



The Ivy Vine

January 2012

Start Anew

T rue listening is met with much silence. Listening for angel words is no exception. This is a specialty. Listening for angel words is *watching with our hearts*. Angel words are subtle. This is the way God often communicates. Yes, God is still speaking. Many times, God speaks softly and subtly.

An echo of God's Old Testament Prophets is heard in the final book of the Bible. As we sang together on Christmas Day, "Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind." And sure enough, there it is in the prophecy of Isaiah: "Behold, I am doing a **new thing**. Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

The Prophet Jeremiah also speaks of this originality of God! "Set up landmarks for yourself, make yourself guideposts; consider well the highway, the road by which you went...How long will you waver?...For God has created a new thing in earth." (Jeremiah 31:21-22) Additionally, Jeremiah speaks of the "**New Gate** of the Lord's house" (Jeremiah 26:10 and 36:10).

We are familiar with how to 'refresh' a website on the Internet. Click on the circular arrow. Well, the Prophet Ezekiel describes the way God 'refreshes' people: "And I will give them a new heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will take the stony heart out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they

may walk in my statutes and keep my ordinances and obey them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God." (Ezekiel 11:19-20) For emphasis, Ezekiel rehearses this theme two more times in his prophecy (Ezekiel 18:30-32 and 36:25-28).

Ultimately, John of Patmos envisions the fulfillment of God's New Heaven and New Earth, describing "a great voice from the throne" (Revelation 21:3)—presumably Christ—proclaiming, "Behold, God is with humankind. God will dwell with them, and they will be God's people, and God will be with them." Next, this voice proclaims, "**Behold, I make all things new.**" (Revelation 21:5)

Oh, that you and I will "**be** God's people"! We are capable. So let's go for it! Let's **live** our faith. Let's give God our all. Faithfully **living as God's people** contributes to the well-being of all life!

A calendar year ends. Seasons come and go. The steadfast love of God never comes to an end. Soon the Twelve Days of Christmas (December 25-January 5) will conclude. Yet, even as the holy days of this Christmas Season conclude, may

we realize as Ann Weems writes, "It Is Not Over." With God, all things are "ever-new." Each end is not a "Finish Line" but a "Starting Line."



pastordan@ivy-chapel.org



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Ready. Set. "Go, and do likewise."

Together, let's make this our 2012 New Year's Resolution: **Start over. Start now. Love God. Follow Christ. Serve others.**

Pastor Dan

"It Is Not Over" by Ann Weems
[from **Kneeling in Bethlehem**]

It is not over,
this birthing.
There are always newer skies
into which
God can throw stars.
When we begin to think
that we can predict the Advent of God,
that we can box Christ
in a stable in Bethlehem,
that's just the time
that God will be born
in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.
Those who wait for God
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
listening
always listening
for angel words.

PLANNING JANUARY 2012

Tuesday, January 3, Board Reports Due

Monday January 9, 7pm, All Boards Meeting
(put your events on the main calendar)

Sunday January 22, Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Our Sympathies to...

...Brenda Otterson, family and friends of the passing of her mother, Wilba L. Grotts, who died on Sunday, November 27, 2011.

...Jamie Del Carmen and family of the passing of his wife Evelyn Del Carmen, on Saturday, December 10, 2011 .

Thank you...

...for all of your kind thoughts, prayers and help by from my Ivy Chapel family. A special thanks to Care Corps and those that stayed at the house while I was busy with the funeral for my mother Wilba Grotts. **Brenda Otterson**

...for a Beautiful Gift for the Altar. We praise God for our church's lovely, new altar parament! This is a parament specially designed for the Christmas Season. It depicts the Holy Family on a white background. White is the liturgical color for Christmas. The parament was first placed on God's altar for Christmas Eve Worship. Thank you to the Ivy Chapel UCC member who anonymously donated this beautiful gift.

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."*



The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." Luke 2:22-35

*The Nunc Dimittis: used as post-communion canticle in worship liturgies.



Ivy Youth in Action January 2012



JANUARY IS ALL CHURCH BOWLING MONTH!!!



The Youth of Ivy are again sponsoring our annual **ALL CHURCH BOWLING ACTIVITY on Sunday, January 8 following worship!!** All of the people of Ivy Chapel UCC (Pre-K through adult!) are invited to attend this fun fellowship time together. In the past we've had quite a few adults come along, so feel free to join the fun! Bring money for lunch at the bowling alley or eat before you come. Times and prices will be printed in the IYIA purple sheet in the Sunday bulletin.

