

# THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FOR BANCROFT AND MORRICE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES  
DECEMBER 2011

TRICIA ELLIOTT, PASTOR

[www.bmpumc.org](http://www.bmpumc.org)

NINA MORTIMORE, EDITOR

**[We] have a shared mission to serve God to the best of our ability by making him known in our church, community and world.**

Pastor's Letter for December 2011 Newsletter

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are in the wonderful season of Advent as we anticipate the coming of Christmas! Although many people around us seem to be indulging and spending and rushing and overextending, as Christians we are invited to a different, more sane and peaceful pace. We are invited to watch and wait for the coming of Christ into our lives.

Watching and waiting reminds me of the four long years my husband attended seminary out of state. From Monday through Friday my son Josh and I lived in Ohio while Dirk lived in Kentucky. Every Friday night was a watch night for us! From our kitchen window we could see several miles of the main road from the south. It didn't take us long to be able to recognize the lights of Dirk's car from a distance. Every Friday night, together we watched and waited with excited anticipation to be a family again. With all the watching, we also began to pay closer attention to our neighbors who lived behind us. Were they home or away? Did everything look OK? Did they need any help? Our patient watching helped us be more attentive to our neighborhood and the people passing through.

In our Advent devotional, *The Journey: A Season of Reflections*, Adam Hamilton asks, "Do you take the time, do you pay attention to what's happening around you, and do you listen so that you don't miss God's angels when they come speaking to you?"

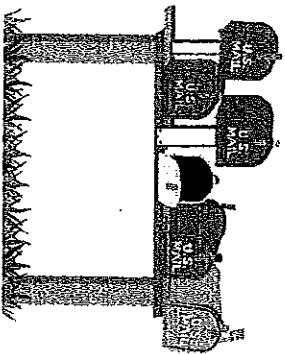
Mary was watchful and attentive when God's messenger, Gabriel, appeared and told her about God's salvation plan. Being watchful, she did not miss the movement of the Holy in her life. Being humble, she responded to God's call, saying, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) Service is born when humble people watch and wait for Christ. Service, the foot-washing, humble service Jesus modeled for us, is a genuine response of compassion and mercy. Service is thoughtful action and appropriate help.

This month, you are invited to watch and wait for Christ together. With the Advent studies on Tuesday evenings, we can see a video tour of the Holy Land, tracing the steps of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. On December 11 at Bancroft, we can share the good news of Christ's coming by inviting friends and neighbors to celebrate with us at our chargewide potluck at 5:00 and Carol Sing at 6:00. Serve a neighbor or someone homebound by offering to bring them to the Christmas Eve services, 7:00 at Bancroft and 11:00 at Morrice. And don't forget whose birthday it is on December 25th. Come and worship! Birthday cake provided.

In watching and waiting for Christ, we see the beauty of the season, we are inspired by the smiles and wonder-filled expressions of children, and we initiate good will among people. In watching and waiting, we are able to see people with whom we need to reconnect or make amends, and we notice and reach out to people who are lonely, grieving, hungry, and afraid. In watching and waiting, we are able to see past the frenzy of the shopping season to the Christmas season where the love of Christ is born in our hearts and we can truly celebrate and share God with us.

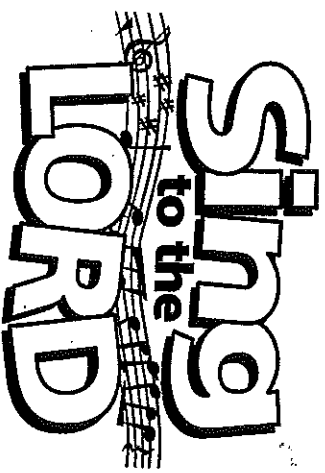
"As for me, I look to the Lord for his help. I wait confidently for God to save me, and my God will certainly hear me." (Micah 7:7 NLT)

Blessings,  
Pastor Tricia



### SNOWBIRDS

This is to all our snowbirds. Please make sure I have your correct out of Michigan address. I want to make sure you continue to receive the newsletter while you winter away from the cold. If I do not have your correct winter address, the newsletter is returned and we pay the return postage.  
--Nina

