

Mount Olivet United Methodist Church
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Address Service Requested

GOOD NEWS

from MOUNT OLIVET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MANTEO, N.C.
PERMIT No. 7



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VOLUME XXXIX

December 2011

NUMBER 5



*"But now, O Lord your
are our Father; We are
the clay, and You are our
potter and we all are
the work of you hand."
Isaiah 64:8*

As the season of Advent approaches and then the celebration of Christmas begins, we are reminded that we are to be in a state of waiting preparing our hearts to celebrate once again the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We know what it is like to hear warnings about how and when to prepare for any event. On the OBX, we are warned to prepare for coming storms. We are advised to be prepare our homes and cars for winter. We go to great lengths and spend lots of resources on getting ourselves or children to be prepared for a career that will provide a livelihood.

How do we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child? The words from Isaiah remind us to call upon our God in prayer. We are to acknowledge God's presence and authority over our lives. We cannot mold ourselves in His image. Only God is able to prepare us to do His will in the world in which we live. We are indeed the work of His hands. What a wonderful statement to remember and live by. If we are truly dedicated to these words, then as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, let us ask ourselves how we can be shaped in such a way that Goodness and Light might continue to emanate through us to lead others into God's kingdom.

Merry Christmas to all of our church family and may God's blessings be showered upon you always.

*Grace and Peace
Jerry*



*Don't miss these opportunities
to celebrate the Christmas Season!*

Sunday, December 4, 2011 (11:00 am) - Hanging of the Greens Service

Sunday, December 4, 2011 (6:00 pm) - Worship Arts Ministry Presents the Musical, "Mary, Did You Know?"

Sunday, December 11, 2011 (5:00 pm) - Children's Choir and Drama Presents the Musical, "Christ-Myth Busters" at the Birthday Party for Jesus

Sunday, December 18, 2011 (5:00 pm meet at the church) - Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 24, 2011 (3:00 - 5:00 pm) - Open Communion and Private Prayer Time

Saturday, December 24, 2011 (6:00 pm) - Christmas Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25, 2011 (10:00 am) - Sunday Christmas Service

Saturday, December 31, 2011 (6:00 - 8:00 pm) - Senior Citizen New Year's Eve Celebration

Saturday, December 31, 2011 (8:15 pm) - New Year's Eve Communion



Thanks to this faithful group who put all our shoeboxes together! And, we sent a total of 162 filled boxes to Samaritan's Purse!



Dear All,

I hope this message finds you well, getting ready to celebrate all that God has given us with a thankful heart.

And with regard to this holiday forthcoming, I offer a few thoughts:

Indeed, the times in which we live are, to say the least, strained. Perhaps our beloved Outer Banks is supremely indicative of this current Tempest. Soundbites of the plight of Detroit and the unrest on Wall Street, the market over-saturation of suburban residential real estate, and other things such as these seem to continually litter the airwaves as we grow increasingly weary and desensitized.

But what of us-here, now? What are we Outer Bankers to say? And to whom shall we speak our hearts? And who will it be that listens?

These things I wonder... By no means do I wish to detract any part of the plight of those others who suffer exterior to our island chain. But this I do argue, I hope those external to our shores who use our home for seasonal respite will remain mindful of us locals who now stand at the brink of the foreboding Nor' Easter winds of the short gray days of winters months. I hope they will remain mindful of all the fisherman, the boat-builders, the park rangers, the restaurant owners and laborers, the shop owners, the builders, the realtor, the car salesmen, and all the rest of us...yes by all means the rest of us, as not one of us remains immune to this present state. Teachers, law enforcement, emergency personnel, doctors, attorneys, state, fed, and municipal workers-all of us.

For these are desperate times, and many amongst us suffer so. Just today, I witnessed the greatest influx of patrons to our food pantry. My church family, the pains of depression and desperation are scratched into the faces, the hearts of these person. And I grow sad from their sadness. And I wonder what will become of us all..? What will be the future condition of our volatile and wild existence here on the Outer Banks?

I take pause to consider all this... And I think upon the very Heart Of Jesus. I think about the beauty, the vulnerability, the fragility of the Heart of Christ. I think about the strength, the ferocity, the danger of the same. And then I think upon the hearts of the people of our OBX, and I find a likeness, a harmonious dissonance that resonates deep within my own heart.