ATTENTION SR. HIGH YOUTH: ANNUAL MEETING CATERING

As is our tradition, the *Sr. High Youth* will be catering Ivy Chapel's Annual Meeting luncheon on January 22. We need ALL of the Sr. High youth (and parents) to help make this event a success. Watch the purple sheet in the Sunday bulletin and your e-mail for more information.

Looking ahead to February:

Lambs Genesis Swim Party sponsored by the Heend Family, date TBD

Feb. 5 – Souper Bowl of Caring

Feb. 5 - Alpha-Omega/Ark Laser Tag sponsored by the Wilking family

Feb. 24/25 - World Vision Famine Lock-in



February 5, 2012

CONFERENCE YOUTH EVENT 2012

THIS event USUALLY takes place IN over PRESIDENT'S Day
HopeFULLy We'LL Have More INFORMATION COMING SOON.
CONTACT LINDA LOWRY IF you're INTERESTED IN going.

The Note



Anna DiVesta - Minister of Music
music@ivychapel.org

Again, this month I found my mind wandering during my practice sessions. I am really so thankful to have a nice quiet place to practice and reflect especially since my days are usually full of screaming. (As many of you parents know not all screaming is bad...in fact, most of it is playful or screams of joy, but screaming nonetheless) So, I am so incredibly blessed to have such a quiet place to practice. Practicing is something that can never happen in the same room as Miller. Either he HAS to be playing that very instant (he'll even take my hands off the keyboard as if to say...no, mom, let me.) or he has to have 100% of your attention at that particular moment. I am off track once again. Back on topic, I was rehearsing some of our Christmas hymns. We've all sung them officially a bagillion times, but when was the last time you really read the words? You know what I mean. When was the last time you thought about what you were saying instead of just reciting them? Specifically, I was drawn to the words of "Joy to the World" which I have officially declared my favorite hymn this Christmas season (it changes all the time). Specifically, the words, "Let every heart prepare Him room." We have to prepare ourselves for Christ to come into our lives. We are so busy with the hustle and bustle of everyday life, sometimes, we forget to leave Him room in our lives. So, this Christmas season, this year, our lifetimes, let's vow to always leave Him room.

Well, the cantata is here and gone, and I cannot say how incredibly proud I am of the choir. All participants of this year's cantata have certainly made my first cantata at Ivy Chapel memorable. The difficult part of asking for everyone's input on which songs to include is that we included many "show-stopping" numbers. Therefore, we had our work cut out for us. Regardless, it sounded great, and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. I could not have organized it without everyone's help, patience and effort. So, thank you to everyone who made this year's cantata possible.

Also, I've heard through the grapevine that we have some good singers among us (in addition to the great voices already in the choir). Now is a great time to join us. I understand busy schedules, and I understand if you

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Scripture & Worship

JANUARY 1, 2012 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7,
Luke 2:22-40



JANUARY 8, 2012 THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST
Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7,
Mark 1:4-11

JANUARY 15, 2012 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20], Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18,
1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51



JANUARY 22, 2012 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12,
1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

JANUARY 29, 2012 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111,
1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

CHRIST REVEALED...

Epiphany means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." During this time we remember the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King. The colors of Epiphany and The Baptism of Christ are usually the colors of Christmas, white and gold, representing a celebration of newness, and hope. These are marked as some of the most sacred days of the church year. See: <http://www.crivoice.org/cyepiph.htm>

Fellowship

GOOD EATS!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CHILI SUPPER



This bi-annual event is Saturday, the 18th of February from 4:00-7:30pm.

More details to follow.

If you would like to help,
please contact:

Debbie Glenn at 314-576-3991, or
Nancy Gerdes at 314-542-0263.



2012 A NEW-YEAR-ACTIVITIES

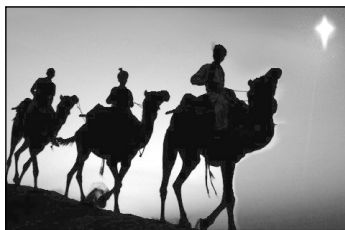
Do you have any ideas for fellowship activities for next year . . . Maybe attend a baseball game to watch the World Champion Cardinals? Catch a Muny production? Tour the Hill? Mud Wrestling?

E-mail Debbie Washburn debrusswashburn@gmail.com,
so the Fellowship Committee can plan in January.

