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NEW MEMBERS

# Gashland's Winter Logos

*December, January, February*

## FROM PASTOR

*"Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which translated means, 'God with us.'"*



"Immanuel, God with us!" is my theme for the Christmas/Advent Season. Christmas is a special time of year as we reflect on how much God Loves us! He knew that sin was going to enter the human race and that we would be in need of a Savior. Therefore, He sent His only begotten Son to live and die so that you and I might inherit eternal life. I'm not sure what your Christmas will be like this year, but don't ever forget that God is always with you! Even when you don't feel like He is there, He is! Sometimes our feelings deceive us into believing things that are not true. Throughout Scripture, God reminds us that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

I would like to encourage each of you to invite friends and family to come and join us for our Advent Series! On Sunday, Nov. 27th we will have our "Hanging of the Greens" Service. Many people don't realize the symbolism behind the Christmas elements that we use to decorate our Worship Center. On December 10 & 11, our adult choir will be presenting "A Song in the Air!" cantata in the Worship Center. This will be on Saturday evening at 7:00 pm and then they will present it again on Sunday morning at our 10:45 am Service. Then on Sunday, December 18, the children will be presenting a play entitled, "A Gift from God!" during the morning worship hour. We have decided to change our service times on Christmas Day, since it is a Sunday this year. On Sunday, Christmas Day, we will only have a morning worship celebration at 9:30 am. The reason is that many of you will be up early anyway and then we should be finished with the service by 11:00 a.m. so that you can run to family's homes or prepare for family as they come to join you for the day. That will be the only service offered on Christmas Day and we would like to observe Communion on this Sunday and close with a candle lighting service.

The Deacons have also decided to do something a little different this year. They would like to have a New Year's Eve/Watch Night in the Fellowship Hall. Since we had some catfish left over from the Revival, they are planning to do a catfish fry that night and you are welcome to bring other items to either go with catfish or would be good snack foods for the evening. Once we have eaten, everyone can play games and we will do a short devotional to welcome in the New Year. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. and try to conclude by 10:00 p.m. since the next day is a regular Sunday.

On Sunday, January 1st, we will have a Bible Study at 9:30 a.m., and morning worship at 10:45 a.m. and then we will cancel all other activities on that day. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a great New Year's Day Service! This is a great time to make some new resolutions in life!

After the first of the New Year, we hope to have several Outreach and Evangelism opportunities for you, so keep your eyes open for these dates and times! God continues to bless Gashland, so be sure to give Him praise and continue to invite others to join you at Gashland!

Love in Christ,  
Pastor George

Submission for articles for the Spring Logos coming out in March are due by February 10th!

Christmas is such a fun time with my children. Every year we make cookies and fudge and make extra to give to all our neighbors. The kids are so excited to deliver the yummy basket to them. It is a fun event that the kids now look forward to doing every year.  
Anonymous

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## OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM

Just a moment now...

I'm sure most, if not all, of you have heard this story, but I have always liked it, and I feel it bears repeating; and, perhaps, you will read it with a fresh, new understanding and Appreciation.

A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the Virgin birth and the sinless nature of Jesus; and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness of the promises of God.

The candy maker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed of our spiritual illness. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

And so was made the candy cane: Crafted in love, and made to help us remember the costly love of Jesus.

Unfortunately, the candy became known as just a candy cane -- a meaningless decoration seen at Christmastime. But, the meaning is still there for those who "have eyes to see and ears to hear." Let us pray that this symbol will again be used to witness **TO THE WONDER OF JESUS AND HIS GREAT LOVE that came down at Christmas and remains the ultimate and dominant force in the universe today.**

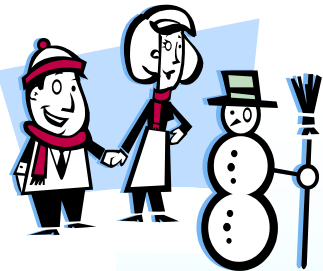
Isn't it amazing how certain things we consider so "insignificant" can be a "significant witness" to the saving love and power of Jesus Christ. "In the fullness of time" God sent an "insignificant" baby boy to bring everlasting hope to a hopeless world; to bring real peace to those who will receive the Prince of Peace. But to those who do not receive Him -- on His terms only -- their world caves in around them, and nothing but war and strife follow.

Perhaps a lesson in witnessing for Jesus Christ that we can all learn at Christmastime is simply this: No matter how "insignificant" we think we are -- or we think our testimony is -- God can always use us to speak on His behalf about the saving power of His son, Jesus Christ. If he can use something as "insignificant" as a little boy's lunch to feed 5000 people, he can certainly use a willing heart and life surrendered to His will to bring "good tidings of great joy to all people." You ARE important to God.

