

The Newsleaf

Odessa Community of Christ

December 2008

A Christmas Gift

One of my all time favorite Christmas songs is "The Little Drummer Boy." I can recall from my youth looking for this song in the church hymnal and being so disappointed to not find it listed. I would go home and look in my sister's song books and sure enough, there it was. Come on Sis play this one. The vision of a young boy who had nothing else to give, reached down to the bottom of his soul and gave all he had ... he played his drum the very best he could for the Child King. While others brought gifts of finery, he had only his drum and a song. Why was this song not in the hymnal? What a great testimony! The following year around Christmas time I would again look for the song in the hymnal and ... WHAT, it's not in here? You get the cycle (persistent vs. just thick-headed).



Then one year I decided to do some research. I pulled out the Bible and went hunting. I'm a preacher's kid, I knew where the story was. I looked in the old testament ... Matthew, Mark, Luke and John ... where was it. I even checked in the comic book version mom and dad laid out for us kids. Maybe I didn't know where it was. I went to my father and asked him to show me exactly where this fantastic part of the birth of Christ could be found. He must have been smiling as he informed me, my favorite part of the Christmas story never happened. I was crushed. The testimony of a young boy wasn't true? He had nothing tangible to give ... I had nothing tangible to give. He had felt the love

of God in his heart ... I knew the love of God. He gave everything he had ... I wanted to give myself completely.

As an adult I still paste this story along the side of the story of Christmas painted so well in the Gospels (the version in Luke holds a special place in my heart). We don't know of everyone who stopped to honor the King, but we do know the child was the King, our Savior. I have more "things" now that I could lay at His feet. But don't you think He just wants us to give of ourselves, from deep down. Not that shallow version as we pass by. He wants us to find within our very being, that which makes us special and give it to a waiting world. He has given us so much ... shouldn't we do our best to repay and honor our Lord closing our eyes, settling ourselves and truly give our lives over to Him?

Lord, I give myself. All I have, I have because of You. All my abilities, I wish to use in Your service. I come to the stable to get a glimpse and to celebrate. I come to give of myself wholly. This is my Christmas gift.

Pastor Bruce Watson

Y.O.U.

(Youth Onward & Upward)

Saturday, December 6th
8 am - 3 pm.

Della Lamb Community Center in KC

Operation Santa Claus

for underprivileged kids
We will leave the Odessa Church at 8:00 a.m., and we will be grabbing a bite to eat together as a group.

Sunday, December 21
Time TBA

Y.O.U. Christmas Party and Caroling



Tuesday, December 30
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 a.m. (or so)
NEW YEAR'S ADAM PARTY!

