need or have questions about it, please see Randy Heilman.

PRAYER PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

At Charge Conference, the churches present were paired up as prayer partners for 2014. We will be praying for Weston United Methodist Church and the church in Plattsburg will be praying for us. We are to send two individuals to Weston to worship with them and pray for them. Plattsburg will do the same for us. So, please

plan to add the Weston church and its members to your prayers in 2014.

MONTHLY REPORT

The Monthly Report as of November 27, 2013, is as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$12,724.92
Offering:	+\$3,899.00
Expenses:	-\$3,677.36
Final Balance:	\$12,946.59

There is a discrepancy in the beginning balance noted above and the ending balance reported for October because the monthly report for October had not been finalized when the November Greeter was disseminated.