

Willard-Mt. Zion
Presbyterian Church
800 S State Highway AB
P.O. Box 86
Willard MO 65781
417-742-3217



Sunday School - 9:00 AM
Worship Service- 10:00 AM

*It is the mission of
Willard-Mt. Zion
Presbyterian Church to
serve God, to reach out
in love and care for
our congregation, our
community and the
world; to be people who
are Christ centered, fed
by God's word and led
by the Holy Spirit.*

COME HOME TO
CHURCH.



Willard - Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church

The Cornerstone December 2013

Many Americans think of Thanksgiving as a wonderful time to celebrate getting out of school for a long weekend, and eating a great dinner. Or, maybe they think it is the start of the Christmas holiday season. What is the real meaning behind Thanksgiving? Catherine Millard writes:

We can trace this historic American Christian tradition to the year 1623. After the harvest crops were gathered in November 1623, Governor William Bradford of the 1620 Pilgrim Colony, "Plymouth Plantation" in Plymouth, Massachusetts proclaimed:

"All ye Pilgrims with your wives and little ones, do gather at the Meeting House, on the hill... there to listen to the pastor, and **render Thanksgiving to the Almighty God for all His blessings.**"

This is the origin of our annual Thanksgiving Day celebration. Congress of the United States has proclaimed National Days of Thanksgiving to Almighty God many times throughout the following years. On November 1, 1777, by order of Congress, the first National Thanksgiving Proclamation was proclaimed:

"...for solemn thanksgiving and praise. That with one heart and one voice the good people may **express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their Divine Benefactor;**... **and their humble and earnest supplication that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them (their manifold sins) out of remembrance.**... That it may please Him... to take schools and seminaries of education, so necessary for cultivating the principles of true liberty, virtue and piety under His nurturing hand, and to prosper the means of religion for the promotion and enlargement of that kingdom which consisteth of 'righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost'..."

Then again, on January 1, 1795, our first United States President, George Washington, wrote his famed National Thanksgiving Proclamation, in which he says that it is...

"...our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, **to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore Him to continue is... our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore Him to continue and confirm the blessings we experienced...**"

Thursday, the 19th day of February, 1795 was thus set aside by George Washington as a National Day of Thanksgiving.

Many years later, on October 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed, by Act of Congress, an annual National Day of Thanksgiving "on the last Thursday of November, as **a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.**" In this Thanksgiving proclamation, our 16th President says that it is...

Continued on page 2

"...announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord... But **we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, by the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own...** It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people..."

So it is that on Thanksgiving Day each year, Americans give thanks to Almighty God for all His blessings and mercies toward us throughout the year.

Eddy White

Author: Catherine Millard. Text excerpted from *A Children's Companion Guide to America's History*, Horizon House Publishers, Camp Hill Pennsylvania. Used by permission. Supplied by [Films for Christ](#).



Presbyterian Women met November 7, 2013 anticipating the Bazaar on November 9. Most everything is in order and ready for another successful one. Workers were assigned their areas of need.

Opening the meeting was a Bible lesson from Anna. She chose it from Ephesians 6, 13-16 concerning putting on the full armor of God. We should all stand for something unless we stand for everything.

Plans were made for the next Free Lunch of Soup and Chili on November 24th. Dessert will be pie.

Officers for 2013-2014 will be installed at our Christmas meeting and luncheon. The luncheon will be a covered dish one at Suzy's home on December 5th at 11 am. We invite all women of the church. We ask that you bring a covered dish as follows: last names beginning with letters A-L, bring a salad, and the remaining ones (M-Z), please bring a dessert.

Our prayer list consisted of Mark Bunge, cataract surgery.

The meeting adjourned with all repeating the Lord's prayer.

H. Bloomer,
Secretary

Presbyterian Women Monthly Luncheon

The first of 2013 Presbyterian Women agreed to provide a free luncheon the 4th Sunday of the month. We have enjoyed doing this and I think it was enjoyed by the congregation. Christmas is on Wednesday this year, the middle of the week. We felt that many families will be celebrating either the week-end before the holiday or the week-end after. Therefore we will not have a luncheon in the month of December.

This item is on the agenda to be discussed for the year 2014.

