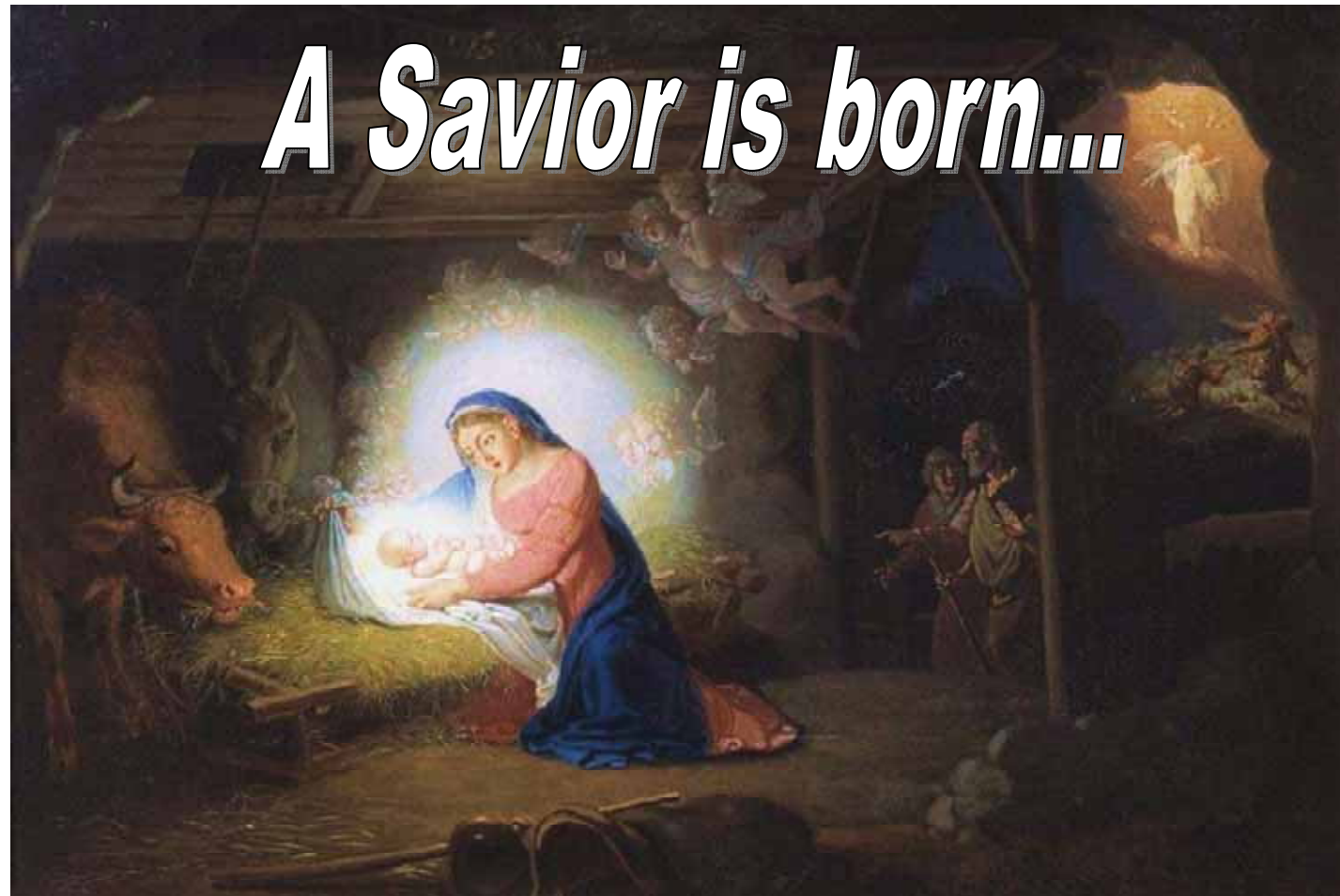


# Valley Presbyterian Church

17560 Chillicothe Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023  
Telephone (440) 543-1071; Fax (440) 543-4047  
Web Site: [www.valleypresbychurch.org](http://www.valleypresbychurch.org)  
Office email: [valleypc@netlink.net](mailto:valleypc@netlink.net)



DECEMBER, 2011 NEWSLETTER



## DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**DECEMBER 4**  
12PM-4PM  
XMAS CAROLING

**DECEMBER 5**  
7PM  
COMMISSIONS MEET

**DECEMBER 11**  
10:30AM  
'I HEAR THE PROPHET CALLIN'

**DECEMBER 12**  
7PM  
DEACONS MEET

**DECEMBER 13**  
12 NOON  
SARAH CIRCLE

**DECEMBER 18**  
10:30AM  
CHILDREN'S XMAS PROGRAM:  
'THE VISITOR'

**DECEMBER 19**  
7PM  
SESSION MEETS

**DECEMBER 24**  
7:30PM  
SPECIAL MUSIC  
8PM  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

**DECEMBER 25**  
12 NOON  
CVCC XMAS DINNER  
FAMILY LIFE CTR

Come worship  
with us each  
Sunday at 10:30 AM!

