

The Tidings

Rev. Jamie P. Washam, Pastor

*Underwood Memorial Baptist Church
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*"We are living proof that Jesus Christ is our peace who makes
strangers into friends, breaks down dividing walls and builds up real persons."*

November 2007

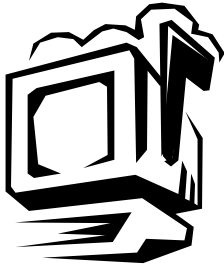
From the Pastor

May this prayer of Howard Thurman's be your own meditation in these December days.

Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me

- Open unto me – light for
my darkness.
- Open unto me – courage for
my fear.
- Open unto me – hope for
my despair.
- Open unto me – peace for
my turmoil.
- Open unto me – joy for
my sorrow.
- Open unto me – strength for
my weakness.
- Open unto me – wisdom for
my confusion.
- Open unto me – forgiveness for
my sins.
- Open unto me – tenderness for
my toughness.
- Open unto me – love for
my hates.
- Open unto me – Thy Self for
my self.

Lord, Lord, open up to me!



BULLETIN BOARD

THANK YOU

My thanks to all of you who contributed to the pleasure of the 80/over celebration, in so many different ways. It was fun.

Sincerely, Martha Merkt

DANCE GROUP STARTING

An Underwood Liturgical Dance Group that is open to all will be starting soon. Dance experience is not necessary to join this group, just a desire to worship through movement. We would like to hold a December Sunday afternoon dance workshop, hosted by Liturgical dance instructor, Sr. Dorcas. At least 8 are needed to form a dance group. If you would like to join, please sign up on the bulletin board, located outside the offices. For more information, speak with Katelyn Carrington or Emilie Rohde-Terrien.

CHRISTMAS SHOW AT ACACIA THEATRE

From **December 1 – 9th**, Acacia Theatre presents Ardan James, the Animated Illusionist. He brings the wonder of Christmas to life in a tale for the whole family.

A lonely girl finds the ultimate connection through God's love, in this unique blend of theatre, dance and comic illusions that will bring both laughter and tears.

All shows are in Concordia University Wisconsin's Todd Wehr Auditorium (in Mequon) the first two weekends in December. For tickets, call (414) 744-5995 or www.acaciatheatre.com.

INTERFAITH CONFERENCE

HONORS GRACE MORGAN

On Thursday, **December 6th**, at the Italian Community Center, Interfaith Conference will honor Grace Morgan with a Frank Zeidler Award, at the 37th Annual Awards Luncheon, at 11:30 a.m. Seats are \$30 each or a table is \$240. A table from Underwood is a wonderful idea. Please talk to Robin in the office or call 414-276-9050 for more information.

CHRISTMAS AT UNDERWOOD

ANNUAL WOMEN'S BRUNCH

Women – all ages – are invited to share
a Christmas Brunch

DECEMBER 8th at 10 A.M. in Fellowship Hall.

The program includes guest speakers,
performers and Christmas music.

CAROLING

Sunday, **DECEMBER 9th**

Please meet at the church at 2 P.M.

CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY & PROGRAM

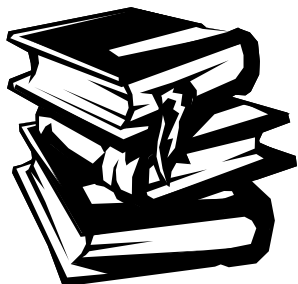
DECEMBER 16th AT 5:00PM

Please come and share in the food,
festivities and fun!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

BEGINS at 7 P.M.

**FOLLOWING REFRESHMENTS
& FELLOWSHIP at 6 P.M.**



THE LIBRARY CORNER

Have you noticed a new addition in the library? If you said a new rack for the videos and DVDs, you would be correct.

Judy and Tony Chan shopped around to find the rack. Thank you for your excellent shopping skills. The new rack matches the other bookshelves well. Money from the used book sale in September provided most of the cost.

The children's videos are now in the new rack at the left of the library desk. The videos more suitable for teens and adults are in the rolling rack in front of the "new book" display table.

When the Southeastern Chapter of the Church and Library Association (CSLA) met at Underwood in October, they were impressed with our small, but attractive, collection. When was the last time you signed out a book?

Continue to watch for new books as they are processed. There should be some new (at least new to our library) children's Christmas books on the shelves very soon.

With the Christmas season looming large on the horizon, remember that books make wonderful gifts for both children and adults. Make someone happy with a good book.

Carolyn Sanders, Librarian

THANK YOU!

Thank you, thank you for the items you brought in for the Milwaukee Christian Center. Located at 25th and Greenfield, the Center is part of American Baptist National Ministries.

You responded so well – and we appreciate that. After Thanksgiving the items will be delivered to the Center.

If you brought baby gowns or baby blankets to be sent to the Congo, we thank you for your response to that plea.

The Underwood family is always so generous when an appeal is extended for support of projects such as these. The ABW women are grateful for your help in filling our White Cross quota this year. God bless you for your generosity.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members: Tifuh Amba, Eva Berry, Jim Christenson, Bette Day, Marge Gaeth, Joyce Johnson, Jack Kearnan, Janice Melcher, Maggi Monahan, Pat Ransom, Virginia Reininger, Charlyn-Mai Roberts, Carolyn and Joe Sanders, Shari West, Dee Schowalter, Shirley Tupper, Llew Walker, Lisa Wilkening, Tim Wilkening.