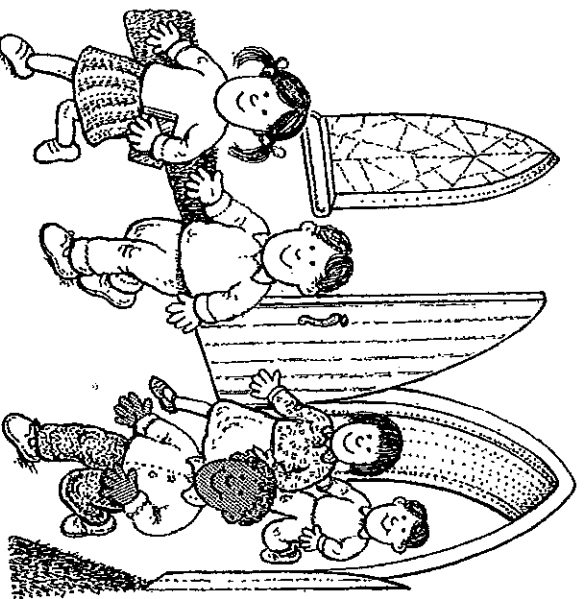


### POTLUCK AND CAROL SING

There is a charge potluck and carol sing on December 11 at the Bancroft UMC. The potluck will begin at 5:00 pm with the carol sing to follow at 6:00 pm. See you there!

### PPRC

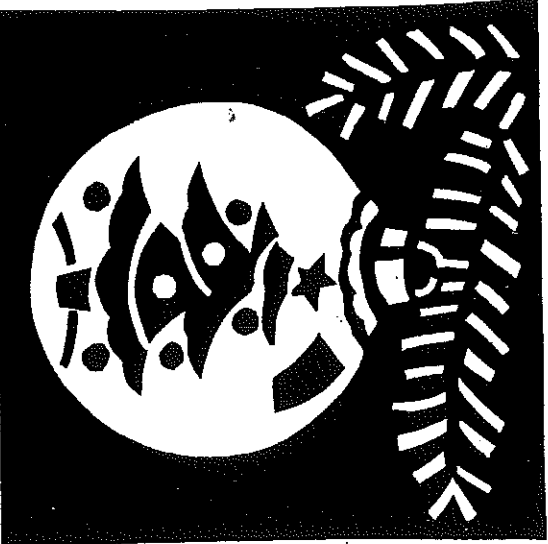
The PPRC (Pastor-Parish Committee) will meet at 7:00 on January 10 at Bancroft. Welcome to new members Jim Valentine and Margaret Hemenway. Much thanks to outgoing members Laura Smith and Gary Hubert.



NO SALAD LUNCHEON AT MORRICE DURING DECEMBER. THE NEXT SALAD LUNCHEON IS JANUARY 26.

### PRAYER GATHERING

The Morrice sanctuary will be open from 6:00-6:45 on Tuesday, December 13 for silent prayer for our churches, communities and world. Members from both churches and the community are welcome to pray. Pastor Tricia will be available during this hour for focuses one-with-one prayer if desired. A written Prayer guide will also be available. A prayer circle will be led by Pastor Tricia at 6:45. (On January 10, the Bancroft sanctuary will be open for prayer in the evening from 6:00 to 6:45.)



