

December Dates Ahead

- 1/1 AWANA
- 1/2 Women's Outreach
- 12/6 Medford Mission
- 12/7 Pearl Harbor Day
Truth Project – Brushes
- 12/8 AWANA
- 12/12 All Church Sing
- 12/21 Elder's Meeting
Winter Solstice-Full Moon
- 12/25 The Lord's Birthday
- 12/28 Grants Pass Mission



January 2011 Dates Ahead

- 1/1 New Year's Day
- 1/4 Medford Mission
- 1/6 AWANA
- 1/7 Women's Outreach

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**December Birthdays**

- 12/9 Loretta Landrum
- 12/10 Neva Guches  
Scott Prose
- 12/17 Eva Clement
- 12/21 Debbie Ciesla



**January Birthdays**

- 1/12 Beth Piete
- 1/15 Robert Belanger, Sr.
- 1/18 Joe Neiderheiser
- 1/22 Allison Johnson
- 1/26 Stephen VanderValk

**December Anniversaries**

- 12/3 Ed & Neva Guches
- 12/7 Stephen & LyndaLee VanderValk
- 12/20 Bill & Mary Zimmerman

**January Anniversaries**

- 1/12 C.J. & Gwen Bernard
- 1/18 Ken & Valorie Emilio
- 1/26 Robert & Shirley Belanger

**That Full Moon!**

If you haven't notice, I post in the 'dates ahead' when a full moon occurs. God put that light in the evening sky on the fourth day, and it is one of His amazing wonders I love to look at, especially a full one. This month's moon on the 21<sup>st</sup> is one to look out the window, or step out in that chilly December air. This will be the night, (rather, very early morning) to watch the sky!! We have the privilege of witnessing a total lunar eclipse! Beginning at 10:33 pm and lasting until 2:01 am, the moon will be a changing color. At exactly 12:17 am the full moon will be at its brightest color change. Let's hope for a clear sky! During a total lunar eclipse, the moon can take on a dramatically colorful appearance from bright orange to blood red to dark brown and (rarely) very dark gray. The last total lunar eclipse was October 27, 2004!



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How to Keep Christmas

Are you willing to:
 Stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children?
 Remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old?
 Stop asking how much your friends love you and ask yourself whether you love them enough?
 Bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts?
 Trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you?
 Make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings?



Are you willing to do these things?
 ~Henry Van Dyke

praying for peace ~ Cricket



NewsBreak

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Vol. XXVI	No. 282	December 2010
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Dear Congregation,

Welcome to December! November's Thanksgiving is behind us, so it's the time that we start wishing one another "Merry Christmas." Of course, the more politically correct way to express such salutations is, "Happy Holidays." But we won't go there; we know "the reason for the season"—*or do we?*

The word Christmas appeared in English around 1050 as the Old English *Christes maesse*, "festival of Christ." Prior to that (going back to A.D. 336) it was known as the Feast of the Nativity. This celebration

originated in the 4th century as a Christian substitute for pagan celebrations of the winter solstice. Before the introduction of Christmas, each year beginning on December 17 Romans honored Saturn, the ancient god of agriculture, in a festival called Saturnalia. This festival lasted for seven days and included the winter solstice, which usually occurred around **December 25** on the ancient Julian calendar. During Saturnalia the Romans **feasted**, postponed all business and warfare, **exchanged gifts**, and temporarily freed their slaves. Many Romans also celebrated the lengthening of daylight following the winter solstice by participating in rituals to glorify Mithra, the ancient Persian god of **light** (*Encarta Encyclopedia*, 2002).

With the conversion of Constantine to Christianity, the stage was set for the Feast of the Nativity to replace that of Saturnalia. But it didn't replace it; it simply assigned Christian meaning to existing pagan rituals. Festivities designed to honor Mithra, the god of light, were essentially continued under the idea that Jesus is "the Light of the world." The exchanging of gifts and feasting associated with Saturnalia were also perpetuated. The goal was to draw pagans in by "allowing them to continue their revelry while simultaneously honoring the birthday of Jesus" (Ibid.).

Now, lest you think I am attacking traditions which may be near and dear to you and your family, let me just close with some pointed thoughts. While Christmas or the Feast of the Nativity are not found in Scripture as ordained by God, and while the December 25th date may not be the actual day of Christ's birth, the spirit of rejoicing and thanksgiving over the fact that "God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law" (Gal 4.4-5), is certainly appropriate this time of year. My prayer is that such a spirit will prevail in our hearts amid all our celebrations.

Pastor Brian

All Church Sing
Sunday - December 12th
6:00 p.m.

This year we will have five churches getting together to sing songs of praise for a Savior coming to earth. Ruch, Williams, Provolt, and Hugo will be joining us at our church. Please be sure to bring cookies to share during the fellowship time afterwards in the gym.

Babies!!!

Les and Jackie Hill have another great grandson, **Byron Hunter Hill** who weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz. Parents are **Dustin and Tera Hill**.