We are a beautiful people, a people who resonate

and adore the beauty of our land. We are a vulnerable people as we live upon mere sand, surrounded by the fierce Atlantic-we place ourselves on the choppy seas, the woodlands, and the swamps to feed our families. We build our homes and businesses on stilts, a proactive and sometimes vain attempt to keep the salt water at bay. We are a dangerous people, a people who know the meaning of resolution, of a steadfast heart-most especially when the going gets tough. We are not a people who offers sympathy to the word, quit.

And from this time of pause, only one thing can I make sense of: FAITH. Faith, so it has been written, is the substance of things hoped for, for what remains unseen. Indeed, I do find it ironic after this introspective endeavor the only thing I can make sense of is the antonym of all that is commonsensical, something as bold and brash as faith.

But is this nothing more than a emotive or sentimental spot of foolery? Indeed, who in their right mind could dare to rest their hearts and lives upon the substance of things that are hoped for and remain to be unseen? By all means, how is this dubious and perhaps subjective substance working to put bread in the mouths of our babes and monies towards are increasingly incurred debts?

But perhaps these are not the right questions. For let us remain forever mindful, that not one sparrow falls to the ground without our Father taking supreme notice. Yes, my church family, His eye remains steadfast and unwavering upon the sparrow.

And if this be true, how much more does God love us; for we are worth more than many sparrows.

So, church family-and those external to it-take heed and take heart. The Lord has plans to prosper us, never to harm us. It remains the desire of our God to give us a hope and a future-just as the prophet Jeremiah spoke so long ago so it rings true today.

And know this, as Paul proclaims, The Lord shall work all things together for the good of those who trust in Him.

So, perhaps it is time to surrender to the fact that on our own, and according to our own diligence and sacrifice, really none of us stand a chance. Indeed, if all we have to hope for is the material-what can be seen, or planned, or itemized, or budgeted-then what a bad state we are in. Therefore, let us no longer place our hope in what we have in front of us; rather, let us all place our faith in the enigmatic unseen one who encompasses us.

In Christ alone, we Outer Bankers shall not relent. We shall make it through the Dirty Quadrant of this Tempest, and we shall be the better for it. To God be the Praise.

*Yours in Christ,
Bert IV*



2012 Mount Olivet's 125th Anniversary

As we approach our upcoming 125th Anniversary next year, we should keep in mind the importance of our past to our future. Recounting our history helps us understand who we are. It's a clue to our own identity. Our church's location, its architecture, its worship style, its organization, its ministries and outreach, and countless other facets of its life are all rooted in the history of our congregation. By reflecting on our past, we can better understand who we are and determine the future directions of our ministry.

As we learn more about who created the heritage of which we are heirs, we will be inspired to give thanks for their lives, and we may pledge to follow their example.

It's also fascinating to learn about the people and events in Mount Olivet's history.

The History Committee

Wanted:

Co-chairs for the 125th Anniversary Celebration

If you are willing to chair or co-chair the committee to plan the 125th anniversary celebration, please contact the pastor!

Missions

Missions would like to sincerely and graciously thank all in our congregation who pledge their gifts to Missions. What a blessing it is to have this avenue of giving that many churches do not have. We ask if you are considering where to offer your gifts this year that you consider pledging to Missions monthly. We try very hard to adhere to our 1/3 policy where our giving is based on 1/3 locally, 1/3 nationally, and 1/3 internationally in addition what we pay our overseas missionaries out of our LUCETTA WILLIS TRUST ACCOUNT.

Please continue to pray that as a congregation we can continue partnering with established programs and organizations to carry forth the Gospel of Jesus Christ in whatever format is successful.

Missions Committee



DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Margaret Daniels, Chair: Peggy Snead, Estelle Midgett, Paula Oliver

*Co-Chairs: Maxine Thomasson 473-2234
Margaret Daniels 473-3534*

DECEMBER USHERS

8:30 A.M.

11 A.M.

Hughes and Janice Tillett

Lynda Midgett &
Tom O'Neal

*Chair: Lynda Midgett
473-7023*

DECEMBER GREETER

Carol Meekins

*Chair: Lynda Midgett
473-7023*

DECEMBER COMMUNION STEWARDS

Christmas Eve Service:

Suzanne & Bill Godley
Aletia & Kevin Goudy
Jean & Reuben Payne
Sherry & Johnny Wescott

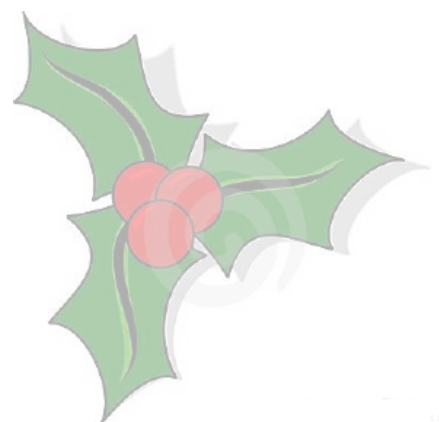
Thank you volunteers for all you do to serve HIM.