Mary^{and}Martha Group

We will meet on Tuesday January 17th at 1:00 p.m. to evaluate our first year and plan for the second one. Please bring note cards (4 or 5) to write notes to the women of Lydia's House. We will have refreshments to celebrate our first year as a group of Christian Women working together.

At our November Meeting our Guest Speakers were Chaplain Julie Jennings and Activities and Volunteer Coordinator, Kaysi Rinks from Every Child's Hope (formerly Evangelical Children's Home) who discussed the many ways they are helping children. They have many outreaches into the community as well as the residential children. The Women's Group gave them several bags of Christmas gift wrapping supplies which they indicated would be helpful. Presents for the children must arrive unwrapped and then are wrapped by the Staff and, also, the children may wrap presents for their family members, etc.



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ... He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. Matthew 2:1-2, 7-12

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can't make every Wednesday rehearsal or every Sunday performance. That doesn't mean I wouldn't love to have you when you CAN make it. We are always looking to add to our choir roster. If you are interested, please see me or any choir member!

Finally, if you would like to participate in our music ministry in any other way, I am always looking for new ideas to get more people involved. Some ideas include, instrumental solo, duet, trio, small ensemble, vocal solo, duet, small ensemble, dance, etc. The possibilities are endless! Let me know if you are interested or have any other ideas :)

Smiles, Anna-

Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ
and
the Saint Louis Association
of the Missouri Mid-South Conference
United Church of Christ

Joyfully invite you to celebrate

the

**Ordination
of
Laura Mignerone**

Sunday, January 29, 2012

3:00 p.m.

Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ
620 North Woods Mill Road
Chesterfield, Missouri

Clergy are invited to robe
and to wear red stoles.
A reception will follow worship.

FYI this month



Happy Anniversary and
God's Blessings to...

1/15/1971 Michael and Donna Grote



Happy Birthday and
God's Blessings to...

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 4 Sue Wilson | 23 Judy Hertenstein |
| 7 Jim Wilkins | 26 Jo Epping |
| 15 Skylar Droege | 27 Joan Wendt |
| 17 Tara Lowry | 29 Robin Fliehman |
| 20 Beth Noonan | 29 Debbie Glenn |
| 20 Janet Wilking | 29 Alexander Wilking |
| 20 Marg Ivey | |

To see this newsletter in **color** you can view and download it from our website at <http://www.ivychapel.org/>

WHAT IF...you named IVY as one of the beneficiaries of your estate or you set up a charitable gift annuity?

Serving God's People:

God has called us to our positions, and we rejoice when we are able to serve God in these places of ministry.

If there is some way in which our staff may be of help to you, please contact us at 314-434-4991.

Pastor Dan Wilson: pastordan@ivychapel.org 314-580-4564 Linda Lowry: linda@ivychapel.org
 Anna DiVesta: music@ivychapel.org Frieda Clark: ivychapelucc@ivychapel.org
 Monday/Friday 8:30AM-3PM Tuesday/Thursday 8:30AM-2:30PM

➤ **NEED TO BORROW** Chairs or Tables? Please call Ralph Weiland 314-878-3230.

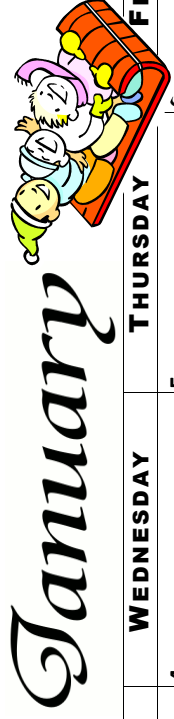
CARE CORPS

January: LEADER Julie McAllister 314-576-4946 **CO-LEADER** Marsha Ramey 636-405-2576
February: LEADER Gail Thoele 314-576-0091 **CO-LEADER** Dottie Foster 314-878-4286

