

first Edition

A bi-weekly publication of the First United Methodist Church



Iowa City, IA 52245

Vol. 36, Issue 25, Dec. 7, 2011
Looking Ahead in Worship...

December 11, 2011
Third Sunday of Advent
Lessons & Carols
at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
No 9:15 Service this Sunday
Christmas Cookies and Cider

Music Ministry

@ 8:00 a.m. Cornerstone Service &
@ 10:30 a.m. Koinonia Service
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
arr. by Brent Olstad

Ron Mirr, flute and Samuel Kwok, piano
A Festival of Lessons and Carols
The Children's and Chancel Choirs;
Rev. Jonathan Fell,
Ronda Marshall, Michael Wright,
Jan Tschantz and John Marshall,
Amelia Prybil and Lillian Prybil, vocals;
Ron Mirr, flute; Suzanne Smith, clarinet;
Ronda Marshall, violin;
Jon Cryer, string bass;
Jesse Helgerson, double bass;
Michael Davidson, organ and piano;
Samuel Kwok, conductor

December 18, 2011
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Services at 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30

Sermon & Scripture

The Journey to Bethlehem
Luke 2:1-7
Rev. Dr. Barrie Tittle

Music Ministry

@ 8:00 a.m. Cornerstone Service
Michael Davidson, organ

@ 9:15 a.m. Sanctuary Service
Love Has Come
O Come, All Ye Faithful
The Sanctuary Band

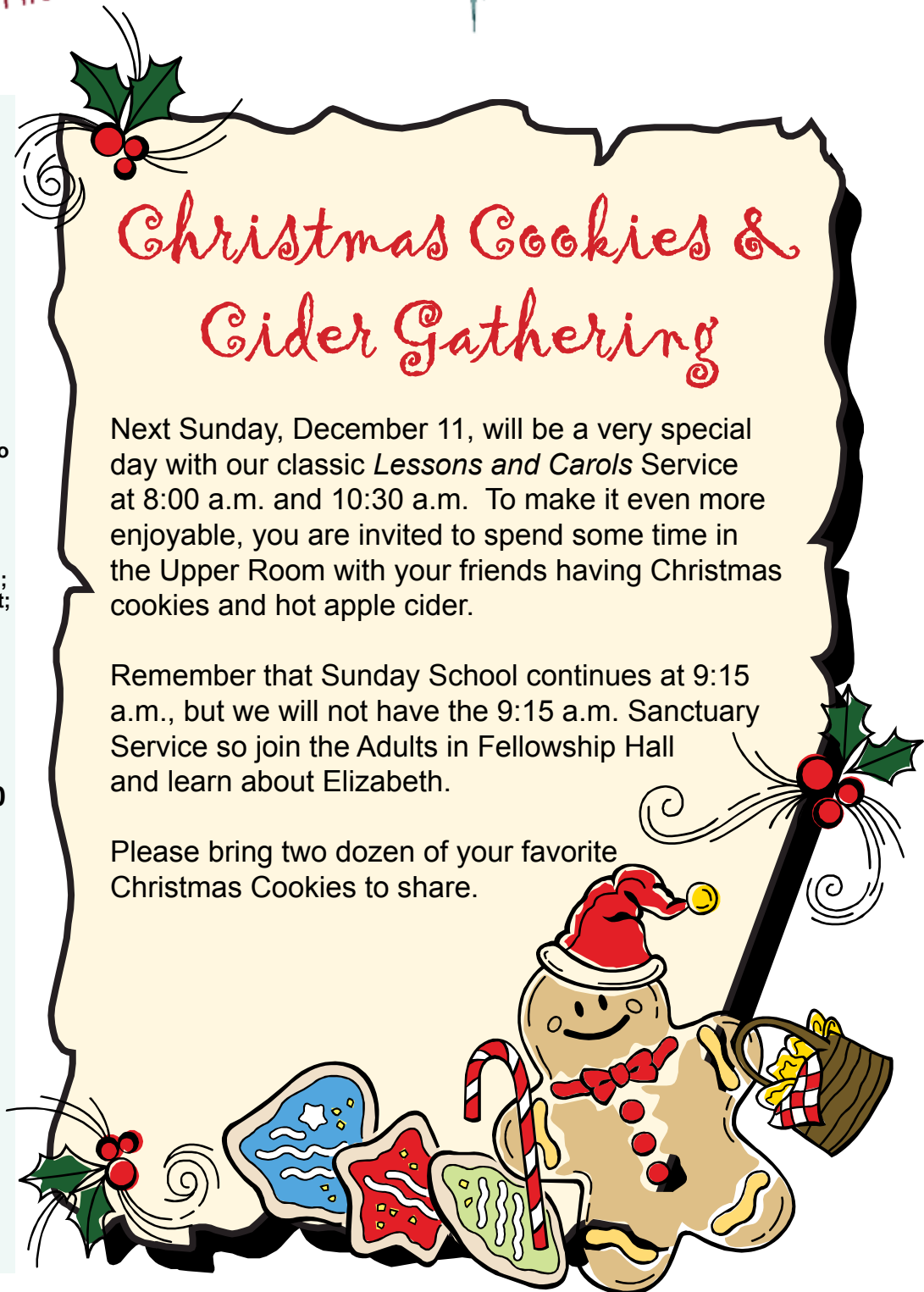
@ 10:30 a.m. Koinonia Service
In the Bleak Midwinter
by Gustav Holst/arr. by Joyce Marner
The Wesley Chimes;
Ken Mullen, conductor
Praise Ye by J. S. Bach
The Chancel Choir