Worship Chair: Edna Black 473-5348

If you are willing to be greeters, ushers, and/or communion stewards, PLEASE let me know.

We need your help. Thanking you in advance. :)

Edna





Haiti Mission - Final Update

As you know, Haiti received a lot of attention in the aftermath of the earthquake. It's easy to forget that life in Haiti was extremely difficult before the earthquake. Many people were injured or killed and/or lost everything in the earthquake. And, there has been much progress made since then. But, life is still very hard in Haiti, and most of the problems have little, if anything, to do with the earthquake. So, please, join me in praying continually for Haiti.

I was touched by the work being done by Nick and Gwenn Mangine and Joy In Hope in Jacmel. Their ministry is focused on helping Haiti from within. For the most part, they do not give "hand-outs", but rather provide jobs, training, and other programs that allow the recipients the dignity of knowing they are earning the help they receive. Though the Haitian children in their home cannot ever be adopted, Nick and Gwenn are committed to raising them to adulthood - in the same ways that we are committed to our children here.

It was an education for me to watch the Mangine family and to see how these "wiser-than-their-ages" young adults manage a family of two biological and two adopted Haitian (their "brown" children, one still in the adoption process...) children and eight additional Haitian children. I had wondered how they could possibly parent this mixture of kids, meeting the widely-varied needs, maintaining their core family, caring for the health of their marriage, and keeping their sanity in the process. They were amazing to watch. Yet, they are amazingly like the rest of us - 100% human. They struggle, they get frustrated, they get scared, they get angry, but they persevere. And, they seem very comfortable communicating all these emotions as they experience them. I suspect that's part of their mechanism for dealing with their life in Haiti.

I invite you to follow along with the day-to-day goings-on of their family by keeping up with their blogs at the following addresses:

<http://www.mangine.org/> (Gwenn's blog)
<http://www.itsjustathoug.ht/> (Nick's blog)

Again, thanks from the bottom of my heart for the support you have provided for missions in Haiti.

Bonnie Strawser

Nursery Volunteers:

8:30	Sunday School	11:00
Dec 4		
Erica Burkhart 423-0989	Judith Fearing 441-5487	Kathryn Fearing Gore
Dec 11		
Melinda Creef 473-2345	Ginger Midgett 473-3654	Lynn Tugwell 473-1338
Dec 18		
Sara Farrow 473-6630	Rita Shaffer 473-6630	Melva Garrison 473-3399

Dec 25- one service at 10:00 am
 Volunteers are needed for this service!! Please call Erica if you are willing to serve (423-0989.)

Please remember if you have a schedule conflict to make arrangements to switch with someone/ find a substitute.

Erica Burkhart 252-423-0989



We want to thank LYNN TUGWELL for reaching out to her sister's church in Virginia and getting them involved in the JOY STORE. They collected sports balls for us for the store. How awesome is that? We have a partner in Virginia helping spread Joy to those affected by Hurricane Irene! A Big THANK YOU for their generosity!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU ...

... TO EVERYONE FOR MAKING THIS YEAR'S BAZAAR A GREAT SUCCESS!!!!

Thanks to so many people --- those who worked many months, those who worked many hours the week(s) before and the day of the Bazaar! So far, about \$17,000.00 has been collected from Bazaar sales to help with church projects and local missions. We will have more information in the next newsletter and a breakdown for each work area.

We certainly appreciate your hard work, your faithfulness to and support of our Church! Thank you again so much.

Paula Oliver & Kathy Seawell

Children's Ministry

James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights." So, we know that God is the giver of all good things. But we also know that God's generosity has a purpose.

It is through God's commandments that we know the principles by which we are to live and it is through his commandments and by His example, through both Him and His son Jesus Christ, that we know how to care for others. The past weeks in IWANNA FAITH, we have been studying the importance of generosity. I am humbled by my students when in a society of "I want", "Gotta have the newest and best", and Santa "better bring me", our IWANNA FAITH students were elated when they were able to "shop" for Christmas gifts for children all over the world through Operation Christmas Shoebox. One child told me this was her favorite part of the program, that each year she gets to pack up toys for another child. As a group, we were able to pack approximately 24 boxes. That is 24 Christmas presents and 24 children who feel the love of God through the giving of others.