Lock-in at the Kramer's
Bring a snack to share!

~~~~~

## "China McMex" Dinner

Sunday, December 28th

12 noon

A December Special !!

Make your Christmas List  
Check it twice

For our in-house fundraising dinner  
Sunday, Dec. 28!

Proceeds to Building Fund



## "Hanging of the Green"

Wednesday, Dec 3rd

7 p.m.

A worship service of Hanging of the Green will be held in the sanctuary  
Mindy Day in charge

**Craft Fair Setup. . . This Thursday, December 4th** Come offer your help as we prepare for this Saturday's activities!

## Winter Exercise for a healthier you!

All ages 36 yrs and over are invited to share in an evening of exercise as we Square Dance to better health! Already have a great list of those interested in participating! Come and share with this fun group! Fun and good health await you!



All those interested please meet immediately after church this Sunday morning by piano to set a date and time best for all!



## - J.O.Y Club -

Great breakfasts continue for a large group of the over 50 crowd for fellowship! We invite others to come, put your elbows on the table, join us for breakfast and a warm cup of coffee.

Next get-together will be **Saturday, December 20th at 8:30 a.m.** at Morgan's Restaurant.

Elaine

## Deadline for Church Directory

New and updated info for the directory need to be given to Sue Mills by Sunday, December 7th.

## Junior Church

Sunday

December 14th

11 a.m.

This is the 2nd Sunday in December this month



## Christmas Drama

Sunday, December 21st

11:00 a.m.

"Candle Lit Christmas"

All those children wanting to be in the play meet with **Jenny Kramer Sunday, Dec 14th after church.**

## Wednesday Night Services this month— 7 pm

Dec 3rd: Hanging of the Green

Dec 10th: Worship

Dec 17th Prayer Service

Dec 24th Christmas Eve Worship

Dec 31st Family Night

**Ladies!** Ladies, I want to thank you, first of all, for your faithful attendance at the meetings. We have been having some great groups to celebrate and have joy together as we plan activities. We were Bewitching in October and Thankful in November. Since, the first Tuesday of December is three days after the Christmas Craft Fair, when most of us will still be recuperating, it seems prudent that we reschedule the December meeting. Anyone with comments, ideas, questions, or suggestions about the Christmas

Party, feel free to call me, 816-616-5697, or email me at [ilene-sheets@att.net](mailto:ilene-sheets@att.net). If I don't hear from anyone it may be our annual Christmas in January party.

Ilene Sheets

**Outstanding Christian of the Month** We are truly blessed to be worshiping with such awesome people in our congregation and feel to recognize them throughout this next year. Nominations were taken from each Sunday School Class for "Outstanding Christian of the Month" and they are:

### Pre-K/K Class: Levi Corn

"Encourages 1st grade class to pray. Loves to read his "Jesus" books, encourages his family to church."

### Jr Hi/Sr Hi: Elizabeth Watson

She always has a positive thing to say.

### Young Adult Class: Cody Sheets

For standing up for me when no one else would.

### Adult #1: Myrtle Dillon

Always smiling and helpful.

### Adult#2: Pam Corn

Always helping others in need.

**GIFTS! TALENTS! ACTS OF**

**KINDNESS!** They are making a difference in our congregation and in the lives of people.

We honor these students!

Pauline



## Budget Excites A Growing Congregation!

Well, maybe not our Financial Officer with all the challenges he faces, but new growth is caus-



ing us to take a 2nd take on an old budget format. Budget approved as read with noted suggestions. Thanks Eric for all your hard work!

Thanks for your continued outstanding support for the needs of our congregation and its programs.

*Looking forward to the new year "spent" with our God.*

### Our Scripture Challenge for December is:

- Dec 7th Moroni 1 & 2
- Dec 14th Moroni 3, 4, 5
- Dec 21st Moroni 6 & 7
- Dec 28th Moroni 8, 9 & 10

### Newsletter . . . Need your

**help.** We're running late for our very important dates! New deadline for newsletter please, is 20th of the month. *Thanks for your help. Pauline*

**A Thanksgiving Feast** was held to a large crowd with candle-lit tables and packed to the brim with family and friends! Our pastor led us in thoughts of Thanksgiving and prayer. Truly, a day of thanksgiving as we joined for a feast of food, friends and fellowship!

### Ordination Service Held

For Brandon Fletcher, ordained Sunday, November 30th to the office of Deacon. Testimonies were shared including a very meaningful telephone call shared in the service, from Val, El Fresno, Texas. Brandon shared outstanding leadership in repairing homes there this past summer with his youth mission trip.

**College Students** Join us at Liahona for fun and fellowship. Contact Phil Meyer for schedule of activities.

### Choir Practice Every Sunday Night

Our Choir meets every Sunday evening for practice at 7 p.m.. We will be starting Easter music right after the new year. All are invited to sing.

*Tracy*



**Young Adults** Hosted Thanksgiving Dinner for Mission Center Young Adults at Oak Grove this past month.



Plans are for caroling and other activities in

December. Check with Phil and Sharon Meyer for further details