Christmas Cookies & Cider Gathering

Next Sunday, December 11, will be a very special day with our classic *Lessons and Carols* Service at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. To make it even more enjoyable, you are invited to spend some time in the Upper Room with your friends having Christmas cookies and hot apple cider.

Remember that Sunday School continues at 9:15 a.m., but we will not have the 9:15 a.m. Sanctuary Service so join the Adults in Fellowship Hall and learn about Elizabeth.

Please bring two dozen of your favorite Christmas Cookies to share.



Christmas & Young Children

Though it's about as exciting as anything can be, it can also be a bit stressful to be preparing for Christmas when you have young children - for you and for them. Their excitement can collapse into wailing in an instant, as all parents know. Remembering that a week or a month is a **very** long time to a young child may help you to keep things pretty low key at this point. If your child is old enough, an Advent calendar can be useful in helping them feel the passing of the days, as they open a new window on the calendar each day, in preparation for Christmas.

Have reasonable and clear expectations: telling a young child to "be good" is way too vague and nebulous. How are they to know what that means? When one of my children was about 3, I remember telling her to "behave" and her tearful, frustrated response was, "I can't be Have. I can only be Lorie." It was a great reminder for me to be *specific* in my behavior expectations!



DIRECTOR of WORSHIP & MUSIC



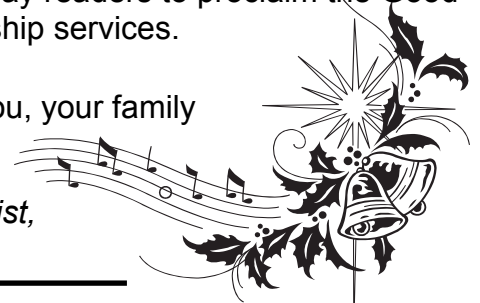
A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Many thanks to the Jubilation Ringers for presenting an Advent/Christmas Musical Offering in our sanctuary and for the community concert last Sunday! Special thanks to JP Marshall and Ronda Marshall for presenting *Joseph's Song* and to Joan Felkner for singing a solo passage with our Chancel Choir last Sunday.

This Sunday, December 11, the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Our Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, vocal soloists and instrumentalists will be presenting a "**Festival of Lessons and Carols**" on the following Sunday, at both Cornerstone and Koinonia worship services. We will also have many lay readers to proclaim the Good News in our 8 and 10:30 a.m. worship services.

I look forward to worshipping with you, your family and friends here in FUMC!

*Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in Christ,
Samuel*



Keep things as simple as you can. If your plans and decorations are simple, you can more easily involve your small children in the activities. Throw perfection out the window, and try to enjoy their creative and messy efforts. If parents stay focused on the true meaning of Christmas, they can set a wonderful example for their children, and help them not to get quite as caught up in the 'new toys' frenzy that often surrounds us at Christmas, and help create a more peaceful Christmas season for the whole family.

*May peace and serenity be with you all throughout this season,
Sage River*

Casserole Committee

Is cooking one of your gifts? When you're preparing a meal for the family, or for yourself, would you be willing to make a little extra for someone else? Wellness & Caring Ministries is looking for folks who would like to be part of a team that is asked to help with meals for people in our church family who need some additional support. We have a small pool of a few people right now, but would love to have others to share in this work. It may be for a family with a new baby, or for someone who is hospitalized and whose family would appreciate a meal or two, or for families who are facing long-term care of a family member and need extra support.

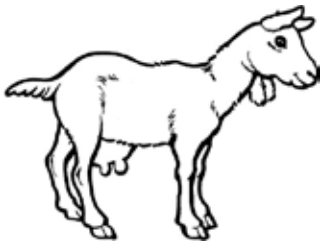
If you think you would like to be part of this caring team, please contact Sage at 354-5484 or sage-river@icfirstchurch.org for more information.



THE ALTERNATIVE GIFT MISSION MARKET

Attention all Christmas gift givers! Yes, that would be you.

Throw away those zillions of newspaper ads for over-priced, unnecessary, and probably unwanted gifts for all ages. We can have your Christmas shopping done for your loved ones at our one-stop, one size fits all ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET. We will be near the coffee and cookies on December 11 from 8:30 to 12:00 to help you with your donations to Heifer International, United Methodist Committee on Relief, and Self Help International.



Choose the amount you wish to donate to each or all of these outstanding mission projects, fill out the donation form, write one check to FUMC, pick up your gift cards, and VOILA! You are finished as soon as you mail your cards. Nothing says Christmas like Mission Giving. Jesus said that in the

Bible. I'm sure I read it somewhere in the Gospels. Honest. We guarantee service with a smile, and a hug if you write a large check.



Poinsettia Delivery

Help is needed with the delivery of Christmas poinsettias to people who are homebound or in care centers! On Sunday, December 25, and the following Monday, we need to take poinsettias to 35 people, so if you can help, it is much appreciated. Names, addresses, and directions, will all be ready for all who can help, and the people who receive a plant are always so grateful and pleased to be remembered.



Please contact Jim Olson at 354-7847 or icmailman47@mchsi.com if you can help with this project. And thank you sooo much!!!!

Greeters & Ushers Needed for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day

This Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, we will again be having services at the 5 PM, 7 PM and 11:00 PM worship services. Both Christmas Day and New Year's Day will have only ONE worship at 10 a.m. Please consider taking this very special opportunity to serve both our congregation and all those who will be our guests in these worship services as a GREETER or USHER. If you want to serve as a greeter, please contact Nancy Hayworth at knhayworth@msn.com. If you want to serve as an usher, please contact Bob Hall at 354-9176 or e-mail him at rhhall@aol.com, Samuel Kwok at 338-7653, or the church office at 337-2857. Please contact us before December 12! Thank you so much!



This is our second year of having a **Blue Christmas Tree**. It is on the **west** third floor landing (outside Samuel's office). For wheelchair access, take the elevator to the 3rd floor and go through the choir loft to the west landing. There you will find a comfortable place to spend a little quiet time. The old familiar couches and chairs from the Upper Room are there, and a little tree is standing, ready to be adorned with ornaments to honor a loved one you have lost. You may choose an ornament, write your loved one's name on it, place it on the tree and say a prayer, and stay as long as you wish.