Our children are mission-minded. In S.U.R.G.E, the students attempted two separate fundraisers to raise money for Hatteras hurricane victims. Weather has stalled us, but these students understand the meaning of perseverance (James 1). They have even planned to give up Saturdays in the spring and summer to man a farmer's market booth in Manteo to raise money for local and international charities. These are all ideas of the children, fueled by generosity. As adults, we often stifle the generosity of our children by saying their ideas are too big or unachievable. I ask that you support our children by not only encouraging them but joining them.

Children's Church is offered during the 8:30 am service and the 11:00 am services. It is held in the upstairs Sunday School rooms. There are two classes: "Lil' K": preschool – K5 and "KIDMO": First – Fifth grade.

S.U.R.G.E. (3rd-5th grade ministry)- will not meet in December. WE ask that ALL members support one another by attending the "Mary Did You Know" on December 4 and "Christ-Mythbusters" on December 11. Several S.U.R.G.E members are in these performances. Check music ministry article for times and details.

S.U.R.G.E goes caroling!!! On December 18 at 5:00 pm, we will meet at the church to go caroling to shut ins in Manteo. We are also planning a caroling trip to Spring Harbor. Please continue to check e-mail and bulletins for upcoming dates and times.

IWANNA FAITH –Wednesdays 2:45- 4:30 pm (when school is in session). Feel the impact in

the home as children learn what Faith is and how it is important in their relationship with God. Kids in kindergarten- 5th grade will learn the importance of discipleship and the life of Jesus Christ!

December 14 – IWANNA FAITH end-of-the-year swimming party!!

That's right, I said swimming in December! December 14 will be our last IWANNA FAITH until January 11th. We will pick up all students from MES after school and then head to Nautics Hall at the Elizabethan Inn. If you're homeschooled, we will arrange transportation if needed. The party will be from 3:00 pm until 4:50 pm. Parents must pick up by 4:50 pm. Please have your child pack a bathing suit and towel in his/her book bag before school that day.

HIS TROOP -Tuesdays 4:00 pm -5:30 pm. This is a drama development class that is offered to 2nd-5th graders. There'll be an extra rehearsal on Sunday, November 27; we will join the choir in the Sanctuary at 5:00 pm. Dress rehearsal is December 10th at 10:00 am; all actors are required to attend.

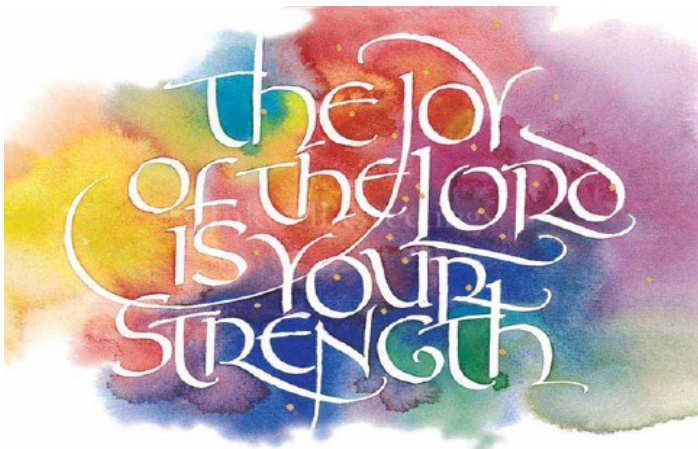
Jan Culpepper, Director of Children's Ministry

Jesus
is the
Reason
for the
Season

Nannie Midgett Circle

Our December 12th, our Christmas dinner meeting will be at the home of Sandra Sawyer at 6:30 P.M.. All attending should bring a dish of your favorite finger food/appetizer, along with a \$10-12 item for our Chinese gift exchange. Come join us for a time of good fellowship. You may want to consider joining the Circle and become a part of the various projects we participate in throughout the year. One is volunteering to help with meals for Monday Night Alive, in which we fed 37 students and adults on our assigned night in October. We are also helping with the Storm Recovery Center operations and assist with other activities in our church. We will be assisting the committee preparing for our 125th Church Celebration scheduled for May 6, 2012. A short program is usually given such as the one Jean Basnight gave in November on "Thankfulness", which touched all our hearts as we met at the home of Wanda Daniels. Mark your calendar and join us in December!

Peggy Snead



Jesus - Others - You

The JOY STORE will be open once again this Christmas providing gifts for families. Those who are unfamiliar with the JOY STORE....here ya go!