**Nursery** We are having a full house in the nursery. Shelly Coffer is doing a great job with our nursery but needs volunteers. Sign up on the bulletin board when you can take a turn.

**Pre-K/Kindergarten** What a ministry! What a neat group of children! It's really great to see all our little ones growing and learning in Sunday School, hearing from them is great too but I don't hear them! Melissa and Guylene are quietly doing a terrific job with our children and we would like to



- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 01- Jennifer Anthony | 15- Pam Hart         |
| 02- Rick Kuenzli     | 15- Shane Solst      |
| 03- Bryan Phelps     | 23- Jeff Kem         |
| 06- Gary Ramsey      | 24- Joshua Sowerwine |
| 08- Donn Quick       | 25- Whitney Slater   |
| 09- Shelly Frank     | 26- Clara Frank      |
| 09- Amber Hallier    | 30- Henry Lee Grubb  |
| 10- Dante' Quick     | 30- Quintin Mackey   |
| 14- Ina Urness       | 30- Bob Williams     |

just say a big THANK YOU for all they do! They continue to bring more and more children in and continue to have more and more energy and stories to share. We love to "hear" them especially as they sing the songs they've learned of Jesus and his love!

**AVON Fundraiser** our portion of our first Avon campaign last month was \$156.16. We receive 15-40% of each sale. Our 2nd campaign is ending **this** Sunday, Dec 7th for everyone to receive in time for Christmas. Check with Dena Quick for further information. Proceeds from sales will go to Women's Department for the kitchen.



*Dear Lord,  
So far today God I've done alright.  
I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or over indulgence. I'm really glad about that but in a few minutes God, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help.  
Thank you. Amen.*

(contributed by Kathy Hattey)  
Author unknown

### December Birthdays!

Please turn in Newsleaf info by **20th** of the month to Pauline Watson:  
dpwatson@embarqmail.com or Phone 816-633-3250



# Community of Christ



515 S First  
Odessa, MO 64076

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### Sunday:

- 9:15 AM Breakfast Gathering
- 9:45 AM Sunday School Classes
- 10:45 AM Worship Service
- 2:00 PM Young Adult Meeting
- 5:30 PM Youth Meeting
- 7:00 PM Choir Practice

### 1st Sunday of the Month:

- 8:45 AM Family Prayer Service
- 9:30 AM Preparation
- 9:45 AM Sunday School Classes

### Wednesday:

- 7:00 PM Prayer Service
- Family Night last Wednesday

Pastor: Bruce Watson 816-565-2153

**Mission Statement** — "We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote Communities of Joy, hope, love and peace."

Church Website: [www.odessacofchrist.org](http://www.odessacofchrist.org)



# CRAFT FAIR

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 6TH  
8 AM TO 3 PM**

**LADIES "BAKE UP A STORM" FOR  
OUR EVER POPULAR  
BAKE SALE TABLE**

**CRAFTS! CRAFTS! & MORE CRAFTS!**

**DO SOME CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!**

**COME SHARE  
BREAKFAST AND LUNCH TOO!**

**INVITE A FRIEND!**



## One-Day Bible School

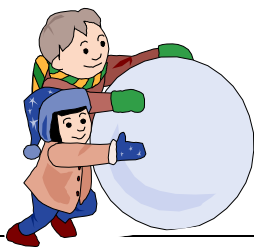
Saturday, December 13th  
9:30 to 2 p.m.

**"Jerusalem Marketplace"**

Walk the streets of  
Jerusalem  
Where His sandals walk

Group's 2008  
**BIBLE-TIMES**  
Vacation Bible School





Odessa Community of Christ

# December

2008

| Sun                                                                  | Mon | Tue                                           | Wed                              | Thu                            | Fri | Sat                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                      | 1   | 2                                             | 3<br>7 pm Hanging of the Green   | 4<br>7 pm Setup for Craft Fair | 5   | 6<br>Craft Fair<br>8 am—3 pm<br>Y.O.U. to Della Lamb |
| 7<br>8:45 am Prayer Ser                                              | 8   | 9                                             | 10<br>7 pm Worship Ser           | 11                             | 12  | 13<br>One—Day VBS<br>9:30 a.m. -2 pm                 |
| 14<br>11 a.m. Jr Church                                              | 15  | 16                                            | 17<br>7 pm Prayer Ser            | 18                             | 19  | 20<br>8:30 am J.O.Y.<br>@ Morgan's                   |
| 21<br>11 a.m. Christmas Program<br>Y.O.U. Christmas Party & Caroling | 22  | 23                                            | 24<br>7 pm Christmas Eve Worship | 25<br><i>Merry Christmas</i>   | 26  | 27                                                   |
| 28<br>12 noon China McMex Dinner                                     | 29  | 30<br>Y.O.U. New Year's Adam Party<br>7-10 pm | 31<br><i>New Year's Eve</i>      |                                |     |                                                      |

**COME & WORSHIP—Sunday Morning Worship Services**

Song Service - 10:45 A.M.      Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.

|                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>December 7th —<br/>“The Lord Will Come”<br/>Speaker, David Watson</p> <p>December 21st—<br/>“He Will Be Called the Son of God”<br/>Speaker, Christmas Service</p> | <p>December 14th —<br/>“Make Straight the Way of the Lord”<br/>Speaker, Anita Norman</p> <p>December 28th—<br/>“God Sent the Son”<br/>Speaker, Bruce Watson</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|