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP REMINDERS ARE E-MAILED OR MAILED EVERY TUESDAY.							
PLEASE TRADE WITH SOMEONE, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ASSIST. PLEASE INFORM THE OFFICE ASSISTANT OF CHANGES.							
DATE	NURSERY	ACOLYTE	WELCOMER	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGIST	COFFEE
2012 Jan 1	Erin Winship, Alicia Carr	Brooke Hilton	Jan Wirtz	Gail Thoele, Brenda Otterson	Ashwath, Malvika Sampath	Carl Ramey	Buente Family
TEAM 3: Marsha Ramey (Cpt), Mike Tichy, Celeste Tichy, Steve Lowry, Johanna or Sarah Wilson, Russ and Debbie Washburn, Gail Thoele							
Jan 8	Beverly Govreau, Maggie Olver	Calvin Heend, Michael Pfau	Marsha Ramey	Jan Wirtz, Margaret Herb	Dottie French, Kathryn Kuntzman	Donnagail Carr	Betty Lindhorst, Rose Share
Jan 15	Sally Dodge, Maggie Olver	Gloria Wintrode	Kay Kreder	Nancy and Mark Gerdes	Jo Ann, Chris Moody	Kevin Wilking	Noonan-Pfau Family
Jan 22	Jo Ann Moody, Sarah Wilson	Emily Pfau	Jan Wirtz	Diane Droege, Gail Thoele	Debbie, Tom Glenn	Peter LaSalle	Wintrode Family
Jan 29	Jennifer Wintrode	Skylar Droege	Earl Kreder	Gary, Sue Lindhorst	Jack, Nancy Litzinger	John Weiland	Curt, Jennifer Wintrode
Feb 5	Erin Winship, Alicia Carr	Calvin Heend	Donnagail Carr	Dotty French, Kathryn Kuntzman	Gary, Sue Lindhorst	Tara Lowry	Hertenstein Family
Feb 12	Beverly Govreau, Maggie Olver	Emily Pfau	Marsha Ramey	Nellie Mc Neal, JoAnn Moody	Pat Samel, Jan Wirtz	Malvika Sampath	Annie Sampath, Gail Thoele
Feb 19	Sally Dodge, Maggie Olver	Brooke Hilton	Kay Kreder	Rudi, Heide Lauer	Jack, Ann Molyneaux	Cindy Foster	Buente Family
Ash Wed Feb 22	_____	_____	_____	_____	Marsha Ramey, Nancy Litzinger	Ann Molyneaux	_____
Feb 26	JoAnn Moody, Sarah Wilson	Skylar Droege	Judy Hertenstein	Marsha Ramey, Sally Dodge	Mike, Celeste Tichy	Jason Lowry	Betty Lindhorst, Rose Share

Because things change please CONSULT the church Office calendar before you schedule a group event. *Even for away events.* If your group has a calendar change please let the church office know.

See Flower Chart in Fellowship Hall about flowers for the Sanctuary.



January

2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1 st S after Christmas-Whit New Year's Day NO Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/w LS, SS	2 Office Closed	3 Annual Reports Due Christian Education Meeting 7pm	4 CC Rehearsal 7pm	5	6 The Epiphany of our Lord	7
8 1 st S after the Epiphany-Whit Baptism of Our Lord 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/SS Christian Action Mtg 11:15am ALL CHURCH BOWLING-PP Newsletter articles due	9 ALL BOARDS Meeting 7pm	10	11 CC Rehearsal 7pm	12 Trustee Meeting 7:30pm	13	14
15 2 nd S after the Epiphany-Grm 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/SS	16 Council Meeting 7pm	17 M&M Meeting 1pm	18 CC Rehearsal 7pm Men's Luncheon 11:30am At Sammy Scott's on Olive at Mason	19	20	21
22 3 rd S after the Epiphany-Grm 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/SS Annual Meeting / Luncheon	23 Deacon's Meeting 7pm	24	25 CC Rehearsal 7pm	26	27	28
29 4 th S after the Epiphany-Grm 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/SS 3pm Ordination of Laura Mignerone	30	31	FEBRUARY 1 CC Rehearsal 7pm	FEBRUARY 2 The Presentation of Our Lord	FEBRUARY 3	FEBRUARY 4

See People Pages for these:	AA=A Alcoholics Anonymous CA=Christian Action CE=Christian Education EMMP=Eric Moody Memorial Pavilion	F & F Choir=Friends and Family Choir FH = Fellowship Hall KYP=KEEPING YOU POSTED LL=LOWER LEVEL	LS=THE LORD'S SUPPER M&M=MARY AND MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP SS=SUNDAY SCHOOL	PP=PURPLE PAGES
Feb. 5 – Souper Bowl of Caring	Monday Jazzercise 5:45am Jazzercise 8:30/9:30am AA 1pm Jazzercise 4:30/5:45pm	Tuesday Jazzercise 8:30/9:30am Jazzercise 4:30/5:45pm	Friday Jazzercise 5:45am Jazzercise 8:30/9:30am Jazzercise 4:30	Saturday Jazzercise 8/9:05am AA 10:30am
Feb. 5 - Alpha-Omega/Ark Laser Tag				
Feb. 24/25 - World Vision Famine Lock-in				