We purchase and receive donations of brand new toys and household items and offer them for sale to victims of Hurricane Irene (this year) at drastically reduced prices. For example, a microwave might be \$20 and a barbie might be \$3. Families are able to purchase specific numbers of items. Let's say they spend \$40; then we wrap their gifts if they choose. We give them a voucher to a local grocery store for 1/2 of what they spent; the other 1/2 goes back to our Food Pantry to fund that outreach.

We are still in need of donations, so please check over the shopping list carefully if you wish to purchase something OR we can use your monetary donation. We still are a little shy of our goal of 100 people donating \$50 each.

We will celebrate as a church family on December 11 at our annual BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS where you can bring your item(s) and/or donations at 5 pm. We will enjoy a Children's program and then share in a birthday celebration of pizza and cake family style!

Here is a list of items we still need.

- Tonka trucks or toy trucks
- educational toys
- Barbie accessories like pools, cars, etc
- Make-up kits for older gals
- Lego sets for older children
- microwave ovens
- portable heaters
- robes for women
- tool sets for men

Missions Committee

To The Congregation of Mt. Olivet,

Words cannot even begin to express how thankful I am for all the outpouring of love, care and concern by the people of Mt. Olivet following two back surgeries and three stays in Pitt Memorial Hospital. I could not have made it to this point without all your prayers, get well cards, visits, expressions of concern and the meals that have been sent to me. I have truly been on the receiving end of the Love and Healing Power of God that has poured through you. God and Jesus truly reside within and are expressed through our congregation. I owe a special thanks to Lynda Midgett who did so much to keep me fed and Martha and Randy Haberstumpf who took loving care of my cat and watched over my home.

I'm enclosing a donation to Food for Thought in behalf of each and every member of the Mt. Olivet Congregation as a thank you and love offering in your name and behalf.

*With God's Love,
Sincerely,
Thomas L. White, Jr.*



Dear Mount Olivet Church Family,

Your cards, calls, prayers and e-mails have been such a comfort to me during my surgery, recovery and as I continue with my cancer treatments. Knowing that so many of you have been praying for me has sustained me as I continue my treatments. God has blessed me thru each one of you and I pray God's blessings for you. In His

Love,
Donna Krauss

Music Ministry



Merry Christmas!

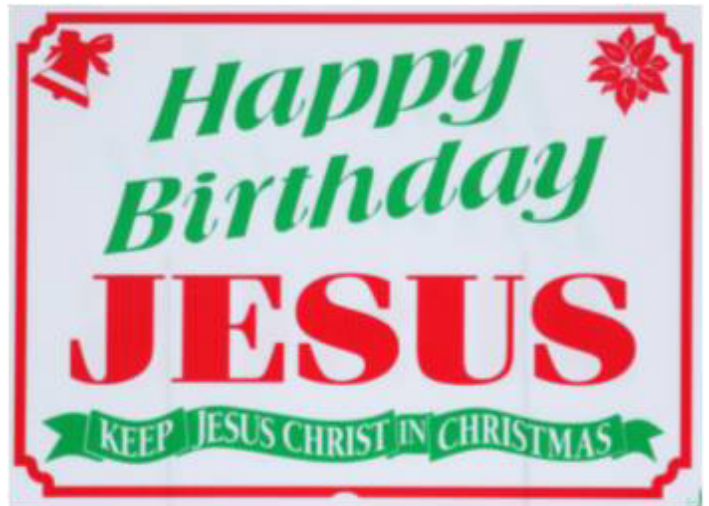
There are many ways to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. One can celebrate through the giving of gifts and service through the Joy Store, Food Pantry, and going caroling to friends and neighbors. We can celebrate with Communion in remembrance of how Jesus came to earth to offer His life up as a living sacrifice. There will be many a celebration with families, friends, and neighbors this Christmastime when we can share the joy we have through Jesus Christ. The music ministry of Mount Olivet would like to invite you to join us in celebrating through the arts this Christmas.



Sunday, December 4th, at 6:00 pm we will be presenting "Mary, Did You Know?" This program will include a 30 voice choir, instrumental ensemble, solo by Darlene Craddock, dramatic monologues,

the worship signing choir, and interpretive dancing. Please invite everyone you see to join us in celebrating the reason for Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ.

Sunday, December 11th, at 5:00 pm the children's choir and drama will be joining with the Missions Committee by participating in the Birthday Party for Jesus. The children have worked hard and learned a lot about what happened that first Christmas and what Christmas is truly about. Come support the 40 children involved and see what they have learned as we celebrate together at the Birthday Party for Jesus.



