



THE CREST



Crestwood Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Celebrating a Spirit-Filled Journey of Faith

Volume 50, Issue 53

December 21, 2011

DECEMBER 25, 2011
CHRISTMAS DAY
CHRISTMAS
DAY
WORSHIP
10:45 a.m.

In This Issue...

- A Word From Korypage 2
- Colette's Cornerpage 3
- Green Lines & Wellness Cornerpage 3
- Children's Ministry Newspage 4

Office Closed

Reminder that the church office will be closed December 26 & 27. Also there will be no Crest published next week. The next Crest will be the January 4th issue.

THANK YOU CRESTWOOD

The staff at Crestwood Christian Church are blessed to serve such a supportive, generous congregation, and we would all like to thank you for the Christmas gifts we received. They were very much appreciated! Thank you all for your love and support. We are honored to serve you!



DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE:
4:30 P.M.: CHILDREN'S SERVICE
6 P.M.: LIVING NATIVITY SCENE
 PRESENTED BY CRESTWOOD YOUTH GROUPS
7 P.M.: CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
10:30 P.M.: ORGAN PRELUDE
11 P.M.: CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY: WE'LL CELEBRATE CHRIST'S BIRTH WITH **ONE** WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:45 A.M. (NO EARLY SERVICE OR SUNDAY SCHOOL)

JANUARY 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY: WE'LL RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH **ONE** WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:45 A.M. (NO EARLY SERVICE OR SUNDAY SCHOOL)

MEET THE MONGER FAMILY!!!



Santa & Bhim Monger and their sons Sandesh (five years old), and Rodan (seven years old).

Santa, Bhim, and their boys, Rodan and Sandesh, arrived in Lexington on December 12th. They were greeted with a warm welcome by several Crestwood folks, as well as some cousins and friends that have been in Lexington...some for several months, some for a couple of years. They were gracious, even though tired from their almost 48 hours of travel from Nepal. Santa and Bhim both have some English-speaking abilities. None of the folks from Crestwood had any Nepali-speaking skills! Santa indicates that he worked on construction projects when he was in Nepal. Since their arrival they have visited with friends and family. Crestwood volunteers have taken them to the grocery and for clothes shopping. Crestwood's generosity is such a gift to the Monger Family.

~The Resettlement Team

See Page 5 for a list of the items still needed for the Mongers. Help us as we welcome them to their new home!

Parish News

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Members - Carolyn Clark, Bob Ely, *Tim Gardner, *Bess Gott, Flora Griffin, *Jeanne Jouett, Frank LaBoone, Franklin McGuire, *Family of Mildred Moore, Family of Marionette Wiley

Family of Members- *Elaine Mitchell Croake, Laura Snowden, Jack Larkins, Carla Lewis, Jody Lynn, Karen M. Lynn, Sarah M'Bodji, Anna Wilkinson

Friends of Members- Foster Family, *Lily foster, Dick Furst, Ronald Hagenbuch, *Melissa King, Robin Maddux, *Howard McKenzie and Family, Family of Opal Rhinehart, Renee Strunk, Monnie Tally, Wayne Taylor

Armed Forces- Andy Banks, Blake Chambers, Austin Cheek, Matt Green, Tucker Gentry, Dwayne Harlan, Dwight Harlan, Darcy Kiefer, David Kiefer, Josh Kolenda, Patrick Ritter, Adrian Sargent, David Schloesser, Rocky Shapla, Stewart Spragens

Our World Community- The conflict in Afghanistan and the people of Japan and the Pacific after the recent devastation.

** Names added this week*



A WORD FROM KORY

I'm so thankful that I worship a God who often pays more attention to my own soul than I do. It's amazing how, when I am at a moment of desperation or feeling overwhelmed, something happens in my life to remind me of God's abiding presence with me and love for me.

That happened last Monday. As is the case for many people at this time of year, life was going at full-speed as I moved through Advent. There were services to be planned, a newsletter article to compose, presents to be purchased and wrapped and thank-you notes to write. Mondays are busy days here at church anyway, but last Monday was especially hectic.

As tends to happen in ministry, in the middle of it all I got a call about a pastoral concern. A church member's grandson's wife had just given birth to twin boys (Baby A and Baby B), but one of them wasn't doing very well. She asked me if I'd be willing to ride over to Central Baptist and see them and her daughter (the baby's grandmother), also a church member. Of course, I dropped everything I was doing and got in the car.