Blessings to you this holiday season,
Suzy Bunge, moderator

From Your Pastoral Presbyter

December is my favorite month. Behind all the busyness and commercialism of the holiday, there is the quiet joy of knowing that this celebration began as a way to glorify God and celebrate the greatest gift of all, Jesus the Christ. This quiet joy gives a greater perspective to the gifts and celebration that go on around us. It also allows us to be more focused on the meaning of the gift of salvation through Jesus. Tapping into this joy is not always easy and has to be intentional. That is why Advent devotions have always been so meaningful to me. Those devotions help me take time each day and focus on the joy of anticipation as we wait for the coming of the Christ. They give me reason to sit quietly and still my soul so that what I read means more and can sink into my soul. This could also be a time when a group of people gathered to do these devotions together by email, Facebook, Twitter or even in person. What a wonderful way to ground the Advent season in scripture and faith. Below are a couple of inexpensive Advent devotionals if you are interested. And if you would like to share your thoughts on a daily or even weekly basis, feel free to contact me at pastoralpresbyter@gmail.com or (620) 674-1844. I would love to strengthen connections through this type of sharing.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas.

Pastor Susan

NEWS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION:

We had a Session meeting Thursday, November 14th, at the church. Here are a few highlights from the meeting.

It was decided that the AC would contract with a CPA firm in Monett to do an audit review of the financial books. It was agreed that Presbytery will pay for up to \$1,500 for this review and that anything over that would be paid by the congregation.

To ensure that the committees have appropriate chairs, it was decided that during this time of transition, Eddy White would serve as chair of the Worship Committee and Pastor Dennis Winzenried would serve as chair of the Personnel Committee. The other committee chairs will remain with their current chairperson.

The AC reviewed a list of 30 possible members to be removed from the membership roll. These 30 people had been appropriately contacted according to the Book of Order. It was decided to remove these 30 people from the membership rolls.

Also, the AC would like the congregation to know that Eddy White will be providing pulpit supply for the remainder of the year and she has also agreed to provide pastoral care to members when necessary. Please contact her when you know of someone in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 12th, 7:00 pm. We invite members of the congregation to attend the first 30 minutes of the meeting to dialogue with the AC.



Thank you to all those who visited the Dorcas Sewing Circle booth during the Bazaar November 9.

Dorcas Sewing Circle makes crib quilts and blankets that are donated to “Newborns in Need”, a Christian charity. Batting and yarn are bought with the proceeds from sales. Members also crochet shawls to sell or donate.

The sewing circle meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings in the Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. Everyone is invited to join in the fun and fellowship by the group.

Anna Rafferty

FAITH DEVELOPMENT NEWS:

ADVENT IS DECEMBER 1—CAN CHRISTMAS BE FAR BEHIND?

Yes, that headline is supposed to be funny. Faith Development has planned a special Advent Children's Time for December 1. That day, each child will receive a copy of the book Finding Bethlehem, as well as an Advent calendar to decorate with the accompanying stickers. Each Sunday we will draw "closer" to Bethlehem as we emphasize the meaning of the Christmas celebration.

This year the children's Christmas program has become the basis of the Christmas cantata. "Christmas Letters" will present children's letters to characters in the Nativity, who will then reply with their own letters to the children, and songs by the choir will put everyone in a true "Christmas" mood. Join us on Sunday, **December 15 at 10 a.m.** We'll celebrate our acting triumphs with special refreshments after worship.

Don't miss it!



HAT-AND-MITTEN TREE RETURNS!

It wouldn't be a Willard-Mt. Zion Christmas without the hat-and-mitten tree "decorating" the lobby! Help make this pitiful "Charlie Brown" tree look beautiful (or at least covered up) by bringing warm hats and gloves for the school children in Willard.



Ms. Eddy White can be reached through December at:

Home number: 417-582-0163
Cell phone: 417-299-8344



The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 22, 2013.

ADOPT A POINSETTIA

It is now time to adopt a poinsettia to help decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas holiday. There will be 25 available for adoption. Cost to adopt will be \$15.00 – a bargain as the price remains the same as last year. Proceeds will be split with 50% going to the youth group treasury and the other 50% will go to the Willard Food Pantry. You will be helping our youth as well as less fortunate members of the community. Thanks to Glenn Kauffmann for donating the poinsettias. They will be visible by December 15. See Stephanie O'Neal or Janet White.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 21 at 9 p.m.
Communion by intinction.