# The Valley Voice

The monthly newsletter of Valley Presbyterian Church

CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO

DECEMBER, 2011

## December Offerings for Preparation, for Comfort and Joy

Advent is the time of preparation: readying ourselves to meet the coming of our Savior and the good news of great joy! And yet, we also know that, for many, preparing for Christmas can create feelings of stress and sadness. During this season, we at Valley want to offer opportunities for both comfort and joy; to be held up by the community of faith and to be lifted up by the great gift God has given to us!

**Sunday, December 4** – Worship and Holy Communion, followed by Christmas Caroling for children, youth and families (noon – 4PM)

**Sunday, December 11** – The Adult Festival Choir will present *I Hear the Prophet Callin'* by Pepper Choplin during 10:30AM worship. Be sure to invite your family, friends and neighbors to take part in this uplifting musical program.

**Sunday, December 18** – During worship, *The Visitor* – an original Christmas Program featuring our children and youth – will be presented; along with the collection of the Christmas Joy Offering.

**Christmas Eve, December 24** – Music from our organist, bells, and women's quintet will begin at 7:30PM, followed by a candlelight service at 8PM. The Christmas Joy Offering will be received.

**Christmas Day, December 25** – Worship will include Christmas music and stories. The CVCC Christmas Dinner will be from 12-2PM at the Family Life Center.



## "The Parables Challenge"

A hearty thanks to the forty-one individuals, families or teams that took the Parables Challenge this fall; showing forth a great range of giftedness and initiative. All told, over \$2,100 was raised for the church through these varied projects.



On August 28, 2011 envelopes containing \$20 "talents" were passed out during worship with the encouragement to try and make the money grow by utilizing your own individual gifts and creativity. As a result, Valley soon filled with stories and examples of food prepared and sold, cookbooks and greeting cards created, lawns mown, scarves knitted and much more.

During three weeks of our annual Stewardship Campaign,

participants in the Parables Challenge shared their own "Giving Stories" in worship: how they learned to be generous and how it was expressed through this Challenge. Special thanks to Gloria Unterweiser, Bev Keough and the mother/daughter team of Marilyn Rodenhause and Diana Huff for sharing their stories with us.

Thanks again to all who participated in the Parables Challenge. God does indeed help us – and that which we have been given – grow.

**Christmas Joy Offering**  
December 18

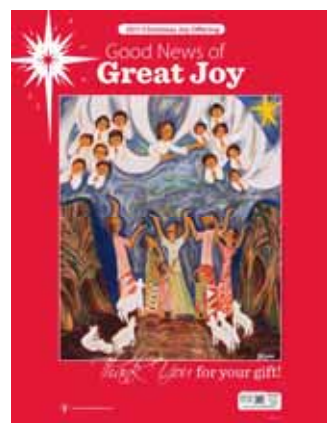


Like the shepherds, we cannot hear the news without being stunned: God's love has come among us as one of us, accompanying us, and working to transform us. As we open our hearts to that love, we find that it yearns to be share with others. One of the ways Presbyterians have responded to the news of this gift is by sharing our own gifts through the Christmas Joy Offering.

This special offering is distributed equally to support Racial Ethnic Education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, where it helps students develop their gifts and discover their calling. It also assists families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

As we gather with family, friends, and fellow believers to celebrate the good news of great joy – that God's love in human form is now among us – may our gifts bear joyful witness to that uncontainable love.

Thank you for your gift!




**ANNUAL REPORTS**  
Due December 19

Monday, December 19, is the deadline for submissions to the 2011 Annual Report. Each Commission must submit a report. These should be emailed to Liz at the church office at: [valleypc@netlink.net](mailto:valleypc@netlink.net)

**Poinsettia and Holiday Flower Orders**  
Must be in by December 4th

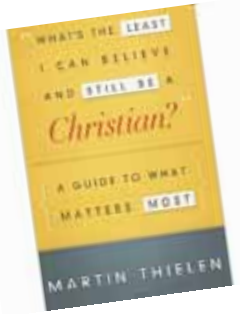
**Children Receive Bibles**



On Sunday, November 27, four children were awarded with illustrated Children's Bibles from the Christian Education Commission. We continue to pray for God's blessing as these young people are nurtured in the faith:

**Victoria Anderson, Paige Belew, Henry Cregar, Logan Fouts**

**"What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?"**  
A Guide to What Matters Most  
By Martin Thielen



Adult Christian Education will focus on in the weeks and months leading up to Lent on this whimsical but thought-provoking book by Martin Thielen, a Methodist pastor. The book is divided into two parts: Ten Things Christians *Don't* Need to Believe (such as "True Christians Can't Believe in Evolution" and "Bad People Will Be "Left Behind" and Then Fry in Hell") and Ten Things Christians *Do* Need to Believe (such as "Jesus' Death: What about Suffering?" and "Jesus' Legacy: Is the Church Still Relevant?") Books will be available for purchase for \$9. Each chapter is only a few pages long and addresses each issue in a unique and timely way.

