

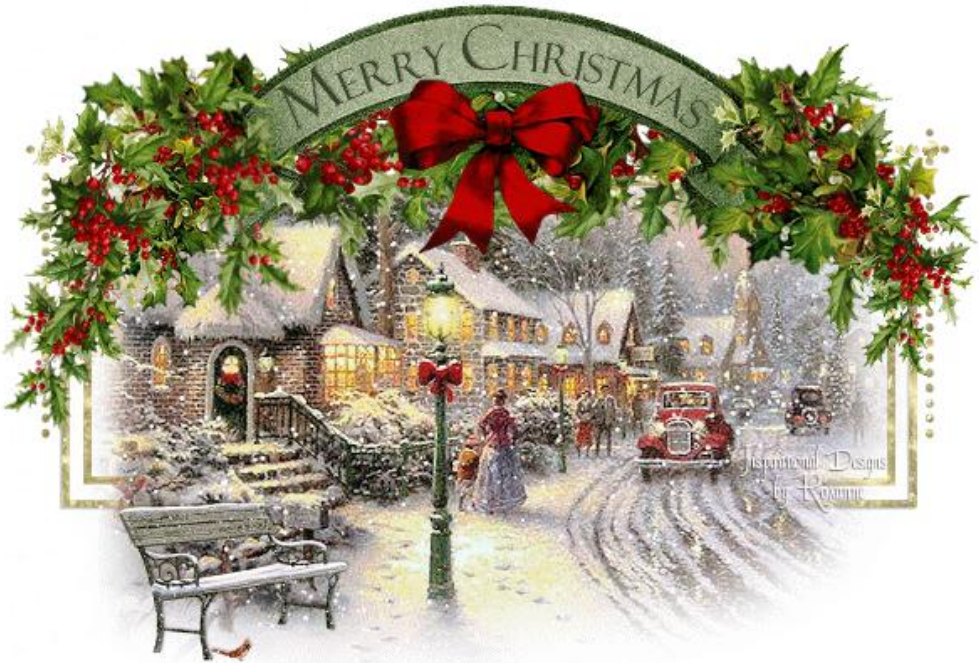


# the Family Focus

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION  
OF **MEMORIAL** CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Meeting @ 1624 Ave of the Cities, Moline

December 2011      Vol. 74, No. 12



**From the Staff @ MCC**  
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**Rev. Ken Kline**  
**Ken Lue**

Office Hours:  
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9:00 am to 2:30 pm  
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Pastoral Office Hours  
Tuesday - Thursday  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
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# Christmas Roses

Bobby was getting cold sitting out in his back yard in the snow. Bobby didn't wear boots; he didn't like them and anyway he didn't own any. The thin sneakers he wore had a few holes in them and they did a poor job of keeping out the cold.



Bobby had been in his backyard for about an hour already. And, try as he might, he could not come up with an idea for his mother's Christmas gift. He shook his head as he thought, "This is useless, even if I do come up with an idea, I don't have any money to spend."

Ever since his father had passed away three years ago, the family of five had struggled. It wasn't because his mother didn't care, or try, there just never seemed to be enough. She worked nights at the hospital, but the small wage that she was earning could only be stretched so far.

What the family lacked in money and material things, they more than made up for in love and family unity. Bobby had two older and one younger sister, who ran the household in their mother's absence.

All three of his sisters had already made beautiful gifts for their mother. Somehow it just wasn't fair. Here it was Christmas Eve already, and he had nothing.

Wiping a tear from his eye, Bobby kicked the snow and started to walk down to the street where the shops and stores were. It wasn't easy being six without a father, especially when he needed a man to talk to.

Bobby walked from shop to shop, looking into each decorated window. Everything seemed so beautiful and so out of reach. It was starting to get dark and Bobby reluctantly turned to walk home when suddenly his eyes caught the glimmer of the setting sun's rays reflecting off of something along the curb. He reached down and discovered a shiny dime.



Never before has anyone felt so wealthy as Bobby felt at that moment. As he held his new found treasure, a warmth spread throughout his entire body and he walked into the first store he saw. His excitement quickly turned cold when salesperson after salesperson told him that he could not buy anything with only a dime.