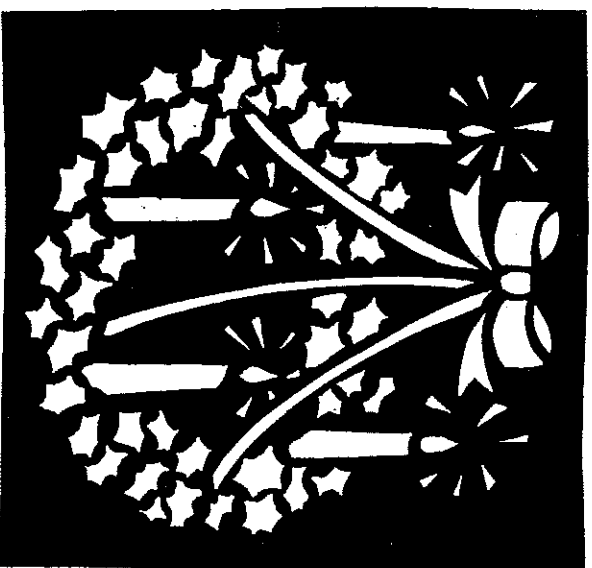
# ADVENT

- 3 Senior Christmas Dinner @ St. Mary's Hall  
1:00 pm
- 4 Communion Sunday; Youth Game Night @  
(M) 6-8:00 pm
- 5 Ad Council (B) 7:00 pm
- 6 Advent Study at (B) 7:00 pm
- 8 UMW (B) 10:15 am
- 11 Food Collection Sunday; Choir (M) after  
worship; Trustees (M) after worship; Charge  
Potluck (B) 5:00 pm, Carol Sing 6:00 pm
- 13 UMW (M) 4:00 pm; Prayer Gathering at (M)  
6:00 pm; Advent Study at (M) 7:00 pm
- 15 Newsletter items due
- 18 Haiti Hot Lunch (M)
- 19 Ad Board (M) 7:00 pm
- 20 Advent Study at (M) 7:00 pm
- 22 First Day of Winter
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight (B) 7:00 pm;  
Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion  
(M) 11:00 pm
- 25 Happy Birthday, Jesus! Regular worship  
schedule
- 31 Recycling Day (M) 9-11:00 am

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- Bancroft: Worship: 9:30 am  
Sunday School: after worship
- Morrice: Adult Sunday School 9:15 am  
Worship: 10:30 am  
Children's Sunday School during  
worship

# ADVENT



## ADVENT STUDY

A special weekly Advent study will be held each of the Tuesday nights during Advent. The study is based on Adam Hamilton's book *The Journey* and includes a video tour of the Holy Land and discussion time. The study meets at Bancroft at 7:00 on December 6 and at Morrice UMC at 7:00 on December 13 and 20.

# Welcome Lord Jesus

## CHRISTMAS EVE

There are a couple of opportunities to worship on Christmas Eve. The first is a "family style" candlelight service at 7:00 pm at the Bancroft UMC. The second is a special communion and candlelight service at the Morrice UMC beginning at 11:00 pm.

# Bring your Friends

# Missions

## FOOD COLLECTION TOTALS

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Food Collection Challenge. Morrice finished the challenge with 1147 pounds which was donated to the Perry Morrice Shaftsbury Food Bank. Bancroft counted 1148 pounds which went to the Loaves and Fishes food bank. Pittsburg UMC collected over 2100 pounds of food which was donated to the Salvation Army in Owosso.

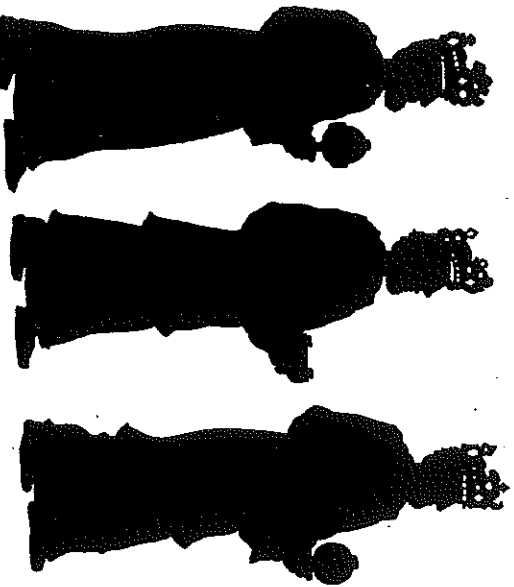
The challenge shows that we have many caring and generous people in our churches. Thanks again for the support of our food banks.