**A second class – looking at these same chapters – will be held on Tuesday nights beginning in January.**


**Adult Christian Education meets each Sunday morning (except Christmas Day and New Year's Day) at 9:15AM in Room 113.**

During Lent, we are planning to present a seven-part sermon series addressing these questions. This will be a great time to invite to church people you know who, for one reason or another, might be "spiritual but not religious" or have become "lapsed" church-goers. Adult Christian Education meets each Sunday morning (except Christmas Day and New Year's Day) at 9:15AM in Room 113.

**SARAH CIRCLE — DECEMBER 13**


Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 13, at 12 noon, in the home of Sally Rzicznek. Christie Frenchie will lead Lesson 4 in "Confessing the Beatitudes." We will have a salad luncheon and each member is asked to bring a couple of ingredients to add to the salad. Please call Carol Ferguson for information. All Valley women are welcome to attend.

- 45 Life Lessons and 5 to grow on... (36-40)** from Regina Brett, The Plain Dealer
36. Growing old beats the alternative - dying young.
  37. Your children get only one childhood. Make it memorable.
  38. Read the Psalms. They cover every human emotion.
  39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
  40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.



It's the most wonderful time of the year – especially if you are in pre-school! The anticipation of Christmas is almost too much for their little minds to contain!

We are so very busy here at HOV – presents to make, cookies to decorate, stories to tell and plenty of anticipation. Amongst all this excitement we remind the children of the 'reason for the season'. The story of Jesus' birth is a favorite. The idea of a baby being born in a barn with sheep and cows all around - that's quite a story! Add to that that Jesus is God's son – that's a lot for a preschooler to comprehend!




The biggest part of the story is about love and how much each of us loved by our families, our teachers, our friends and especially by God - what a wonderful Christmas gift!

Merry Christmas from all of us here at the preschool – we wish you joy, happiness and the greatest of all, love. Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Our Joe Corbi's sale was a big success –and our Bake Sale was the best ever! How lucky we are to have a church family that supports our preschool with such enthusiasm!! We couldn't do it without you!

Holly Blazek and Heidi Cregar  
Co-Directors


**HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY**

1-Dale Cooper	25-Jewel Paynter
8-John Jokela	25-Buzz Wilson
9-Hayden Gallagher	29-Stacey Deanna
13-Marge Davies	
13-Jack Batchelor	
13-Janet Graham	
17-Gale Johnson	
24-Ed Otten	
24-Bob Banham	

Our thanks to all the people who helped and contributed to our team in the SPEA (Suicide Prevention Education Alliance ) 'Into the Light Walk' on October 2 at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Special thanks to Larry & Donna May who also gave of their time and energy on a night of wet and windy weather. With heartfelt thanks, The Gurd family

**JEAN STRAND**




A big thank you to member Jean Strand for her tireless efforts in keeping our sanctuary tidy and equipped. You are priceless Jean!

*Submitted by Marilyn Rodenhausen*

**CVCC Community Christmas Dinner**  
December 25th Noon-2PM  
Federated Family Life Center

For the third year, the CVCC will be providing a traditional Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 25 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Federated Church Family Life Center, 16349 Chillicothe Road. This free meal is designed for people who cannot be with family on Christmas Day. If you are interested in attending or volunteering, call 440-247-6490.

**VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Rev. John Wahl, Pastor  
Office Phone: (440) 543-1071 Cell Phone: (216) 287-2405  
Email: [revjohnwahl@netlink.net](mailto:revjohnwahl@netlink.net)

Liz Wertz, Communications Specialist  
Email: [valleypc@netlink.net](mailto:valleypc@netlink.net)


Nancy Sullivan, Director of Music  
Organist: John Kautzman  
Bell Choir Director: Diana Huff

**Hours & Schedule**  
9:15 AM—Adult Christian Education  
10:30 AM—Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
11:30 AM—Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall  
Church School Schedule September 11 through May  
Bible Story Time (PreK-5th Grade): 9:15-10:15 AM  
6th & 7th grades: 9:30-10:15 AM

PreK-5th grades: Attend first part of worship at 10:30 AM; excused to class after "Children's Moment." Worship with family each 1st Communion Sunday.