He saw a flower shop and went inside to wait in line. When the shop owner asked if he could help him, Bobby presented the dime and asked if he could buy one flower for his mother's Christmas gift. The shop owner looked at Bobby and his ten cent offering. Then he put his hand on Bobby's shoulder and said to him, "You just wait here and I'll see what I can do for you."

As Bobby waited, he looked at the beautiful flowers and even though he was a boy, he could see why mothers and girls liked flowers. The sound of the door closing as the last customer left, jolted Bobby back to reality. All alone in the shop, Bobby began to feel alone and afraid.

Suddenly the shop owner came out and moved to the counter. There, before Bobby's eyes, lay twelve long stem, red roses, with leaves of green and tiny white flowers all tied together with a big silver bow. Bobby's heart sank as the owner picked them up and placed them gently into a long white box.

"That will be ten cents young man." the shop owner said reaching out his hand for the dime. Slowly, Bobby moved his hand to give the man his dime. Could this be true? No one else would give him a thing for his dime! Sensing the boy's reluctance, the shop owner added, "I just happened to have some roses on sale for ten cents a dozen. Would you like them?"

This time Bobby did not hesitate, and when the man placed the long box into his hands, he knew it was true. Walking out the door that the owner was holding for Bobby, he heard the shopkeeper say, "Merry Christmas, son."



As he returned inside, the shopkeeper's wife walked out. "Who were you talking to back there and where are the roses you were fixing?" Staring out the window, and blinking the tears from his own eyes, he replied, "A strange thing happened to me this morning. While I was setting up things to open the shop, I thought I heard a voice telling me to set aside a dozen of my best roses for a special gift. I wasn't sure at the time whether I had lost my mind or what, but I set them aside anyway. Then just a few minutes ago, a little boy came into the shop and wanted to buy a flower for his mother with one small dime.

When I looked at him, I saw myself, many years ago. I too was a poor boy with nothing to buy my mother a Christmas gift. A bearded man, whom I never knew, stopped me on the street and told me that he wanted to give me ten dollars. When I saw that little boy tonight, I knew who that voice was, and I put together a dozen of my very best roses."

The shop owner and his wife hugged each other tightly, and as they stepped out into the bitter cold air, they somehow didn't feel cold at all.

Join us for our annual  
Cookie Walk  
on December 10<sup>th</sup> from  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm



*Christmas Eve Service*  
**6:30 pm**  
**@ our Worship Center**

# December Birthdays & Anniversaries



1	Barb Stinocher
2	Debbie Sheldon
3	David Cantu
5	Bill Schlobohm
7	Bernice Hovey
13	Naomi Schlobohm
23	Chris Tappendorf
24	Richard Allison

18 Earl & Charlene Dreon

## *In Our Thoughts & Prayers*



Please remember these in your prayers:

Harold Baker, Tracy Roesner, Darlene Lovell, Helen Slavens, Darry & Colleen Kannenberg, Dan and Christine Koester, Joanne Kline, Donna Wilkins, Lynette Cameron, Peggy Walker, Bernice Hovey, Juanita Brown, Loretta Smith, Gordon Milligan, Caryl VanHyfte, Cyndee Browner, Charles Willey, Wade Rogers, Nellie Porter, Cecil Dorsey, Matt, Ava, Andy Simmons, Jacque Brandom, Crystal Raun, Al Fortin,

Shirley Rudd, Beverley Ducey, Kimberly Delaney, Jan Smith, and to all of those that are not on our Prayer List that are in need of your prayers.

We have recently updated our prayer list, if you or anyone you know would like to be added to our Prayer List or those who would like a "Home Visit", please contact the Church office.

# DISCOVERY LAND



Come enjoy conversation at the Connections Cafe' and Worship at the Gathering while your little one's learn more about God's awesome power.

Children may be checked-in to Discovery Land (Birth - 5 years old) children's ministries at any time between 10:00 and 10:30 AM each Sunday morning.

Your children will enjoy learning about God by participating in activities, children's praise and worship, games and crafts that help them to understand God at their age level.