BIG

Christmas Cookie Sale

December 7, 2013

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

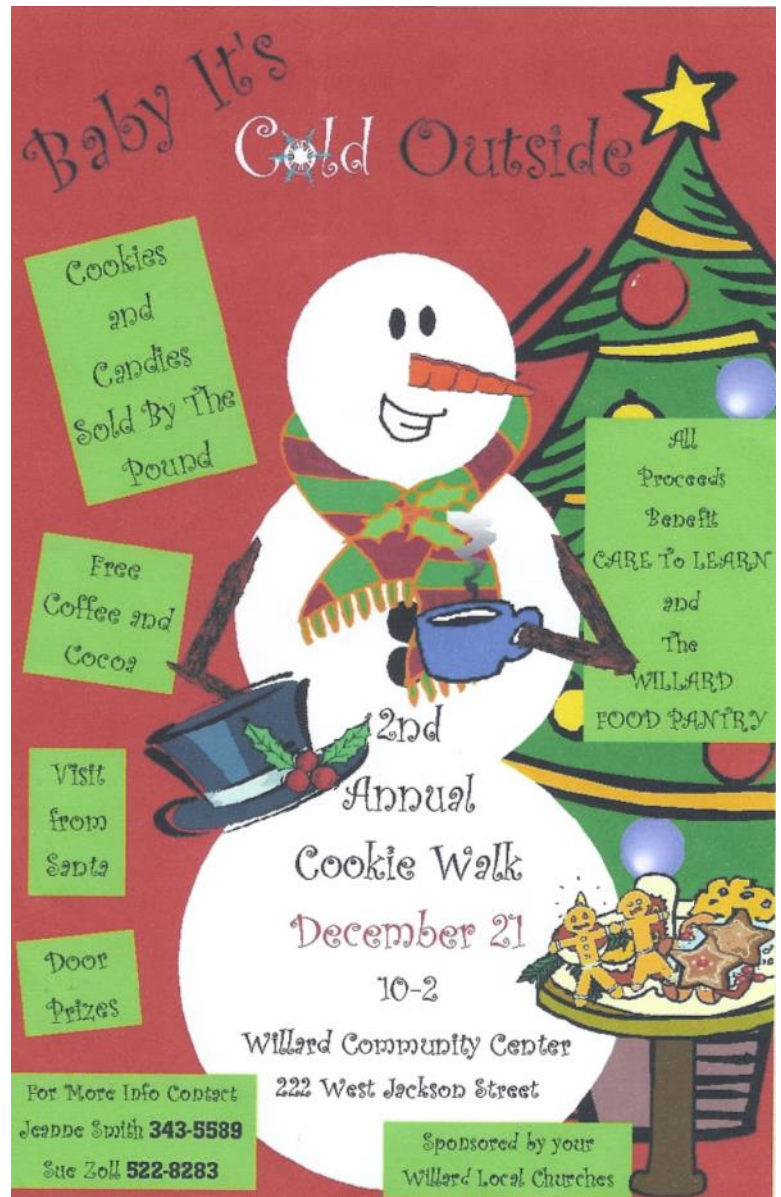
114 E. Main St.
Ash Grove

Proceeds to fund the
Backpack Program



Ash Grove

Everton



Baby It's Cold Outside

Cookies and Candies Sold By The Pound

Free Coffee and Cocoa

Visit from Santa

Door Prizes

All Proceeds Benefit CARE TO LEARN and The WILLARD FOOD PANTRY

2nd Annual Cookie Walk
December 21
10-2

Willard Community Center
222 West Jackson Street

For More Info Contact
Jeanne Smith 343-5589
Sue Zoll 522-8283

Sponsored by your
Willard Local Churches

Prayer Concerns in This Part of Christ's Family



If you have a prayer concern for the next newsletter, please advise the church office, Linda Cameron or Mickey Goodson.

Please remember that Member Care has revised the prayer concerns list. The new

prayer concerns will be left on for about a month. If you would like your concern left on longer or removed sooner, you will need to notify us. We are all in need of prayer and urge you to continue praying for the members of our church and their families.

Cancer Patients

Naomi O'Connell (mother of Amanda Sanger),
Ted Hansen, Jr. (brother of Sally Rader),
Sandy Osborne (son of Glendora), Jeanne Hart

Continuing Prayer

Eli Rader, Ralph Cox (father of Deb Frey), Henry Wills,
Jerry Jones, Sam & Mary Lou Farmer

New Prayer Concerns

Barbara & Gordon O'Quinn,
Eddy Bunge, Mark Bunge

BAZAAR 2013

WOW!!!!!! What a success it was! \$3,675.25.