Nursery (child care provided for children, birth through age 3)  
9:00-11:30 AM in Room 129 (child care provided through age 4 for family worship service)

Operating with Valley Presbyterian Church  
**HEART OF VALLEY CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL**  
Co-Directors: Holly Blazek and Heidi Cregar  
Phone: (440) 708-2572 Email: [hovcp@netlink.net](mailto:hovcp@netlink.net)  
Web: [www.heartofvalley.org](http://www.heartofvalley.org)




# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 7AM Mens Prayer Bk	<b>2</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 8PM AA	<b>3</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 7PM AA
<b>4</b> 9:15AM Adult Ed 9:30AM Confirmation Cl 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Fellowship Hr 12PM Xmas Caroling	<b>5</b> 7PM Commission Mtgs	<b>6</b> 7PM GriefShare	<b>7</b> 8:30PM AA	<b>8</b> 7AM Mens Prayer Bk 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Adult Choir	<b>9</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 8PM AA	<b>10</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 7PM AA
<b>11</b> 9:15AM Adult Ed 9:30AM Confirmation Cl 10:30AM Worship "Hear the Prophet" 11:30AM Fellowship Hr 7PM Youth Group	<b>12</b> 7PM Deacons Mtg	<b>13</b> 1PM Sarah Circle 7PM GriefShare	<b>14</b> 8:30PM AA	<b>15</b> 7AM Mens Prayer Bk <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Adult Choir	<b>16</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 8PM AA	<b>17</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 7PM AA
<b>18</b> 9:15AM Adult Ed 9:30AM Confirmation Cl 10:30AM Worship "The Visitor" Youth 11:30AM Fellowship Hr	<b>19</b> 7PM Session Mtg	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:30PM AA	<b>22</b> 7AM Mens Prayer Bk 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Adult Choir	<b>23</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 8PM AA	<b>24</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 7PM AA 8PM Candlelight Serv
<b>25</b> 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Fellowship Hr	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:30PM AA	<b>29</b> 7AM Mens Prayer Bk 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Adult Choir	<b>30</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 8PM AA	<b>31</b> 3PM Fairmt Arts 7PM AA 



**CVCC THANKSGIVING SERVICE**  
 On Sunday afternoon of November 20, the churches of Auburn, Bainbridge and Chagrin Falls gathered at Valley for a Community Thanksgiving Service. We were blessed to have Anne Goodman from Cleveland Area Food Bank and Joanne Randall from United Way of Geauga County speak to us about the needs and opportunities for hunger relief in our communities; and to have area ministers participate in the service. Organist John Kautzman, the Valley Bells (directed by Diana Huff) and a mass choir from area churches (directed by Nancy Sullivan) also provided the music. A collection was received to help the work of the Cleveland Area Food Band and United Way of Geauga County.

**Mitten Tree**  
  
 The children's Sunday School classes will be collecting mittens, gloves, hats, socks, (any size) and scarves for a mission project. Please support them by adding your donations to the tree. Look for the tree in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Don't miss this special holiday musical presentation  
***I Hear the Prophet Callin'***  
  
**December 11th worship service**  
 Adult Choir, Festival Choirs, and musicians from Cleveland Institute of Music, along with a different theme "The Prophet" will offer everyone hope this Christmas season.

**hope**  
 "Hope" is the thing with feathers –  
 That perches in the soul –  
 And sings the tune without the words –  
 And never stops at all.  
 – Emily Dickinson

*mission commission*  
**Alternative Gift Market Was A Success**  
 Thanks to the generous and thoughtful shoppers, the Mission Commission collected \$2,196 at the Alternative Gift Market held on November 12th. These funds will be sent to the Alternative Gifts International.

*mission commission*  
  
**ANGEL TREE**  
 Each Christmas season Valley has had an Angel Tree project to help the less fortunate people living in the greater Cleveland area. Angels listing desired gifts will be placed on the tree in the Narthex. Please select an angel, purchase a gift, and place the **unwrapped** gift under the tree. The last day to place a gift under the tree will be **December 11**.  
 Our gifts this year will go to New Life Community. New Life Community is a transitional housing program for homeless and jobless families in the greater Cleveland area. The curriculum teaches residents the skills they need to achieve financial independence and security for their families. If anyone has questions about the Angel Tree or New Life Community, please contact Mary Hatch of Valley's Mission Commission. Thanks to all Valley angels participating in this worthwhile project!

Don't miss the special children and youth holiday presentation of  
**"The Visitor"**  
**December 18th worship service**  
 Youth Christmas program  
**We'd LOVE for all the kids to participate!**  
 Even if you're not able to make all the practices, we'd still love for your children to be part of the program on the December 18. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Bush.

**Christmas gift suggestions:**  
 To your enemy, forgiveness.  
 To an opponent, tolerance.  
 To a friend, your heart.  
 To a customer, service.  
 To all, charity.  
 To every child, a good example.  
 To yourself, respect.  
 – Oren Arnold