Gwen and C.J. Bernard have another great grandson, **Jaxon**. Parents are **Cody and Mallory Steens**.

Dale and Cricket Rau's daughter **Angela (Ailah)** and husband, **Ben Stevenson**, have a little boy named **Ryder Benjamin Stevenson**. He came at 3:39 a.m. on November 9th weighing 7 lbs 2 oz. and was 14 1/2" long.

Paul and Judy Slater have another grandchild. Their daughter, **Stephanie**, and her husband, **Mark Garcia**, have a little boy named **John Cooper Garcia**. An addition to their family of two sons, **Lane and Justin**, and adopted daughter, **Mercedes**.

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**Gentle Joints ~ Water Exercise Class**  
 A low impact exercise class which meets Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-3:50. It's \$50 per month or \$7 a class. The private pool is at Countryside Village 1700 Kellenbeck, Grants Pass. Call Kasey Wittstrom at 541-326-7545. Talk to Vickie!

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Core values are of no value unless they reflect God's values.

Women's Outreach

Busy, busy month! We met last Thursday and spent a long day filling the Christmas boxes which will go to nine families in our community. We also arranged 12 cookie plates for our senior sweethearts. Then we stayed busy by decorating the church!

The quilt raffle at the Harvest Dinner made \$247! **Gwen Bernard** won the raffle. She, in turn, happily donated it to **Pastor Thornton Gapen** who now has a place in the Applegate Park.

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**LyndaLee** thanks whoever returned "Glorious Appearing". The library loves to be used, please remember to use the 'check out' card when you borrow a book!



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Papua, New Guinea needs glasses!
 We are collecting reading glasses and cases for glasses until the end of the month. Be sure to contribute yours before it's too late. Thanks for those that have been donated.

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**Jessie and I** would like to personally thank all of you for your incredibly generous and thoughtful prayers and support pertaining to the recent birth of little **Kaysie Leet**. Your outpouring of love and kindness is truly heartwarming. The giving spirit of this body of believers is a wonderful testimony of Christ's love exemplified in personal terms.

We received fantastic meal, assistance with our children, calls, gifts, and many more gracious offerings. We love all of you and are so thankful to be a part of such a special group of believers. Thank you!

**Kendon, Jessie, Cameron, Kensie, Lysie, Kadon, and Kaysie Leet.**

**AWANA Update**

We have been learning **not** about Hudson Taylor, but about Hudson Taylor's God and we have learned that He works all things together for good and for His glory. We have also learned from Hudson Taylor's life of faith that our God can be trusted for food, money, relationships, and health. The highlight of the story has been learning about how Hudson's God uses His Word to save people. Our God truly is an amazing God!

The Annual Canned Food Drive ended the week before Thanksgiving. Congratulations to the Sparks who brought the most cans and earned an ice cream sundae party!

A special thank you goes to Annette Harmon and Jessie Leet for running the store Dec. 1. The kids were excited to spend the money they had earned by learning verses, bringing friends, and a very generous piñata night!

A reminder to those who are not able to help on Wednesday night: If you would like to invest eternally in these young lives please pick up a picture of an AWANA kid in the office who you can pray for on a regular basis. May Jesus be praised in each of these young lives! For His glory, Kelly

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Tuesday's **Friendship Bible Class** will have their annual 'Christmas Party.' All ladies are invited. Jackie is making plans.



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**Remember our service men and woman**

|                |                |
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| Brian Landrum  | Dan Zimmerman  |
| Shannon Slater | Jon Zimmerman  |
| Grant Hoover   | Trampus Harmon |
| Daniel Cooper  |                |

**Greeter for December: Gwen Bernard**

Gwen was born in Coos Bay, raised in Myrtle Creek, OR. Her husband, CJ, is originally from Minnesota. They met in WA, have been married for 36 years and have lived on Humbug Creek road for 33 years. They have five children, 19 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren! Gwen is a leader in AWANA for the Sparkies, and helps with Jr. church. Her hobby is genealogy. After much study, she is able to take one family line back to the 300's! Recently she has been make quilts for the grandchildren.

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The annual **church business meeting** is in January. All reports need to be handed in by the ninth of January.



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Anyone interested in viewing the **Truth Project** let Vickie know. A new session can be started.

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Pearl Harbor Day
 On December 7th, 1941, the American Army and Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by the imperial Japanese Navy. It came as a surprise and lead to great losses of life. More than 2000 American citizens were killed and more than 1000 were injured. The Japanese military had hoped the attack on Pearl Harbor would prevent the United States from increasing her influence in the Pacific, instead it actually led to the escalation of World War II.

We honor remembrance of Pearl Harbor every December 7th. The US flag should be flown at half-mast to honor those who died in the attack.

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**BROWN BARREL**  
 As of December 1<sup>st</sup> contributions to date were \$1,250. This made a balance of \$1,502. Christmas checks were sent to our missionaries for \$350 each, leaving a balance of \$102.

