



Whispering Pines

What is that one Christmas gift you've ever wanted? What is the most significant Christmas gift you've ever received?

One year my cousin had just one thing on the top of his Christmas wish list – a drum. How he dreamed and hoped that Santa would bring him that big drum!

It wasn't Santa but my grandparents who walked into his house that Christmas day with a huge package wrapped just for my cousin. How eagerly he tore into it! Inside was that big shiny new drum he had longed for. He grabbed the drumstick, and with one enthusiastic swing my cousin Butch banged down on the drum – and right through it.

One of the things I remember most about that story was my grandparents' disappointment. They had so eagerly looked forward to giving my cousin a gift of lasting joy. Though they didn't shed the tears my cousin did, that Christmas morning their happiness was crushed too.

Christmas gift-giving was an important ritual for my grandparents. Though they had little material resources no one was excluded from their list. They wanted each of us to have something special. That Christmas morning my cousin Butch had nothing much left of the drum he received. But though the tears flowed for a time, it really didn't matter much.

What each of us received from my grandparents was far more significant and lasting than a Christmas morning present. It was what we were given through their unconditional love and support, their patience and understanding, their faith and endurance.

The most important gifts are those we don't outgrow, that don't wear out, get used up or break. These are the gifts that come from the heart, gifts that share the real meaning of Christmas gift-giving. These are the gifts that endure.

This Christmas wrap a present with a prayer. Contribute a kind word. Give a cup of compassion. Send a blessing with a Christmas card. Offer a listening ear.

It could be the most significant gift you give.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Ruth



December Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS:

ANNIVERSARIES:



8 Eleanor Dirrane

21 Buffy Bohach

16 Bill & Sheilagh McKinnie 1967

10 Angelina Scaringella

Rebecca Holmes

19 Jack & Bert Stuber

15 Wade Warden

22 Maryse Harrison

19 Barbara Woods

30 Marianne Coverdill

20 Beulah Case



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

3 Kathy Jacobs

24 Todd Green

12 Joy & Bob Swails

11 Liz Quinn

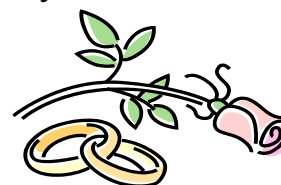
30 Gary Brenner

14 Bill Trimble

Jeri Bush

17 Aiyla Green

31 Courtney Finch



Upcoming Events

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday December 3rd
from 10am - 3pm.

Come help us decorate the church for Christmas and make cards for the shoebox ministry. We will have a POTLUCK lunch and then join in as we sing Christmas Carols!

Christmas Eve Candlelight

*Service
at 7pm*



We will be having
Worship Services
on
Sunday
December 25th
&
January 1st

Committee Meetings

Deacons: 12-6 6:30pm

Finance: 12-8 11:00am

Session: 12-13 6:00pm
with new elders

Liturgists:

December 4 - Gary Brenner

December 11 - Bill Trimble

December 18 - Dean Carson

December 24 - Jeanne Keyser

December 25 - Luther Pringle



Communion
will be served
on...

**December 4th
&
January 1st**

Stewardship



Giving and Attendance

November 6	- \$1,169.40	68
November 13	- \$3,429.75	56
November 20	- \$3,080.25	67
November 27	- \$1,239.66	55



Stewardship Update

We are grateful to those who've made financial pledges for 2012. These commitments have brought us close to our goal. Every gift is significant! There is still an opportunity for you to return your pledge card, if you have not done so.

Thank you!



Weekday Bible Study with Pastor Clyde Kaminska

Wednesdays @ 10am

Sunday School - All ages

Sundays @ 9:30am



Mission News

Homeless Coalition

We prepare & serve dinner the Third Tuesday of EVERY month
Our 2011 dates are: Dec 20th

Our 2012 Dates are: Jan 17th, Feb 21st, Mar 20th, Apr 17th, May 15th, June 19th,
July 17th, Aug 21, Sept 18th, Oct 16th, Nov 20th & Dec 18th.

The Homeless Coalition is located at 1476 Kenesaw Street.,
Contact *Dottie Becker* @ 625-8828 for details.



Christmas Shoebox Ministry

If you would like to participate in the delivery of the shoeboxes to Immokalee, please meet Diane & Gary Brenner at the church on December 16th at 8am.



**On November 20th,
we welcomed our newest members:**

John & Judi Anderson
18399 Temple Avenue
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-613-1106
email: batnelson@hotmail.com

Rita McCurry
18422 Briggs Court
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-766-7482
email: rjmc Curry@yahoo.com



Fall Garage Sale

Thank you to those who contributed items, shopped & helped with the sale, our semi-annual garage sale was another success! Proceeds from the sale topped \$918.

2012 Concert Series

Julian & Bonnie George

Friday January 20th @ 7pm

The Dunnemans

Friday February 3rd @ 7pm

The Charlotte Chorale

Friday March 9th @ 7pm

Suncoast Dulcimer Society

Friday March 30th @ 7pm

Cary Price

(of Fletchers Music)

Electric Organ Recital

TBA



Prayers of Concern, Praise & Thanksgiving

Please pray for...

Dick Adams; John Anderson; Lloyd Barnes; Bart Bartholomew;
Carol Boyle; Tammy Brandon; Kathy Brown; Becky Burrows;
Maurice Chambers; Whitey Cowan; Anna D'Alessandro;
Eleanor Dirrane & Daughter Jenny; Kathy Garcher & Daughter;
Mary Gero; Ralph Gilbert; Steve & Margaret Giordano; Iris Hughes;
Rev. Laura Joost-Kuhn; Ted Land; Ginny Jones; Derek Leach;
Michael McKinnie; Bob Mealey; Steve Moore; Kathy Moulton;
Ted Norek; Tommy Sardo; Bob Sheehan; Marilou Smith;
Norma Speer; Mary Ann Stottlemeyer; Bob Swails; Irene Thomas;
Michael Waskewicz; Melissa Wilmer; Charles & Fred Woods

Wintergarden Prayer Team

Remember to e-mail your
prayer needs, concerns
and celebrations to:
prayer@wintergardenchurch.org
or call the church office at
(941) 743-5335

We are here for you!