Friends and Others Known to the Church Family: Tifuh Amba's mom, aunt, Anne Marie, sister, Mourine Amba; Pam Clark's mom, Wilma Clark; Nancy Fritter's mom, Jean Thomas; Steve Heimerl's brother-in-law, Frank Slayton; Margaret Jeske's cousin, Erwin Zapf; Chad & Sarah Kafka's friends, Brian & Anita; Sammie Luckow's father, William; Janice Melcher's friend, Kali; Grace Morgan's son, David; Sei Pramenko's sister, Masa; Julie Pruett's cousin, Lisa; Carolyn & Joe Sanders' daughter, Jenneane; Llew & Pat Walker's son, David; Shari West's friends, and all soldiers on active duty; Keith & Virginia Wick's nephew, Leo; Wendy Whitaker.

REMEMBER with LOVE GIVE with GRATITUDE

Dear Friends,

Just before Christmas in 2006, Betty June Walker received an RMMO Thank You check and wrote this note: "The check couldn't have come at a better time—when I needed to reorder my medication. I also had other expenses I had not counted on. What a blessing to know that I am remembered by American Baptists and that God continues to bless every day of my life. Although my husband, Lester, has been gone three years, we enjoyed serving the Lord together in West Virginia for over 40 years."

Betty June's heartwarming note helps us appreciate the importance of the Thank You check to over 3,000 American Baptist ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. The check says: We as American Baptists have not forgotten you; we are grateful for your ministry; we care about you."

Thank You checks, as well as emergency financial assistance, are made possible by the contributions of American Baptist congregations to the annual Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO). Through the RMMO we are called to ***Remember with Love, Give with Gratitude.***

You are invited to join our committee in making a generous contribution to the RMMO when we receive it in December, starting the first Sunday.

Our goal this year is **\$1,000**. An envelope is included with this issue of *Tidings*.

Your gift makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Underwood Mission Committee

ALTERNATIVE GIFT IDEAS

Many of the following ideas were borrowed from the website the Hundred Dollar Holiday www.newdream.org/commerc/100holiday.html and Buy Nothing Christmas.

1. Create coupons for a massage, spring cleaning, child-minding, manicure, etc.
2. Create a menu of various culinary delights (e.g., Tantalizing Thai, Mexican Fiesta, etc.) and have the gift recipient choose one of the options.
3. Collect meaningful photos for the gift recipient, make color photocopies and create a collage.
4. Write and illustrate a book for the young people in your life.
5. Knit a stocking, hat, socks, etc.
6. Do something exciting and challenging together (e.g., long walk, bike ride, hike, art course).
7. Compile a list of memories and arrange them in a creative fashion.
8. Videotape and interview your elderly parents about childhood memories, how they met, etc., and give to siblings or children.
9. Paint an empty wine bottle with non-toxic paint and fill with olive oil. Top with an oil pour spout that can be found at a gourmet cooking shop.
10. Bake your favorite holiday treat and pack in a recycled tin.
11. Fill a basket with home-made goodies.
12. Frame a piece of your artwork.
13. Make a mixed cassette tape or cd and choose songs that make you think of that person. Under each title, explain why you chose that song.
14. Give away a valued possession.
15. Make a puppet from a sock.
16. Fill an old trunk or suitcase with fun clothing, hats and gaudy jewelry for your children to play dress-up.
17. Wrap gifts in newspaper, maps, scarves or interesting clothing.
18. Make a calendar with pictures of family members and/or scenery.
19. For the elderly people in your life, research newspaper and magazine articles from their youth and present in a creative fashion.
20. Stamp and address postcards for family members.
21. Collect quotes that make you think of someone.
22. Make a soothing, herb pillow filled with lavender, rose, etc.
23. Make a birdseed ball.
24. If you are skilled in a particular area, offer a lesson or class.
25. Make hand-made soap or candles.
26. Purchase gifts at a fair-trade shop, garage sale or thrift shop.
27. Make tree ornaments out of old CDs.
28. Buy a used book and in the inside cover explain why you chose the book for that person.
29. Spend time with loved ones.

PLAYING AND PRAYING FOR PEACE IN EL SALVADOR

This past summer, a group from Underwood traveled to El Salvador to help build a Peace Park. Construction work is almost complete. We are raising funds to give the community of El Puente de Cuscatlan playground equipment for their park.

\$10,000 will purchase the play set, and will cover shipping and installation costs on the ground. Why not give a gift that gives more than once? Give a loved one a gift of a swing, or a slide, or a share in the jungle gym, and give our Salvadoran sisters and brothers a chance to realize their vision of peace.

Working together, we can make this dream a possibility.

Give what you can, and share this with others who would like to help transform the park into a place of peace and shared community.

Please send the portion below into the church office. Checks can be made payable to UMBC. We will send you a card to share with your recipients.

Si, se puede!

Yes! I would like to help build a dream of peace in El Salvador!

Here is my gift:

Slide \$ 2000

Swing Set \$ 3000

Jungle Gym \$ 5000

A trip down the slide \$ 250

A swing \$ 150

A rung on the slide \$ 50

A turn on the swing \$ 25

A share in the Jungle Gym \$ 15

Other amount _____

Name _____

Muchisimo Gracias!

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POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Poinsettias are a beautiful part of our celebration of Christmas. We invite everyone to make a donation for the plants, which may be given as a memorial, or in honor of someone or some occasion. If you would like to make a donation, please complete the form below, with your check made payable to Underwood Church, and return to the church office, **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH.**

The cost of each plant is \$12.

AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION _____

NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR _____

NAME (OR NAMES) OF THOSE YOU WISH TO REMEMBER BY YOUR GIFT

Your poinsettia may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service or you may wish to have your plant given to a shut-in. Check one:

Take Home _____

Give to Shut-in _____