

The Pastor's Corner by Barry P. Murr

"The hurrieder I go, the behinder I get."

This old Pennsylvania German saying will not pass the grammar test, but having heard it this way while growing up, I won't attempt to correct it now. "Hurrying" hardly does justice to the speed at which we are expected, and others expect us, to move. Just thinking about everything we are expected to check and/or respond to each day makes us feel exhausted and overwhelmed. E-mails, voicemails, (phone calls, text messages?), making some kind of noise at us almost by the minute, give little time for not being intruded upon.

My cell phone probably should be donated to the Smithsonian Museum. It has very little capability other than phone calls and voicemail, which by the way is why I purchased it seven years ago. Last week, I had to stop at the AT&T store because we were having difficulty with our U-Verse Cable; and before you smirk at my actually going to the store, I tried the automated

voice-activated help line. If you've been there you will know why I actually went in person. After two trips and considerable waiting, we finally had cable again.

During the waiting, and out of boredom, I walked over to the cell phone displays. I'm guessing there were no more than fifty or so to choose from. I asked whether they had anything similar and as simple as my antique. The answer was a bit nebulous, but clear enough that I decided to hang on to the one I have until it completely dies. The new ones, I was told, are designed to do everything as fast as possible, but good old simple calls to another phone may get dropped with more frequency. Remember why I have the phone. Enough said.

"Please wait" has very little relevancy in our 4G network society. We don't want to wait for anything. We are impatient with each other. We are impatient with God. Because we have been duped into believing "the hurrieder we go," the further ahead we get.

As we experience the Advent season, scripture, music, and liturgy invite us to step back to a time of waiting. During this season, the commercial world will want us to think that Christmas is in immediate succession to Halloween. But take some time to be quiet, and like the warning on an airplane, just before it begins to taxi, turn off all electronic devices and store them in the seat pocket in front of you. Close your eyes and enjoy the ascent. Take a few moments; make the time to be something other than a blur rushing through every minute of every day. Listen for something other than the horribly cute rings of cell phones or whatever sound announces a text or e-mail on your "smart phone." Be still and know that God speaks often in the quiet moments of life.



Sunday Lectionary

Worship 10:30 a.m.

December 11

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 Thess. 5:12-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 18

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

December 25

HOLY COMMUNION

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-4

John 1:1-14

January 1

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

January 8

Genesis 1:1-5

Acts 19:1-7

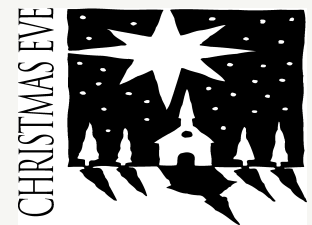
Mark 1:4-11

January 15

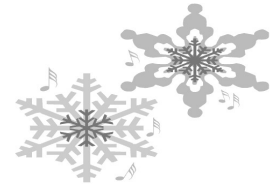
1 Samuel 3:1-10

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51



DETAILS INSIDE.
PLEASE NOTE TIME!



Finances in Review

There are still two weeks left in 2011, but it is time to start reviewing some of the accomplishments of the past year. Despite some hefty surprises and setbacks, the year 2011 will show a positive and productive year. We struggle month-to-month to keep expenses within our allotted budget. We have accomplished much with our volunteer staff, and our congregation continues to be generous by maintaining pledges and giving extra to support extraordinary expenses, plus our local and worldwide missions. Here are four areas of financial opportunities for your prayerful consideration:

◆ **Required roof repairs** plagued us this year totaling \$9,900.00. We received a generous gift of \$2,500 towards this debt. We paid \$990 from the Operating Fund and decided it was necessary to withdraw \$2,000 from the Endowment Fund to pay on this debt. Seagate Roofing agreed we could pay the remaining balance due (\$4,500) over a 12-month period starting in September 2011. The congregation was asked to support this effort, if possible. We also directed the money earned at the garage sale (\$1,345) to the roof repair, fund. Through these efforts, we will move into 2012 with a balance due of \$1,125 – three payments. Thanks to all for supporting this repair work and please continue to help clear this debt. Additionally, please consider donations to the Endowment Fund since we had to withdraw \$2,000 from that account. The Endowment Fund balance is now \$8,200.

◆ **The Shepherd's Fund** is in a rebuilding status. This fund helps members of our own church who experience financial emergencies. It allows us to minister to individuals who literally are our neighbors – the very ones who sit next to us on the pew or beside us at a fellowship event. This year, the focus was providing assistance with Kroger cards for food, immigration and relocation expenses and family care. The fund was depleted in October and is now rebuilding with your continued support.

◆ Have you signed up for the **Kroger Community Rewards Program** yet designating Glendale Presbyterian Church as your charity of choice? Each time you purchase groceries, gas, etc., using your Kroger Plus card, Kroger's donates money to our church. For the first three quarters in 2011, we have received \$1,202.55! Please join this effort. (If you need help or have any questions, please talk to Amanda Durrant, 419-509-0813.)

◆ Last but not least, an update on our one-and-only long term debt – **the mortgage!** We will be welcoming 2012 with a principal balance of \$17,818. It is exciting to see this debt under \$20,000.

Jean Harler, Session Financial Team



Faith & Life Lecture Series 2012

Sundays after Worship Service, 12 noon Panera Bread lunch 11:45 a.m.
 Freewill offering; signup sheet for lunch is posted in narthex or call the church office (419-385-3567).
 Deadline for lunch reservations is Thursday before each lecture.

January 22	"Unfinished Work on the Lord's Prayer"	Rev. Barry P. Murr, Pastor Glendale Presbyterian Church
February 19	"What You Might Not Know About the New Testament, Part 2"	Stephen Wirzylo
March 18	"Preparing for Aging—For All Ages"	Swan Creek Retirement Village Staff
April	NO LECTURE	
May	TO BE ANNOUNCED	

Baptisms

Baptised on Sunday, November 20, 2011:

**Lauren K. Kodjiku, daughter of Lawrence and Christy Kodjiku
 Lawrence K. Kodjiku, son of Lawrence and Christy Kodjiku
 Elise Page Durrant, daughter of Eric and Amanda Durrant**

**DON'T FORGET THE COOKIE SHARE FOR COFFEE HOUR THIS
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18! PLEASE BRING A DOZEN OR TWO TO THE
 NARTHEX TABLE BEFORE WORSHIP. THANKS!**



We wish a very happy 2012 to all our members, family, and friends.
 A new year provides great opportunities to set new goals and move forward
 in our faith journey together.
 Have a safe and happy holiday...and a new year filled with many blessings!

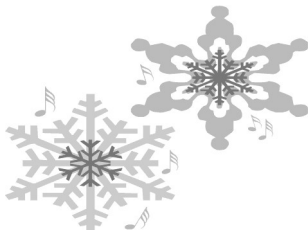
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

IN TOUCH

DECEMBER 2011



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