Another truly exciting part of the Christmas season is watching the many different people come together to praise God. There are two community choirs in which some of our members are participating. The Outer Banks Chorus will be presenting two concerts: Tuesday, December 6th, 7:00 pm at the Dare County Center and Sunday, December 11th, 4:00 pm at All Saints Episcopal Church. The Community Choir will be presenting the Community Christmas Cantata on Saturday & Sunday, December 17th & 18th, 7:00 pm at Bethany United Methodist Church both evenings.

Please join us in lifting our voices in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and in giving thanks for being our hope for salvation!

*In His Service,
Traci Nissley*



Lift up your voices in song!



IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

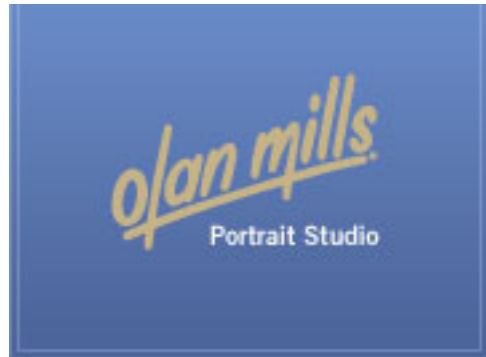
It's not too late to get your picture taken by Olan Mills for the directory. We have been informed that if 15 to 18 families will sign up, pictures can be taken on December 21st. These pictures would not be back before Christmas, but you would be in our next Church Directory.

Due to scheduling problems, illness, or previous commitments, we had several cancellations. It is important for us to have as many of our church family in the directory as possible. If you were not able to have your picture taken in November, will you try to schedule for the December date? Call the church office 473-2089.

Also, if you already have a picture that you would like to be in the directory please contact the office.

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Casey Howell, Gena Terry
- 3 Lindsey Burrus, Chuck Edwards, Tess Harrell
- 4 Chris Edwards, Sarah Pritchard, Kenneth Wells
- 5 Zack Hodges
- 6 Stacie Allen, Lynda F. Midgett, Courtney Zillifro
- 7 Becky Evans, Michelle Johnson
- 8 Ward Blanchard, Pauline Rock
- 10 Becky Adams, Katherine Bottjen,
Katherine Moore, Edward Williams
- 11 Artie Ange, Tucker Walker
- 12 Chris Daniels, Meldine Lee, Jen Phillips,
Corrina Wescott, Kristina Wescott
- 13 Paige Davis, Denise Trevino
- 14 Cindi Griffith
- 15 Rebecca Boyce, Sam Midgett, Jr.
- 16 Lauren Craddock, Mya Erpelding, Dan Otte'
- 17 Ruby Beasley, Jim Davis
- 18 Michele Barnes, Sophie Farrow, Aaron Fauth,
Jan Krauss, Hillary Rock
- 19 Dana Davenport, Pam Harrison, Don Jones,
Travis Jones
- 20 Mabel Clupper
- 21 Ann Payne, Paul Rock
- 22 Ian Simmons
- 23 Meris Noel Duprey, Kathy Seawell
- 24 Jerry Speight, Benji York
- 26 Chris Basnight, Benny Seward, Clarence Skinner
- 27 Carl Boles, Wendy Lee Kelly, Coy Tillett
- 28 Jeff Bliven, Kaley Gallop, Jordan Gutshall,
Aaron Hopkins, Brian Horne, Rex Tillett
- 29 Metta Austin, Kevin Gamiel, Martha Haberstumpf,
Peg Landreth, Peyton Sterling Snell
- 30 Judith Fearing, Jen Meekins, Traci Nissley,
Jennifer Warth
- 31 Kathryn Gore, Alexander Martin, Anna Strawser



December Anniversaries

- 11 Lee & Sarah Wise - 17 yrs.
- 12 Adrian & Nan Brown - 64 yrs.
- 14 Michael & Amy Snell - 10 yrs.
- 15 Ronnie & Carol Meekins - 54 yrs.
- 15 Gary & Carol Setzer - 22 yrs.
- 18 Olin & Dotsy Davis - 35 yrs.
- 22 Jim & Barbara Brown - 55 yrs.
- 22 Walter & Barbara Holton - 40 yrs.
- 28 Edison & Reda Midgett - 63 yrs.
- 29 Buddy & Erin McCown - 10 yrs.
- 30 Kevin & Meldine Lee - 23 yrs.