When you arrive please see one of the check-in attendants to receive a name badge and number for your children.

## KIDZ-A-BLAZE

Kidz-A-Blaze is for children 1st thru 5th grade. We want to help your child be on fire for God! MCC's Kidz-A-Blaze leaders are devoted to helping children grow closer to God and gain a deeper understanding of the Bible and Jesus' love through providing them with interactive activities, stories, games, music, and prayer. Your kids will enjoy their time at Kidz-A-Blaze and grow in their relationship with Christ as well.

When you arrive please see one of the check-in attendants to receive a name badge and number for your children.



Come learn about our new Constitution.

We are having 3 special Constitutional informational meetings that are being held on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 pm @ our Worship Center. Each meeting will be the same information so you may choose which one will work best for you.  
January 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>

The Loyal Crusaders would like to invite you to join them for their annual Christmas dinner

The Lodge, Bettendorf, IA.  
December 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm



Please RSVP to Naomi @ 309.799.7686  
Or the Church Office @ 309.757.1300

We would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to be involved in the Communion Preparation at MCC. We would also like to thank those that have been a part of this ministry.

Thank You!

Jim & Beverley Ducey

HELP REAL PEOPLE.  
RING A BELL.



If you are interested in the Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army please call the church office @ 757.1300

The times and dates available are as follows:

Friday, December 2nd at the Davenport Wal-Mart, 10am - 4pm, 7pm - 9pm

Saturday, December 3rd at the Moline Wal-Mart, 12noon - 9pm

# December Serving Schedule

## Worship Service

### ELDERS

Meditation: Laurie Peters

Back Table: Pat Kuehl

### DEACONS

Captain: Don Simmons

Kelle Tappendorf

Linda Swartz

Daryl Swartz

### FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Pastor Chuck Dorsey

Daryl & Linda Swartz

### COMMUNION PREPARER

Donna Long

Margaret Lage

### HOME-BOUND COMMUNION

Ken Kline

### CONNECTIONS CAFÉ

Linda & Nicole Miller & Co.

### EVANGELISM CALLER

Pastor Chuck

## Children's / Kid's Ministry

### DISCOVERY LAND

Sundays:

1<sup>st</sup> - Crystal Cutkomp

2<sup>nd</sup> - Nancy Wagner

3<sup>rd</sup> - Doree' Shewell

4<sup>th</sup> - Felicia Sevedge

### KIDS A BLAZE

Sundays:

1<sup>ST</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> - Kim & Megan Dorsey

### CHECK IN DESK

Sundays:

1<sup>st</sup> - Barb Stinocher

2<sup>nd</sup> - Felicia Sevedge

3<sup>rd</sup> - Tonya Weinrich

4<sup>th</sup> - Kelle Tappendorf

DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY  
**IMPACT**  
*twenty* **12**

Would you like to make an **impact** for Christ in 2012? Throughout 2011 the sermon series and small group studies focused on growing in Christ. And, we discovered that one measure of our spiritual growth is in our dedication to tithing to the Lord.

Pledge 2012 is much more than just an appeal for money; it involves your worship, your witness, your prayers and your gifts from God.

So, let's all do something extraordinary and **impact** 2012 for Christ.

Any questions please call the Church Office @ 309.757.1300

Please return the form below to the Church Office by Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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## **Impact** *twenty* **12**

### Financially

I pledge the following tithe amount(s) to MCC's ministry in 2012:

General Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly/monthly

Missions: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly/monthly

Attendance: I will attend worship at least \_\_\_\_\_ times in 2012.

Guests: I will invite at least \_\_\_\_\_ guests to worship in 2012.

Prayer: I will consistently pray \_\_\_\_\_ times per week in 2012 for MCC.

Gifts: I will actively use the gifts and talents God has given me in the following ministry(ies) at MCC.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**Memorial**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 4390  
Rock Island, IL 61204

**Faith** for  
every **Family**

Tel: 309.757.1300

[www.MemorialChristianChurch.com](http://www.MemorialChristianChurch.com)

**PRAISE GOD  
SERVE OTHERS  
GROW IN CHRIST**