*May the peace of God be with you,
Sage River
Wellness & Caring Ministries*

Feeling Sad at Christmas-time

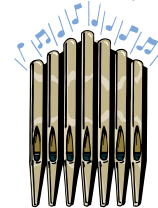
Organ Recital

This is a season when it's most painful to be feeling down. Whether you are depressed, lonely, grieving the loss of a loved one, or just plain sad, it feels even harder when the people around you all seem to be brimming with Christmas spirit. On each **Sunday morning at 9:15** from now until Christmas, we will be meeting in **Room 9** in Fellowship Hall to share with one another. Bring your sadness and disappointment, your grief, your longings for things to be other than how they are, and together we may find a measure of comfort through prayer, silence and meditation, and sharing of our thoughts and feelings. We may not feel 'all better' afterward, but we may feel our spirits lift a bit as we ask for God's grace and love and healing to be with us, and as we connect with one another, remembering that it is alright to feel sad, and that we are beloved children of God, no matter what trials we are enduring.



Please contact Sage if you need more info: 354-5484 or sage-river@icfirstchurch.org.

As many of you know our gifted organist Michael Davidson donated, as his gift to the church for the silent auction, an organ concert. I was fortunate to submit the winning bid for the concert. The concert will be Friday, December 16, 7:00-8:00 p.m. and I would like to invite the congregation, their families and friends to join us. If you would like to stay after the concert, Michael will be giving a tour of our beautiful organ. Please join us and I hope to see you there.



Jan Vaught Brezina

WESLEY CHIMES

Calling all kids, ages 1st through 8th grade. Have you ever wanted to try playing chimes with the group? This is your perfect no-pressure opportunity to have fun and learn about music during January. On the last 4 Sundays in January of 2012 the Wesley chimers and friends will gather at 8:30 am in Room 205 and have a party playing chimes. We will not perform in front of the congregation. The purpose is to introduce music to young folks and have fun. If



Handchimes

you would like your child to participate in one, some, or all the sessions, please email Joyce Marnier at jmarnier@southslope.net. If you forget to do that and your youngster decides to participate, just show up. All are welcome.



PROJECT HOLIDAY AND TOY DRIVE 2011

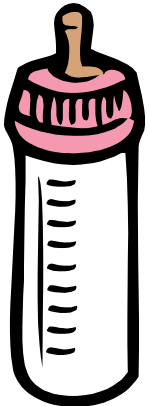
Help make the holidays a bit brighter for Johnson County low income and disabled individuals. Grab a tag (or more!) from the colorful tag display behind the Sanctuary and follow its printed instructions. Donations of UNWRAPPED children's gifts and their accompanying tags may be brought to the church and placed in the collection boxes under the table display by Dec. 11. FUMC volunteers will take your gifts to the Salvation Army, or you may drop off your gifts directly at the Salvation Army, 1116 Gilbert Court, IC or the Crisis Center, 1121 Gilbert Court, IC.

Volunteers are always needed for the distribution of food baskets and to help sort toys for children. To volunteer, call the Salvation Army at 337-3725 or the Crisis Center at 351-2726. Distribution of toys to qualifying families will take place Dec. 15 and 16 at the Pepperwood Plaza near Slumberland.

Nursery Caregivers Needed

We are still looking for people to work in the church's nursery on these dates:

- Sunday, December 18 7:45 to 11:45am
- Saturday, December 24 4:30 to 8:30pm
- Sunday, December 25 9:30 to 11:30am
- Sunday, January 1 9:30 to 11:30am



Nursery workers are paid \$8.50 an hour and we need two caregivers for each shift. We will help with any necessary training and orientation.

If you can help, please contact Pastor Jonathan at jonathan-fell@icfirstchurch.org or Sage at sage-river@icfirstchurch.org or call 354-5484.

Thank you!



OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

In celebration of Christmas and the coming New Year, the church office will be closed on Dec 23 & 26 as well as on Dec 30 & Jan 2. The staff wishes everyone a most blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.

