



# The Dexter Connection

*Loving, Learning, and Living in Christ*

## Christmas

“And the angels said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11 KJV

In a short time Christmas will be here! The *Good News* of Christmas is Christ came on earth to reveal an extraordinary message -- the message of love, joy and happiness. Christ asks us to have love for one another, to be reconciled to one another, and to accept one another.

Christmas is often an exciting and fulfilling time for us with opportunities to visit family and friends and also celebrate the greatest gift of all -- the birth of God’s only son, Jesus. We also recognize that the Christmas Season can bring feelings of loneliness. We miss those who have gone ahead of us to eternal life. We miss those who will not be home for Christmas.

Dear friends, I invite you to pray with me for our brothers and sisters, who are physically sick, sick of heart, homebound, and residing in nursing homes and other care facilities.

Each of us has been entrusted with a special gift -- a sacred responsibility to show others how the mystery of God revealed in the Christ Child of Bethlehem is among us.

*Michael*



## Our Prayer Ministry

### Current Prayer Requests

Debbie Anderson, family of George Baker, Rob Callahan, family of Kenneth Dock, Virginia Gaines, Weston Jarrell, Sarah Jarrell, Baby Evie Kaster, Deana Jones, Lynda Lovins, Cliff Manlove, Joyce McQuary, Jo Pankey, Wes Pankey, Charlie Rimel, Virginia Simmons, Janie Smelser

### Our Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Kirby & Betsy Taylor upon the death of their uncle, George Baker, and to Joyce O'Reilly upon the death of her father, Kenneth Dock.

### Special Giving

In memory of Larry Matthews: Charlie & Jana Flannigan, Don & Deana Jones. In memory of Ann Lyon: Peggy Matthews. In memory of Tom Patten: Lehman & Verna Godwin.

### Care Center Residents

Golden Living Center: Peggy Matthews

Central Gardens: Gordon & Mary Hill, Charlene Robertson

Cypress Point: Karen Tippen, Imogene Arnold, Wilma Quick, Kathryn Boyt

Crowley Ridge: Joyce Wamble, Lucille White, J.C. Larsen, Dalora Schmittzehe

Ratliff Care Center: Rena Ellis

Bloomfield Golden Living Center: Joyce McQuary

### Remember those in our Armed Services

Katie Alsup, Rose Blackman, Travis Choat, Cody Conner, Dr. David Mathis, Michael Fisher, Jessica Freeman, Chris Gerecke, Justin Hunsperger, Tyler Inman, Rachel Long, Scott Mattingly, Todd McGhee, Elliott Miller, Christopher Simmering, Luke Snider, Sarah & Jamie Sparks, Owen Stephens, Zach Taylor, Dr. Joseph Thompson, David Wilcoxson, Matt Worley.

## Children & Youth

### Wednesday Activities

*Kingdom Kids & UMY will not meet on December 27 or 28. We will resume on January 4.*

### Sunday Worship

*There will be no Children's Church or Youth Worship on December 25 or January 1. We will resume our regular Sunday schedule on January 8.*

## The Giving Tree

There are still a few cards left on the Giving Tree. Select one and place your name and information on half the ornament and drop it in the box provided near the tree. Keep the other half and attach it to your gift. Two needy families with children in Southwest school along with the Mother to Mother Program and the Stoddard County Children's Home will be the recipients of your generosity. Ornaments for the Children's Home will say gift card. These cards enable the house parents to take the children out for a special meal or to purchase items as they are needed. (Even if you don't select an ornament, extra gift cards are always welcome.) Please return your gifts to the church by Sunday, December 18. Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little brighter for a child in need.

## From Our Choir Director

Our 2011 Christmas Cantata was a great success. Thanks to everyone who came out for one of the performances and special thanks to those who came back a second time to bring family and friends. I want to thank Phil & Marge Elam for their work with the choir; Jerry Overfelt & Harold Barks for assembling the new risers; the men who helped with moving the choir chairs & risers; Jerry Overfelt for removing & storing the risers; Donna Keller for designing a flyer; Kristi Williams for running off the flyers; Shirley Alexander & the kids for distributing the flyers; Judy Rimel & her cookie crew for providing refreshments after the 5:30 presentation; and Charles & Norma Boyles for hosting the choir party.

To the entire choir and our soloists -- thank you for your hard work the last 2 1/2 months. Now, relax and enjoy the holidays!

MaryRuth Boone



## Poinsettias

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**In honor of the Agape Circle**  
Nathan & Riley Dillinger

**In memory of our grandmother, Thelma Riggins**  
Amanda Sullivan, Mattie Taylor, Riley Dillinger, Zach Taylor

**In memory of Nelson Dukes**  
Tony, Robin, Riley, Tanner Rickman

**In memory of Fred & Dorthy Griggs**  
Jim & Brenda LaBrot

**In memory of Harold & Edna LaBrot**  
Jim & Brenda LaBrot

**In memory of Marie Thomas**  
Jim & Brenda LaBrot

**In memory of Larry Matthews &  
in honor of Peggy Matthews**  
Vicky Bryant

**In memory of Gene & Frankie Williams**  
Mike & Kristi Williams

**In memory of Raymond & Mae Wilson and  
Russell & Delours Long**  
Mike & Kristi Williams

**In memory of Ann Earls Lyon**  
Larry & Loretta Reid

**In honor of Marv & Rita Ferguson**  
Karen & Ron Peters

**In honor of Kristi Williams**  
Elmer & Virgie Wilson

**In memory of loved ones**  
Elmer & Virgie Wilson

**In honor of family & friends**  
Ralph & Shelia Jackson

**In memory of loved ones**  
Ralph & Shelia Jackson

**In honor of Shelia Jackson, YES Class Teacher**  
Donna Keller

**In honor of Kristi Williams**  
Donna Keller

**In memory of Joyce Weber**  
Joe & Beth Weber

**In memory of Robert & Aline MacDonald**  
Joe & Beth Weber

**In memory of Ernest & Gladys Weber**  
Joe & Beth Weber

## A Meaningful Holiday Gift Heifer International

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Take part in a growing holiday tradition by giving gifts that help those in need through Heifer International. Heifer's values-based training ignites the transformational thinking and disciplined behavior that is necessary for Heifer participants to escape poverty for good. For each gift of \$10 or more, you will receive an Honor Card for your family and/or friends. Please contact the church office at 624-3344 to give a gift or for more information. Checks should be made payable to Dexter UMC.

## Births

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Congratulations to Brad and Sarah Jarrell upon the birth of a son, Weston Kent, on December 5. Weston weighed in at 8 pounds and 9 ounces even though he was 4 weeks early. He is welcomed by big brother, Walker, and proud grandparents, Kent & Ann Polsgrove.

## Agape Circle Christmas Party



The Agape Circle will have their annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 18, at the home of Kyra Taylor, 304 South One Mile Road. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. Please bring finger foods to share and a gift for Dirty Santa.

## Memorial Service

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A memorial service for Tom Patten will be held at our church on Saturday, December 17. Visitation will be at 10:00 a.m. with the memorial service conducted by Pastor Woods immediately following at 11:00 a.m.

# First United Methodist Church

W. Michael Woods, Pastor

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## Next Issue - December 28

Address Correction Requested



**Joy To The World**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
Saturday, December 24  
6:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day Worship**  
Sunday, December 25  
10:30 a.m.

The illustration depicts a nativity scene with a bright yellow star above a stable. Inside the stable, the Virgin Mary is kneeling on the left, the infant Jesus is lying in a manger in the center, and Joseph is standing on the right. The background is a light beige color.