## HOSPICE HOUSE

Many of us in our congregation have known loved ones who have been in hospice care in our homes. Recently Hospice House of Shiawassee opened on Copas Road in Owosso. This is a 24-hour care service provided free of charge to patients. It is staffed by volunteers and support of this three-bed hospice home is needed.

The Morrice Administrative Board voted to support this cause at \$50 per month or whatever is collected in a special offering. The first special offering is December 11.

One of the nearest Hospice Houses in Michigan to provide free services is in Charlotte (Eaton County). They report that 2-3 patients from Shiawassee County use their house on a monthly basis. That means a lot of travel for Shiawassee County residents.



## UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the part of our church which helps us be in mission in the United States and around the world. Below are a only a sample of the Advance projects in which UMCOR participates. When disasters strike an area, UMCOR is one of the first agencies on the ground to help. If you would like to make a donation, please write a check to your church with the Advance number on the memo line and place in the collection plate.

### TURKEY

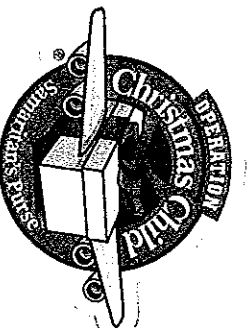
In recent weeks, the nation of Turkey has been struck with more than one earthquake. To help the victims with food and shelter, please use Advance # 982450.

### HAITI

Haiti continues to recover from the January 2010 earthquake and hurricanes. Things are improving in some areas but much work is still needed. Please use Advance # 418235.

### UNITED STATES

2011 was a year of floods and tornadoes and other natural disasters in the United States. Some areas are still recovering from the destruction. Please use Advance #901670.



## SHOEBOXES

Great job to all who filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child! Bancroft sent 100 boxes, Morrice sent 135 boxes and Pittsburg sent 25-35 boxes. Thanks to all who helped.

### BANCROFT ITEMS

Adult Sunday School class will have two classes during December. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, Lesson 4 "From Crisis to Consolidation" includes selected scriptures: Genesis 41 and 47, Acts 7 and Hebrews 11. This lesson is Dr. David Jeremiah's study on the Coming Economic Armageddon.

On December 18, Lesson 5 is entitled "Satan's CEO". This lesson is based on 2 Thessalonians 2:1-13; other selected scriptures are Matthew 24:10-12, 1 Peter 3:3-4 and Revelation 3:15-17 and 19:20.

The UMW thanks the Childrens' Sunday School class for helping them reach their goal of filling 100 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child for Samaritan's Purse. They will be taken to Swartz Creek United Methodist Church before being sent to Boone, North Carolina to be distributed to children around the world.

On Thursday, December 8, the Bancroft UMW will celebrate Christmas by traveling to Turkeyville, Michigan for dinner, music and performances entitled "Grandma Got Run Over By a WHAT!"

### BANCROFT UMW

There were 11 people present at our October meeting. Some of our women went to Fowlerville on October 28 and helped to get boxes ready to be sent to the mission field around the world. Sharon Bower is collecting stamps to help pay postage to help the shipping expenses. There is a small container in the back of the church to place used stamps cut from any envelopes you receive.

The cookie drive was November 20<sup>th</sup>. Cookies were taken to convalescent home workers and firemen as a thank you for their service.

A benefit for Sandy Piper was held on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Cards for shut-ins were signed by all in attendance. A note was read from David.

A request for more birthday bags for Loaves and Fishes was made. 115 labels and 115 box tops were sent to Red Bird Mission.

Joanne had prayer and Bible study to end our meeting. Margaret and Joan were the hostesses.