Thankfully, by the time I arrived, Baby B was out of trouble and doing well. I visited with the grandmother as we oohed and aahed over Baby A, who was already in the nursery. And then, from around the corner came Baby B, who was being wheeled into the nursery to hang out with his twin brother. The expression on the grandmother's face was simply priceless. If possible, her smile broadened and her face beamed even more. The sheer joy of that moment, of seeing new life in the flesh and the majesty and mystery that comes with it, was the epitome of what Advent means to me. It was a tangible, flesh-and-blood reminder of what we are expecting on Christmas.

Later that evening, after Leigh and I got our girls into bed, I drove over to Bluegrass Airport to join the celebration as we welcomed our refugee family, the Mongers. I had never been part of a refugee family welcoming party before, and as I neared the airport I was surprised at just how excited and nervous I felt, not unlike a new parent feels while awaiting the birth of their child.

At the airport I mingled with several Crestwood folks as we waited for the plane to land. I was glad to see there were also several of the Mongers' family members who had already come to Lexington. I'm sure the Mongers' journey will be made easier by familiar faces. As the time for them to arrive grew closer, the feeling of expectancy within me grew.

Finally, we all gathered at the bottom of the stairs that led from the gates, eager to see our new family. As we all stood there, faces filled with hope and arms full of gifts, the other passengers departing the plane must have thought we were a little nuts. And then one of the relatives exclaimed, "Here they come!" Emerging from the stairs like a baby arriving into a new world was our family: husband Santa and wife Bhim with sons Rodan and Sandesh in tow.

I can't begin to imagine how they must have felt. They'd been on an incredibly tiring journey that had taken them somewhere around 20 hours to complete. That's a lot of time for two young boys to sit in an airplane seat! And now, they were entering into a whole new world, filled with new freedoms and fears. As we surrounded them with greetings, all four of the Mongers looked more than a little dazed. But their shy smiles were more than enough for us. They may not know it yet, but we knew they were home.

Two birth stories during this season of Advent, both filled with moments of tension and fear, joy and celebration and beaming relatives. For Baby A, Baby B and the Mongers, they have a new life ahead of them, one which they can't even begin to imagine. That's the kind of thing Advent promises us. New life, a new direction a new way of being. When Christ is born this year, so is the hope that all of us can experience the joy of new life. Thanks be to God!

MISSION CENTER LOAN

Original construction loan 2001:	\$1,150,000.00
Loan balance as of 10/17/2011:	\$565,252.26

STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE

December 18, 2011

Contributions:

Pledges & Offering \$28,228.00

Attendance:

Sunday School	75
Detention Center	95
Worship & Wonder	
8:30 a.m. Worship	67
10:45 a.m. Worship	252
Total Worship	319

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Elders

8:30 Service: Pat Nielsen

10:45 Service: Virginia Long, Warren Rogers

Ushers

8:30 Service: John & Elaine Carman

10:45 Service: Bill Jenkins, Duane Guilfoil, Martha Seithers, Dianne Toll

Deacons

8:30 a.m. Service:

10:45 a.m. Service:

Choir:

Acolyte

10:45 Service: Alex Back

Sound Technician

10:45 Service: Zach Keesy



COLETTE'S CORNER

by Colette Lane

As we look forward to the celebration of Christ's birth, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to you as a congregation. I want to thank you for your love and support, your understanding of ministry and mission, and your constant care for one another. It is indeed a pleasure to be in ministry with you. The themes of Peace, Hope, Joy and Love are my wishes for you during this season. May you and yours be blessed with all the joy of being family this Christmas. Our church family has the opportunity to celebrate in a special way this coming Christmas Sunday. If you are unable to attend, please think of us and we will remember you in our prayers of the day. Have a joyous Christmas!

Thank you for all of your cards, kind remembrances, tasty goodies and good thoughts for the Lane family. We are truly blessed to be a part of Crestwood.

Merry Christmas!
Colette



Green Lines

Artificial fire logs emit 75% less carbon monoxide and create 80% less particulate matter than real wood. They are also more efficient in heating your home, giving off up to

15,190 BTU per pound compared to 8,300 BTU per pound for oak.



Welcome Guests

DECEMBER 21, 2011

The Allen family, the Back family, Andrew Carrillo, Wes Caudill, Rita Collins, Pat Hays Evans, Dan and Jane Gilbert, Stephen and Katlyn Green, Stephanie and Madison Guy, Jean Johnson, Judy Lyons, Michaela and Madison Martin, Reed Martin, Jane Maskalick, Christie Oliver, Jay Prather, the Sams family, Elizabeth Slone, Alex and Donna Thor, Jay and Annie Varner, Garrett and Austin Wellman, Dottie Williams

If you know someone who visited this week, call them and invite them back to Crestwood!

WELLNESS CORNER

Hints to use to fight the sniffles: stay hydrated, cut back on sugar, reduce stress. Which are the hardest to do for you this season?

End of the Year!