My friend, you may feel you don't have much to offer God in His service. But, I promise you that if you simply have a willing heart and life, God can take **THAT** part of you and use it to reach others for Jesus for His honor and glory. Maybe, that's a New Year's resolution all of us need to make: "Lord, make me usable in your service."

I do pray you and yours will have a wonderful, memorable, and joyous Christmas in the spirit and love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.; and that you will have a beautiful, blessed New Year in God. God bless you always, and in all ways.

Yours in Christ,  
Gene Simowitz  
Minister of Outreach and Evangelism  
John 3:30



One of my fondest memories of Christmas is when Nikolaus was about four and a half years old. Nik had awoken in the middle of the night on Christmas Eve, so we brought him into our room to sleep for the rest of the night. On Christmas morning, Craig and I had gotten up pretty early and had left Nik to snooze a little longer in our bedroom.

While we were in the kitchen chatting and drinking our coffee, we heard the sound of little feet jumping out of bed and running across the floor. Remembering hearing stories of kids getting up and tearing open all the presents before their parents could get there, our first thought was "oh no, we better get in there." However, much to our surprise, Nik came straight to the kitchen, running right past the tree and all of the presents. He wasn't running in to beg us to come to look at the presents or his filled stocking - he didn't even notice any of them. He came in to see where we were with a "Hi, watcha doin'? Can I sit in here and talk with you too?" For him, it was like who cares if it is Christmas and there are presents for me - I just want to spend time with my mom and dad. We actually had to take him back into the living room to show him the gifts under the tree and tell him these are for you buddy. It is times like those that you see how much love your child has for you and that is the best gift I could ever have. Lynda Gillespie (Albers)



## A Song in the AIR

Christmas at Gashland Baptist Church  
Saturday Dec. 10 – 7:00  
Sunday Dec. 11 – 10:45

## Come Celebrate Christmas!

There is a song in the air - a song of celebration, a song of worship, a song of proclamation. After all, it is Christmas, and we have so much to sing about.

This season, we pray that you will hear the joyful songs and read the beautiful Nativity story. But most of all, we pray that you will tell the good news of Jesus Christ to anyone who will listen.

God's Son is born! It is the greatest story ever told!

### A Song in the Air

One of the more challenging tasks for a music minister is choosing music for those special seasons, like Easter, 4th of July, or CHRISTMAS! It's a little tough sometimes to tell the old, old story in a way that makes people think in a fresh, new way. Even so, every year I listen for hours on end to a plethora of attempts by the various publishers. Many are designed to be very showy and more about entertainment than worship. Those only take a few minutes to weed out. Some just take more resources than we have and sooner or later that fact is obvious. But there are a few that demand a second listen and some careful consideration. I have to confess that there were times when I talked myself out of singing this musical. But after much prayer (and a little roughing up from the Holy Spirit) A Song in the Air was what we needed this year.

So, I just wanted to take a moment and share some words on this year's Christmas presentation from the Celebration Choir. A Song in the Air is definitely different – it is a collection of songs about songs and singing. Along the way is a wonderful retelling of the good news of Jesus' birth as we sing with the heavens and the angels (and of course, with each other). Phil Jones and Laurie Arbuthnot will be handling the narration and there will be solos from Mary Crawford or Deborah Kerley and Michaela Smith or Scott Zorn. There are moments of great excitement and great beauty. One of my favorite tunes is a rearrangement of O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Please invite those people that you know need to hear about the "Song from Heaven" that came to earth and renews our hearts even now, over two thousand years later. Saturday evening last year was just a special time together. It's a great service for your friends who can't come on Sunday morning or who may not be comfortable with the idea of coming to church for the Sunday service. Just tell them that you want to give them a gift that truly keeps on giving...

When I was 7 or 8 I was really hyped up about Christmas. We used to leave the tree lit up at night and that's when the bulbs were big and bright. The whole front room would glow all night with the soft colors of those beautiful colors.

I went to bed and woke up about 3 a.m. and wondered if anything new had come under the tree. I snuck out of bed quietly and went to peak. Under the tree was a huge, bright red metal fire engine. I had to play with it, of course, but was very quiet and when I got through I put it back exactly as I found it.