### BANCROFT READER

Dec. 4	Sarah Cooney
Dec. 11	Barb Medlock
Dec. 18	
Dec. 25	Lisa Cole

### BANCROFT GREETERS

Dec. 4	Ben & Joan Ordway
Dec. 11	Stan & Barb Eddy
Dec. 18	Margaret and SS Children
Dec. 25	Lisa Cole

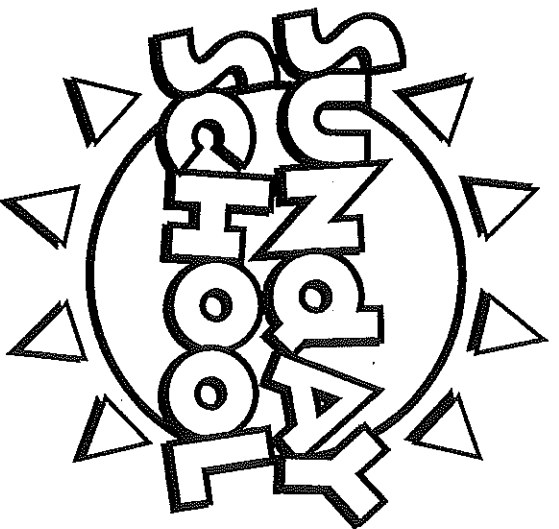


### BANCROFT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have been collecting "Snacks for Students" during October. We donated 387 snacks to Loaves and Fishes. Thanks everyone for your help in providing snacks for us.

Our turkeys are gathering a lot of feathers so we will be ready to be greeters on Sunday, November 20. Our theme is "Turkeys and Thoughts".

In December, we have 20 Christmas Stockings to fill for Loaves and Fishes. Wrapped candy and small toys, coloring books, etc. would be appreciated. We are working on our Nativity scenes in December.



# Thanks A lot

## BUCK POLE

The 2011 Buck Pole was a success thanks to many people. First of all a tip of the hat goes to Wendi Valentine for organizing everything. She was helped by many people from the church and community.

Below is a list of our sponsors. Please drop in at their places of business and thank them. Don't forget to invite them to come with you to church next Sunday. They are: Morrice Hardware, Jarrod Masonry, Morrice Barbershop, Tracy's Outpost, Corunna Mills, Pink Shear, R & B Processing, BJ's, Elssesser's, Joe's Body Shop, Chiropractic Works, 3 D Outdoors Plus, Turk's Storage, Artesian Water Conditioning, 7-11, Swan Creek Candles, Darling's Hardware, Don's Sport Vehicles, Ridenour's Auto Repair, Morrice Collision, Morrice Superette, Morrice Agency, Cafe Sports, Spartan Fence, G & E Auto, Huffy's, Shift Shop, Hull's Processing, Spalding Auto Body, Meal & More, Looking Glass Taxidermy, Unique By Nature, Hungry Howie's, Your Barbershop, Sandy Pines, M & S Tires, Shirt Smith and Morrice Senior Center.

These businesses may have purchased a sign or donated services or prizes.

Over \$2500 was made after expenses were paid. This money was placed into the Shepherd's Fund and the General Fund of the Morrice UMC. A huge "thank you is extended to all who helped to make this a very successful day. Our shirts say we will again be doing this in 2012. Get ready!

## RECYCLING DAY

The United Methodist Men of Morrice will sponsor a Recycling Day on December 31, 9-11 am at the Morrice UMC parking lot. Someone will be available to help load bagged or bundled newspapers onto the trailer.

At the same time, rinsed pop bottles and cans will be collected for the youth group.



# The Good Shepherd

## YOUTH GAME NIGHT

There will be a youth game night at the Morrice UMC on Sunday, December 4. The time is 6-8:00 pm with all ages of youth beginning with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up through high school.

Adult chaperones are needed. We are in the process of beginning two youth groups, one for the traditional ages of 7-12 grades and a kid's club for those in grades 3-6.

Activities include: foosball, carpetball, several types of board games and a few surprises.

Snacks are needed and if you would like to help, please contact Nina.

# MORRICE

## MORRICE LITURGIST

Dec. 4 Cheryl Lewis  
Dec. 11 Katy Jarrad  
Dec. 18 Matt Harvey  
Dec. 25 Robin Rogers

## GREETING YOU AT MORRICE

Dec. 4 Cheryl Lewis  
Dec. 11 Judy Bristley  
Dec. 18 Cheryl Lewis  
Dec. 25

## MORRICE BEVERAGE/SNACK

Dec. 4  
Dec. 11 Cheryl Lewis  
Dec. 18 Van & Joyce Polhemus  
Dec. 25 Jim & Katy Jarrad

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Brianna Clark. She was named as the senior class October Student of the Month at Morrice High School. Way to go Brianna!