First Edition Schedule: Because of the shortened work weeks, the schedule for the publishing of the *First Edition* newsletter has been adjusted. **No newsletter will be published the week of Christmas or the week of New Year's Day.** A *First Edition* will be published and mailed on Wed, Dec 21 and on Jan 11, 2012.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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Dec. 8

Sveta McCurry

Dec. 9

Laurie Ponto
Steve Ballard
Brianna Bentler
Aurora Richardson

Dec. 10

Donneta Knarr
Leah Lenz

Dec. 11

William Zeitler

Dec. 12

Gordon Tribbey
Matthew Rew

Dec. 13

Ivan Burmeister
Gary Metz

Dec. 14

Judy Best
Kerstin Marnin
Mollie Hammer
Teya Kerns

Dec. 15

Clark Kenyon
Sage River
Jennifer Ballard
Chad Richardson
Renee Miller
Julie de la Garza
Nate Mullins

Dec. 16

Kent Swaim

Dec. 17

Katie Beasley

Dec. 18

David Carrasco

Dec. 19

Diedre Fleener
Jamie Milliman
Dusti Cermak
Alan Drury
Sophie McClatchey

Dec. 20

Linda Baylor

Take time to pray - Our Church Family

We Pray For:

- Maurine Schmeiser who died November 23 at Mercy Hospice. As we lift her to God in our prayers, we pray also for her three sons and for all who knew and loved Maurine.
- Those recently discharged from area hospitals: George Paterson, Joyce Paul, Eleanor Doling who has been discharged to Lantern Park, and Joyce Stoddard who has been discharged to Oaknoll Health Center.
- All those in need of continued healing including:
 - Suzanne Bainbridge at Windmill Manor who has lost sight in one eye,
 - Dave Powers, husband of Mary Jane (Janie) Woolridge Powers and niece of George and Marj Dane, has been diagnosed with renal cancer and is facing surgery,
 - Glenda Gabel, Jan and Jim Down's sister-in-law, who is in acute rehab working towards recovery,
 - Carol Lach continuing to recover at the Oaknoll Health Center,
 - John & Allie Dane's great granddaughter, Angel Rose, born prematurely on October 14, and recovering from heart surgery,
 - Mary Schroeder, dear friend of Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, who has non-smoking related lung cancer,
 - Rita Howe, daughter of Florence & Meredith Maas and friend of Leah & Harold Adams, as she receives treatment for lung cancer,
 - Kaidyn Alexander Shayde Cleveland, born at 24 weeks and in the NICU at UIHC; he is the great-grandson of Pam Berven Jackson, former Iowa City FUMC member, and grandson of Kimberly Brockman,
 - Cher Wojnicki, family friend of the Ries family, undergoing treatment for stage 3 cancer,
 - Dr. Jim Skarda, his wife, Jennifer, and their children Jonathan and Juliann, as Jim is receiving hospice care at home,
 - Darrell Allman, brother-in-law of Charles Thiede, as he receives chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer,
 - Conan Dalton, brother-in-law of Jennifer Ballard, as he recovers from brain surgery,
 - Sergeant Collin Raaz, dear friend of the Sue & Sam Mullins family, who lost both legs in an IED explosion in Afghanistan, and is now in San Diego continuing his recovery,
 - Vicki Burketta, friend to many in the congregation, whose cancer has returned,
 - Sharon Campbell, who is suffering from an aggressive bone cancer; Sharon is the aunt of Sherry Mars,
 - Ron Krueger, friend of Connie & Jim Olson, as Ron undergoes treatment for lung cancer,
 - Michael Flynn, friend of Cindy Cobb, as he is treated for Stage IV cancer,
 - Ginnie Woodard, who has been diagnosed with adenocarcinoma; she is a friend of Matt Downen,
 - Barbra Johnson, friend of Jan Vaught Brezina, as she undergoes chemo and radiation for breast cancer in Kansas City,
 - Steve Wade, brother of Terri Wade, who is receiving chemotherapy for Stage III colon cancer,
 - Elma Honn at Briarwood, and all those in our congregation who are homebound or residing in nursing homes or extended care facilities.
- Those serving in our military:
 - Nathan Bontrager, son of Carol Bontrager, has returned safely from Afghanistan and is now stationed with his unit at Ft Polk.
 - Luke Tschantz, son of Jan & Mike Tschantz, Ensign in the Navy stationed in Pensacola FL,
 - Todd Royar, who has is serving in Afghanistan,
 - Nathan Platz, son of Bob & Kristy Walker, now stationed in Italy,
 - Joseph Russell, son of Mary Lou Russell, serving in South Korea,
 - Alan G. Kellogg, son of Gary & Catherine Kellogg, now serving in Iraq,
 - Chris Miller, son of Harvey & Maxine Miller, who is serving by Army Special Operations,
- The healing of breaking and broken relationships,
- For those struggling with mental illness that they may receive the medical care they need,
- The mission, ministries, and staff of First United Methodist Church,
- Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble, East Central District Superintendent David Crow, Field Outreach Minister Jill Sanders, the Iowa Annual Conference, and the Delmar-Elwood United Methodist Church and Pastor Jena Manchester.
- All those who have been impacted by violence, oil spills, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, and other natural disasters throughout the world,
- Peace with justice for the world.