In the morning I ran in to see what was there, I had to act surprised, of course; mom and dad were up sipping coffee when I came in. It was a wonderful Christmas, but it was hard to keep the secret that I already knew that huge bright red fire engine was there. Everett Pruitt

# BIRTHDAY'S AND ANNIVERSARIES

## December

Luke Pilla 12/3  
 Alexis Mazey 12/4  
 Zach Howard 12/5  
 Jana Doree 12/6  
 James Day 12/6  
 Mallory Ulm 12/8  
 D.J. Morris 12/10  
 Donald Burgess 12/11  
 Todd Ebert 12/11  
 Priscilla Ahumaraeze 12/11  
 Dylan Howard 12/12  
 Lydia Ahumaraeze 12/12  
 Glenn Crump 12/15  
 Elizabeth Morris 12/17  
 Michelle Wahl 12/17  
 Ricky Ahumaraeze 12/25  
 Jason Borron 12/26  
 Debbie Maston 12/27  
 Dori Morris 12/28  
 Deana Rhodes 12/29  
 Carolyn Glazener 12/29  
 Cailey Martin 12/30  
 Rebecca Ashley 12/30  
 David Henson 12/31

## January

Sherri McDowell 1/1  
 Vincent Burgess 1/2  
 Stephanie Roberts 1/6  
 Dwight Still 1/8  
 Harley Coons 1/9  
 Kyle Coleman 1/9  
 Samuel Young 1/14  
 D'Artegnan Frisby 1/15  
 Jake Pilla 1/18  
 Gene Simowitz 1/23  
 Jolynn Day 1/23  
 Faye Lewis 1/25  
 Ravi Ramphal 1/28  
 Sharon Vickery 1/31

## February

Caiden Dilley 2/1  
 Diane Dorsey 2/1  
 Carolyn Morris 2/1  
 Kyle Pilla 2/2  
 Tony McCale 2/4  
 Lynn Jones 2/5  
 Lori Morris 2/7  
 Gladen Higgins 2/7  
 Brandon Sprague 2/9  
 Mike Palmer 2/10  
 Sydney Ebert 2/12  
 Robert Kendall 2/13  
 Robert Eames 2/13  
 Jesse Ahumaraeze 2/20  
 Judy Smoldt 2/21  
 Jeremiah Moneta 2/21  
 Wilma Meghoo 2/24  
 Earl Martin 2/25  
 Ben Morris 2/25

## Anniversaries

### December

Joe & Wanda Ashley  
 12/05

John & Shirley Paul  
 12/30

Josh & Stephanie Bowen  
 12/16

Ben & Shellie Bextermueller  
 12/18

### January

Mark & Debbie Maston  
 1/5

Earl & Barb Martin  
 1/23

### February

Chuck & Gladen Higgins  
 2/13

Floyd & Sharlyn Thompson  
 2/15

Tom & Becky Ulm  
 2/19

When the Zorn family celebrates Christmas, we wake up on Christmas morning and have Tamales and cold milk for breakfast. Then, after breakfast is over we read the Christmas Story out of the Bible in the Book of Luke Chapter 2, and pray. The real reason we celebrate Christmas is because of Jesus was born and this is what we teach our children. After we have read the Christmas Story then we open our presents and spend time together as a family. Rachel Zorn

Having our family all together at Christmas Dinner and opening presents. The young ones especially; they light up! I was probably in my teens then, mom always made fudge every year. We all went to both grandparents the following day. It doesn't feel like Christmas as much since most parents and grandparents are gone.

There were Christmas plays at Church on Christmas Eve. It felt like Christmas with songs and a message about Jesus. We always got a bag of sweets after church.

Christmas Caroling is my favorite. Alice Holland

My favorite part about Christmas is getting to sleep with my sisters and baking cookies for Santa. Morgan

My favorite part about Christmas is sleeping and eating! Robert Kendall

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed here and should be - please call the church office so you can be added!