Craft room: \$698.25 --- thanks to Stephanie O'Neal and all the people that contributed to that room: Connie, Meredith, Peggy, Carol, June, Suzanna, Mildred, Leah, Delores, Tina, Geneva, Suzy. Linda McCown also worked in this room.

Candy Room: \$318.75 --- Donna, Terri and Linda Cameron. We can't thank you enough. Workers in that room were Carol and Helen.

Basket: \$356.00 --- Many thanks to Becky Aton for working and selling tickets.

Bakery: \$696.25 --- Nancy, Anne and Peggy worked this room. Thanks to Mildred, Kathryn, Sally, Meredith, Leah, Linda C, Terri, Suzy, Mickey, Connie. Their contribution will be enjoyed by many for a long time.

Donations: \$460.00

The fellowship hall was decorated by Leonard and the Hardmans. It was beautiful, thanks.

Luncheon: \$1,094.00. Thank you to Mrs. Nolte for the two 20 lb. turkeys she donated. There were many who worked in the kitchen before the luncheon: Mickey, Meredith, Sally, Mildred, Linda McC, all worked at different times then on Friday Joanna and Glendora helped peel potatoes.

Saturday we had Mildred and Meredith, Mickey, Tina, Michelle and Danielle Sally, Suzy and Amanda. Linda C., Mike Sanger, Mark, Mary Frances and Donna washed dishes. Thank you so much, we all came through smiling. Drinks and dining room --- Geneva and Leah along with Hannah, Elizabeth, Savanna and Michael helped clean tables.

Many women brought salads, pies and cakes. With the exception of Mary Cover, the others have been named elsewhere in this report. Thanks to each of you.

A special thank you to Leah, she worked all six days along with me or in the craft room. There were so many others that helped clean rooms, set up tables, each of you were appreciated. I hope I haven't forgotten any one, that is why I hesitate to name names, but I want you to know it takes a lot of people to have this Bazaar, all are important. We appreciate all our kids coming back to help.


Dorcas report will be elsewhere in this newsletter.

God's Blessings,
Suzy Bunge, PW Moderator



Sympathy is expressed to Sally and Jerome Rader and their family. Their brother-in-law, Dave James, passed away last month of cancer.

December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday in Advent Communion	2	3 Do Right 8:30 a.m.	4 Choir 6:30 pm	5 PW 11 am Boy Scouts	6 Scrapbooking 6 pm	7 Christmas Cookie Sale 9 a.m. - noon 114 E Main Ash Grove
8 2nd Sunday in Advent	9	10 Do Right 8:30 a.m.	11 Dorcas 9 am Choir 6:30 pm	12 Session 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	13	14
15 3rd Sunday in Advent Christmas Program during worship 10 a Newsletter Deadline	16	17 Do Right 8:30 a.m.	18 Choir 6:30 pm	19	20	21 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am Cookie Walk 10-2 Willard Community Center
22 4th Sunday in Advent Christmas Joy Offering NO PW luncheon	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 9 pm	25 	26 Boy Scouts	27	28
29 Refreshments - Choir	30	31 Do Right 8:30 a.m.				

December Birthdays & *Anniversaries

2 Ed Bunge
3 Kathy Davis
8 Stephanie O'Neal
12 * Henry & Peggy Wills
21 Mary Hardman
22 Brian Lockhart



24 Mark Hardman
26 Joanna Carter
26 * Joe & Helen Bloomer
27 Sue Cheniae
28 Lillie Mae Gilmore

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving baskets. Thirteen baskets of food will be taken to and distributed by the Willard Food Pantry. The items included in each basket are:

Ham
5 lbs. potatoes
Sweet potatoes
2 cans corn
2 cans green beans
Stuffing mix
Applesauce
Cake mix
Frosting
Bread or rolls
Butter
Bagged fruit

Hamburger helper
Peanut butter
Jelly
Pancake mix
Syrup
Spaghetti sauce
Spaghetti
1 lb. beans
Cornbread mix
Mac & cheese
Hot cocoa



Sally and Meredith will be collecting donations for Christmas baskets **after** Thanksgiving.

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