There is only one Sunday left in 2011. Make sure to have you last 2011 pledges & contributions in the church office by December 30th. Also, Liz Fulkerson, our bookkeeper, will be out of town next week so any 2011 check requests need to be in the office by this Friday.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD

Every year Bread for the World, an organization which lobbies congress on behalf of domestic and world hunger, sponsors an offering of hand-written letters to our congressional representatives. Beginning in January, and on through the year, letters may be sent. This may be done in several waves, beginning in January or February and again in March or April, and so on. Go to the church website on the Shalom/Social Justice page, under Outreach, where there is a link to a sample letter. You are encouraged to reformulate the letter in your own words. We are sending this out early in order to give you time to think about it. This is a project of the Shalom Committee which was first suggested by Sharon Warner before she left Lexington. Members of Congress and the House of Representatives tend to read hand-written letters more readily than typed ones, so we've been told. Letters may be placed in an offering plate and prayed over before being sent. Letters may be sent by individuals, or by a particular group within the church, such as a Sunday school class. We encourage your participation if you are at all inclined toward this kind of project.



The South Wing Children's Ministry News

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH WING - BY CAROLYN MILLER

I knew I wanted to be Crestwood's Children's Coordinator because I knew our children to be extraordinarily intelligent, creative, faithful and compassionate. They have exceeded my expectations in every way.

Our children are remarkably intelligent; their vocabularies match most college students. Their creativity is inspiring, no two art projects ever look the same. Their faithfulness is evident by thoughtful prayer. However, it is their compassion that I admire most. Our children's concern goes far beyond our walls.

The Around the World curriculum, which began in summer worship and which was shared with the congregation on Children's Sabbath, was their idea. They wanted to learn more about the world because they care so much about it. Warren Rogers told us almost two years ago about children in Haiti devastated by the earthquakes, yet we remember for them. Service projects, such as Lemonade Days or Angel Tree, are happily fulfilled. We merrily pick up recycling and fight over who can help the most. We pray for tsunami victims and children who don't have schools.

Tonight, their wishes for the world came as easily as their own lists to Santa. Our children would give us a world of more food, water and electricity. They would also give the world more books, more hospitals and more peace.

I wish for a world in which all children laugh as easily and as often as our children. I wish for a world in which the leaders were half as wise.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Wear your pajamas to church on Christmas morning and join us for a Birthday Party for Jesus!

We are having cake, ice cream, strawberries and goody bags.

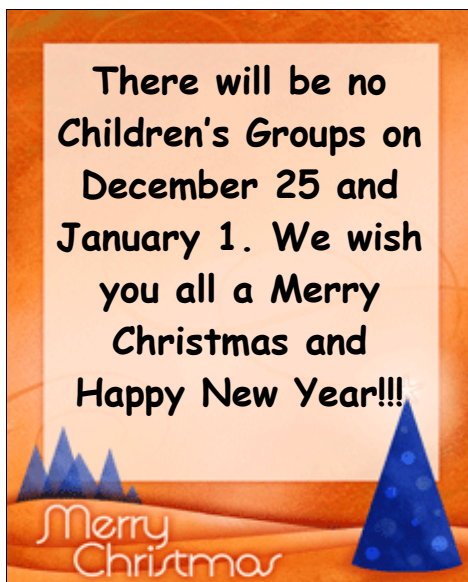
Please bring a book to donate to the refugee family.



Children's Group Sponsors Needed!

Help Please!
We are in need of more Children's Group Sponsors! We have grown

more than expected so any extra hands would be appreciated! Please contact Carolyn Miller at: carolyn@crestwoodchristian.or



STARTING SUNDAY,
JANUARY 8, 2012

NEXT SUNDAY SCHOOL ROTATION - *GEMS OF THE KINGDOM: PARABLES AND STORIES OF JESUS*

Jesus asked, "What is the Kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?" Hmmm? Good question. As Christians, we are part of the Kingdom of God. So, where are our crowns? Where are our precious gems? Children do some digging in the Bible and discover that parables are like precious gems. They tell us how we can be a part of the Kingdom of God. Jesus' parables tell how to have a new relationship with God and others. Kids explore parables depicting God's values, God's love, and God's Kingdom. Through **Cooking, Drama, Games, Science and Library**, the children will uncover the following parables:

- ◆ The Parable of the Two Sons
- ◆ The Prodigal Son
- ◆ The House Built on a Rock
- ◆ The Rich Fool
- ◆ The Workers in the Vineyard
- ◆ The Yeast
- ◆ The Hidden Treasure
- ◆ The Pearl
- ◆

Look for a schedule for Explorers (K-2nd grade) and Discoverers (3-5th grade) in the next Crest and Crestwood Children's News email.

DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



Working together as women of faith to provide opportunities for spiritual growth, enrichment, education and creative ministries to enable women to develop a sense of personal responsibility for the whole mission of the Church of Jesus Christ.

We welcome women of all ages to join us!

MARY MARTHA DWM

Monday, January 16, 2012 @ 6:45 pm

Program: Rev. Colette Lane

Confessing the Beatitudes

Lesson #5 Greatly Honored are the Poor in Heart

Hostess: Martha Duttlinger and Minva Gayle Hodgins

CHRISTIAN CARE COMMUNITIES ADULT DAY CENTER



DWM MONTHLY SERVICE PROJECT

Christian Care Communities Adult Day Center is located on Maryland Avenue. Their goal is to care for the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being while respecting the dignity of each client. They currently have 41 women and 7 men in the program. DWM will be contributing gifts for their Christmas party. Some suggestions are: Candy (sugar free), word search books (large print), Walmart or Kroger gift cards, lotion (for dry skin), scarves or costume jewelry for women, and socks, gloves or UK caps for men. Gifts should be wrapped or placed in a gift bag. Please mark the contents on the outside which will assist the staff in the distribution of gifts. Gifts should be turned in no later than Sunday, December 18th. Please call Sheri Shaver, 224-1040, if you have any questions.

HELP FOR THE MONGER FAMILY

Needs: Gently used clothing is needed. Santa is about 5'10" and wears XL shirts. Bhim is a medium, slightly on the slim side. The boys, Rodan (7) and Sandesh (5), are age-appropriate in their sizes. Clothes may be dropped off in the Administration Wing. There is a blue plastic bin close to the office. **Washer/Dryer:** There is a W/D hookup in the apartment basement. There is not a laundromat located close to the apartment. If you have a gently used W/D that you would like to donate, please get in touch with Dabney Parker ([608-4655](tel:608-4655)/dabney@windstream.net).

JOIN US FOR: SERMON TALKBACK

Join us on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Bradford Room for our "Sermon Talkback." We spend some time discussing the sermon topic and scripture from the previous Sunday, as well as look at the sermon for the upcoming Sunday. This is a great way for us to dive deeper into scripture and the issues brought up on Sunday. Each week is a stand-alone class, so you can drop in at any time. And if you missed the sermon, they're always available on the website. This is a great opportunity for you to engage in conversation and "talk back," so we hope you can join us!

Comic Corner



"That last 'Glo-ooo-oooh-oooh-oooh-oooh-oooh-oooh-ooria' about did me in."

1882 Bellefonte Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40503-2046
(859) 266-0459 Fax: (859) 266-0450

THE CREST

Crestwood Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Return Service Requested

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Permit No. #695

AN ADVENT POEM BY GLEN HUGHES

READ DURING THE DEC. 18 CANDLELIGHTING

Today we light the candle representing love.
We've often heard it said that the greatest love
is that of a parent for their child.
Who among us is not glad when
our gift brings a smile to a child's face?

God has given us gifts too numerous to count,
life itself and a world in which to live,
this earth cradled in a miraculous universe,
the sun and the moon to light our way,
birds to wake us in the morning,

the seas abundant with fish,
blue skies, majestic mountains
and green valleys, forests and streams,
all these things freely entrusted to our care.
And we have been endowed with an intellect
enabling us to reflect upon and enjoy these gifts.

Are these gifts not the manifestation of God's love?
And what is asked of us?
Only that we open our arms and heart,
accept and celebrate God's love,
accept and celebrate the Christ child.

CRESTWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Church School — 9:30 a.m.
Worship — 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
Youth Programs — 4 p.m.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Kory Wilcoxson, Senior Minister
Rev. Colette Lane, Minister of Nurture
Laura Kaczmarek, Church Administrator
Zach Keesy, Church Office Assistant
Carolyn Miller, Children's Coordinator
Frank Spragens, Music Director
Dr. Noemi Lugo, Children &
Youth Music Director
Martha Duttlinger, Cherub Choir Director
Jane Johnson, Organist
Ann Smith, Accompanist
Michelle Mayes, Child Care Director
Dr. David Blondell, Minister Emeritus
Rick Zudonyi, Head Custodian
Ronnie DeAeth, Assistant Custodian

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Laura Kaczmarek: Laura@crestwoodchristian.org
Kory Wilcoxson: Kory@crestwoodchristian.org
Colette Lane: Colette@crestwoodchristian.org
Zach Keesy: Zach@crestwoodchristian.org
Carolyn Miller: Carolyn@crestwoodchristian.org
Frank Spragens: fspragens@insightbb.com

WEBSITE

www.crestwoodchristian.org