## EVENTS

## December

12/3	New Hope Christmas		12:00 pm <i>Family Meal</i>
12/4	9:30 am Sunday School		1:00 pm <i>Ministry Meeting</i>
	10:45 am Morning Worship		5:30 pm Youth Discipleship
	<i>Baptism and Benevolence</i>		6:00 pm Bible Skills,Drills,and Thrills
	12:00 pm Youth Council Meeting	1/10	6:00 pm Evening Worship
	5:00 pm Deacon Meeting	1/11	9:00 am <i>Breakfast at Kate's Kitchen</i>
	5:30 pm Youth Discipleship	1/15	6:30 pm Awana/Bible Study/Youth
	6:00 pm Evening Worship		9:30 am Sunday School
	5:30 pm Play Practice		New Members Sunday School Class
	6:15 pm Bible Skills,Drills,and Thrills		10:45 am Morning Worship
12/6	5:00 pm <i>Wendy's Night</i>		Food Collection Sunday
12/7	6:30 pm Awana/ Bible Study/Youth		5:30 pm Youth Discipleship
12/8	1:00 pm <i>Seasoned Saints</i>		6:00 pm Evening Worship
12/10	7:00 pm <i>Christmas Cantata</i>	1/18	6:00 pm Bible Skills,Drills,and Thrills
12/11	9:30 am Sunday School	1/22	6:30 pm Awana/Youth/Bible Study
	10:45 am Morning Worship		9:30 am Sunday School
	<i>Christmas Cantata</i>		New Members Sunday School Class
	12:00 pm <i>Family Meal</i>	1/25	10:45 am Morning Worship
	5:30 pm Youth Discipleship	1/29	6:30 pm Awana/Bible Study/Youth
	5:30 pm Play Practice		9:30 am Sunday School
	6:00 pm Evening Worship		New Members Class
	6:15 pm Bible Skills,Drills,and Thrills		10:45 am Morning Worship
12/13	9:00 am <i>Breakfast at Kate's Kitchen</i>		5:30 pm Youth Discipleship
12/14	6:30 pm Awana/Bible Study/Youth		6:00 pm Evening Worship
12/17	9:00 am Dress Rehearsal for kids		6:00 pm Bible Skills,Drills,and Thrills
12/18	9:30 am Sunday School		
	10:45 am Morning Worship	February	
	<i>Children's Cantata</i>	2/1	6:30 pm Awana/Youth/Bible Study
	Food Pantry Collection Sunday	2/5	9:30 am Sunday School
	5:30 pm Youth Discipleship		10:45 am Morning Worship
	6:00 pm Evening Worship		Benevolence Sunday
	6:00 pm Bible Skills,Drills,and Thrills		5:30 pm Youth Discipleship
12/21	6:00 pm <i>Parents Night Out</i>		6:00 pm Evening Worship
	No Awana	2/7	6:00 pm Bible Skills,Drills,and Thrills
12/24	Christmas Eve (No Service)	2/8	5:00 pm <i>Wendy's Night</i>
12/25	9:30 am Morning Worship - Communion	2/11	6:30 pm Youth/Bible Study/Awana
	No Evening Worship	2/12	1:00 pm <i>Amanda Stewart's Wedding</i>
12/26	Office Closed		9:30 am Sunday School
12/28	No Awana		10:45 am Morning Worship
12/31	6:00 pm <i>New Years Eve Catfish Fry</i>	2/14	12:00 pm <i>Family Meal</i>
			9:00 am <i>Breakfast at Kate's Kitchen</i>
January			Valentine's Day
1/1	9:30 am Sunday School	2/15	6:30 pm Awana/Youth/Bible Study
	New Members Sunday School Class Begins	2/19	9:30 am Sunday School
	10:45 am Morning Worship		10:45 am Morning Worship
	Benevolence Sunday	2/20	Food Pantry Collection Sunday
	No Evening Activities	2/22	President's Day
1/3	5:00 pm <i>Wendy's Night</i>	2/26	6:30 pm Awana/Youth/Bible Study
1/4	6:30 pm <i>Awana Worker's Meeting</i>		9:30 am Sunday School
	No Awana		10:45 am Morning Worship
1/8	9:30 am Sunday School		5:30 pm Youth Discipleship
	New Members Sunday School Class		6:00 pm Evening Worship
	10:45 am Morning Worship	2/29	6:00 pm Bible Skills,Drills,and Thrills
			6:30 pm Awana/Youth/Bible Study

## AWANA

Hey all - In this little missive, you will get an **apology**, an **appeal** and an **acknowledgment**. I know, that's a lot for a few words, so we better get to it! First, I **apologize** for not having training for new AWANA workers this year. Some of you have stepped in anyway, and I **applaud** (I forgot that one), your courage. We plan to do a training in the first week of January, 2012, for anyone who might be interested in helping out in AWANA, or for those who didn't get one this fall. My appeal is for anyone who is looking for a place to serve. AWANA needs you! For a variety of reasons, several of our seasoned staff had to step away this year, so we need to fill some holes, mostly in helper roles, unless you want to be a leader. If you are interested, please contact Brent Morris or Sheree Yoder. My **acknowledgment** is for those AWANA workers who show up faithfully every week. Your work with these young folks is an inspiration to all. Thanks for helping out, because as the AWANA theme says: Kids matter to God! Brent Morris

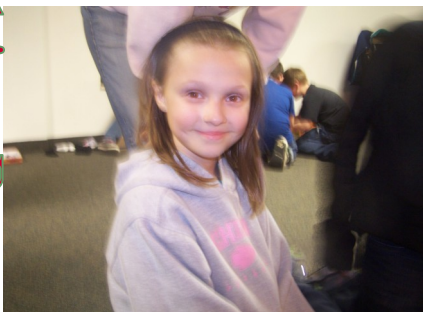
## MISSIONS

### MISSION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

- 104 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child (10 Awana Boxes)
- 30 hygiene kits for Love INC packaged and delivered
- 4-5 yards mowed/bi-monthly this summer for members
- Meal for teachers of Gashland Elementary School for Wednesday parent-teacher's conference.
- Van loaned to disaster relief ash-out team for transportation to Texas wildfires
- Yankton VBS for 2012 is a "Cowboy" theme! We will be supporting them.