Attendance @ FUMC

11/27/2011 PRESENCE

8:00	70
9:15	84
<u>10:30</u>	<u>176</u>
Total	330

12/4/2011 PRESENCE

8:00	74
9:15	72
<u>10:30</u>	<u>199</u>
Total	345

AFFINITY GROUP NEWS

What *is* an Affinity Group? It is a group of people who collectively pursue a common interest. And, at First United Methodist Church, there are several such groups covering a variety of interests.

Senior Affinity Group

The next meeting of the Senior Affinity Group will be on Wednesday, December 14 from 2 to 4 at Walden Place. We will join one another in singing Christmas carols, accompanied by Donetta Knarr on the piano. Christmas refreshments will follow, with plenty of time for visiting. All senior-aged people are warmly welcomed to come and share in the fellowship. If you need more information, please contact Sage at 354-5484 or sage-river@icfirstchurch.org. I hope to see you there!

Films for Fun 'N Faith

"*Children of Heaven*," a 1997 Iranian adventure comedy-drama film written and directed by Majid Majidi, will be the topic of discussion at the December 11 gathering of the Films for Fun 'n Faith Affinity Group that will be gathering at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Paul and Marcia Akin. This sweet film, nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 1998, tells the story of a brother (8 year old Ali) and his younger sister (Zahra) and their adventures over a lost pair of shoes while providing insights into Iranian culture and values. The film is available at the Iowa City Public Library, at local DVD rental stores, and through Netflix. All are welcome to view the film and then join in the lively discussion at the Akins (2060 Sherman Drive; phone number 337-4463).

Please consider joining one of these Affinity Groups.

Group Theme

Contact Person

Senior Friendship & Support Group	Sage River (sage-river@icfirstchurch.org or 354-5484)
Bicycling Affinity Group	Jan and Jim Down (jjdownic@mchsi.com or 354-1820)
Bluegrass	Maynard Smith (maynards@q.com or 337-9901)
Books And Bagels	Betty Mitchell (354-1225) or Nancy Johns (njohns@q.com)
Doers of the Word	Sue Mullins (339-0984) or Linda Fink (338-2860)
Dorcas Group	Bernie Mulford (337-6680)
Environmental Action	Mark Madsen (mark-madsen@uiowa.edu)
Families with Children	Tricia Ross (351-0823)
Films For Fun 'N Faith	Lou Crist (338-5014)
Flames Softball Team	Jane Driscoll (JDRISCOL@aol.com)





Smorgasbord

ANOTHER DELICIOUS A.S.P. SMORGASBORD
will be served Sunday, Dec. 11, in Fellowship Hall, beginning at 11:30 a.m. You are invited to share the fun, the fellowship and the food (“You price it; you eat it”) while supporting an important Outreach Ministry of our church.

Radio & Television Ministry: You can listen to a 30 minute radio broadcast of a portion of one of our services on Sunday mornings over KXIC (800 AM) from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. Our Koinonia Service is broadcast on Public Television Channel 18 on Wednesdays @ 2:00 p.m. and on Sundays @ 7:00 p.m.

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Sage River

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