## ADVENT FOLDERS

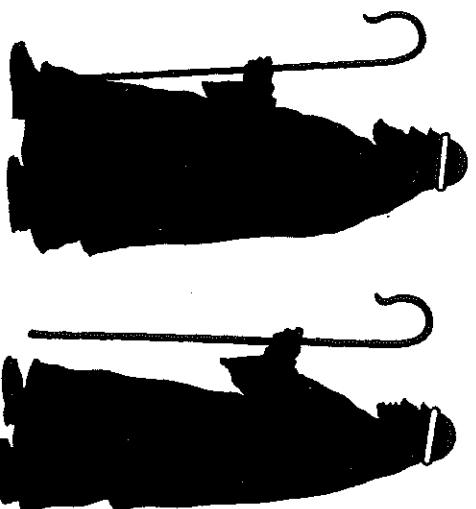
The Advent folder offering this year at Morrice will benefit the Shepherd's Fund. This fund helps members of the community at large who need some assistance with paying heating bills, for medicines or other needs. Please fill your folder and drop it in the collection plate during the Advent season.

## CHOIR

The Morrice choir will practice after worship on December 11. More voices are needed. They will participate in the Christmas Eve service at Morrice.

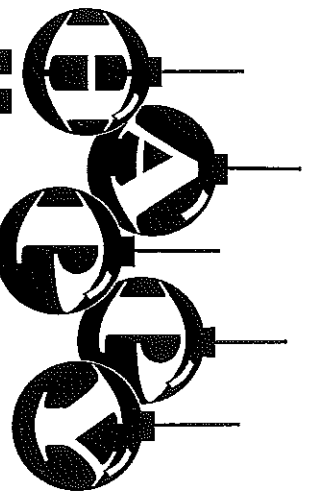
## BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Bible Study will take a break during the month of December. They will again meet each Wednesday during January at the Morrice UMC at 7:00 pm. They will begin near the book of 1 Kings. Come and join the group.



## SIGN UP

Hey, can you greet others and pass out bulletins before worship? Do you like to drink coffee or punch and have a mid-morning snack? If your answer is yes to either of these questions, please consider signing up on one of the two sheets on the back table. Dates are available for the first six months of 2012.



# HOLIDAYS

## ALL-AREA TEAM

A "high-five" to Mike Mortimore, named as an Honorable Mention to the All-Area football team as a running back from Morrice High.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Dec. 1	Rev. Jeremy Peters	☺
Dec. 1	Kammi Smith	M
Dec. 3	Dave Fiebertitz	B
Dec. 3	John Wright	M
Dec. 6	Connie Parker	B
Dec. 6	Rev. John Schneider	M
Dec. 6	Jen Peters	☺
Dec. 8	Judy Bristley	M
Dec. 13	Dave Haas	M
Dec. 16	Jim Weaver	B
Dec. 19	Carol Wright	M
Dec. 21	Rachelle Twichell	M
Dec. 24	Mike Yanik	B
Dec. 27	Samantha Fall	B
Dec. 28	Gage Price	M
Dec. 28	Shane Wroe	M
Dec. 31	Barb Eddy	B

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Dec. 4	Judy & Ken Preadmore	M
Dec. 23	Ron & Mary Sue Gorsline	M
Dec. 24	Marck & Jenn Michael	M

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Jan. 13-14	U-Nite at Genesys
Jan. 15	Human Relations Special Sunday
Jan. 26	Salad Luncheon at (M)
Jan. 27-29	Youth Lay Speaking
Jan. 29	Goal setting meeting



MORRICE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
PO BOX 301  
MORRICE, MI 48857-0301

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT No. 4  
Morrice, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

For Morrice and Bancroft United  
Methodist Churches