### NEW

- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal is \$1400
- "I AM SECOND" billboard cost is \$1500.00 (already paid)
- Snow removal this winter for members. (Call office if you can help out or if you need your sidewalk shoveled.)



Awana Packing Party

Awana Packing Party

## CHURCH CLOSING POLICY

**Sunday School and Sunday morning services** will not be cancelled due to weather pending EXTREME weather conditions. It would be a personnel decision to attend or not. **Sunday Evening Services**, if cancelled, would be announced at Sunday Morning Services and, as a backup for individuals not able to attend the morning service, the cancellation of the evening service would be broadcast on the major TV and Radio networks. **Wednesday evening services and AWANA** will be cancelled if the NKC School District cancelled school.

# More Christmas Memories...

Every year, the Saturday after Thanksgiving was the traditional day for getting the Christmas tree; regardless of the weather. Some years were nice and sunny; some years were sleeting, rainy and snowy. We would all go out to Schmidt's tree farm. The kids would have to look at hundreds of trees before they found just the right one. It always had to be taller than ad, have lots of branches for ornaments (because we have lots of ornaments), and not have any "bald" spots. When the perfect tree was found the kids would circle it several times, and then someone would have to lie on the ground and look up at the trunk to make sure it was straight. Only after the tree passed the approval of the four Jones kids was it cut down and dragged back to the car. Over the years, the trees were tied to the top of station wagons, minivans, and put in Jared's "monster trucks". When the tree arrived home, we would listen to Christmas music on the stereo, drink hot chocolate, and decorate the tree together. After the tree was done, everyone would proclaim, "This is the best Christmas tree we have ever had."

Now the kids have left home and Lynn and I are happy to put up the artificial tree now and it is still "the best treewe have ever had". Lynn and Sandi Jones

Here it is Christmas time again and another year about to be added to the past. I don't know about you but I really miss all the joy and fun from Christmases past when there was a Santa Claus on every corner downtown along with the Salvation Army bell ringers. I loved going shopping with my Mom and seeing all the displays in the windows with the moving trains and other characters, lighted trees and shiny tinsel. People carrying shopping bags and rushing from department to department. It seemed that everyone was smiling and in a good mood, just because it was Christmas time.

I grew up living in Edgerton, MO and the local grocery store was Wells HyKlas. Every year at Christmas they would have Santa Claus come. Since I remember it was crowded, all the country kids must have been there as well as those of us who lived in town. We each got to tell Santa what we wanted him to bring and then was given a bag with hard candy, peppermint stick and an orange. I looked forward to that time of seeing THE REAL SANTA CLAUS and was really heartbroken when David Burns told me differently and my parents confirmed it.

Saddens me to know that my grandchildren will never experience and remember times like these. Sharon Vickery

One Christmas Eve Roger and I were unwrapping the Santa Claus gifts to the boys and there was quite a bit of paper, boxes, etc. We were fairly new to operating a fireplace, but we had a fire going that night. We had to put the boys to bed about 8:30 and around 9:30 when we knew they would be asleep we started our mission of unwrapping the Santa Claus gifts and of course throwing the wrappings into the fireplace. All was going along just fine until we heard a kind of popping noise coming from the fireplace. We couldn't see anything unusual inside so Roger went outside. And there it was, a large stream of fire coming out of the chimney. Thankfully, he had the presence of mind to run inside and close the damper to the fireplace which immediately killed the chimney fire and saved our house from burning to the ground. After that we were very careful! God's presence was truly in our house and protecting us on that Christmas Eve.

As Roger remembers the evening, the firebox had cooled down and upon burning the boxes and some paper we, of course, had a pretty good fire and it burned quickly and then went out. But, we heard some popping in the chimney so I stuck my head in the pit and could look up and see that the chimney was on fire big time! Evidently, there was some soot and creosote build up and the up draft had carried some lit papers and cardboard up and ignited it! I shut the damper to cut off the air flow and went outside to get the hose and a ladder, but by the time I did all that, it had gone out. The popping noise we heard was from the cold tile being heated so fast. By the way it was zero degrees that night. What a night. Lauri Simcoe