

# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

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*Newsletter of the Washington Christian Church*

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***2006 - Year of Construction***

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## **Ladies Winter Banquet**

Tickets are on sale now for the Annual Ladies Winter Banquet scheduled for Thursday, January 26th at 6 PM. The theme for this year's banquet is Women Bridging the Gap, as is the theme for the Circle of Friends Ladies Group this year.

To purchase your tickets stop by the church office during office hours, (8:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.) or see Beth Howley on Sunday mornings.

Ticket prices: For meal and Program: \$10.00 per person; For program only: \$5.00. The meal starts at 6 PM and the program starts at 7 PM.

Our speaker this year is Rose Poore. Rose is an upbeat, energetic speaker with 30 years of experience in public speaking. She is at ease at a podium at both secular and church events. Her program always aims for a positive impact. She researches a theme and speaks in a style that often brings laughter and sometimes a tear.

In addition to banquets, conferences, and retreats, Rose also leads secretary seminars. Rose is also a bi-weekly newspaper columnist, Life Through Rose Colored Glasses - Carmi Times.

Rose and her husband, "Coach" Harold Poore have been married since 1972. They have one daughter, Tammy Knox and a two-year-old granddaughter, Gabrielle. Rose is Office Manager of First Christian Church in Carmi, Illinois, where she had worked since 1972.

We can pretty much guarantee that you will have a great time. So why not share the fun and give a ticket or two as gifts to friends; a late Christmas gift, a "Start-the-New-Year-Off Right" gift, or a "Just Because We're Friends" gift.

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## **Focus on Our Family**

*by Betty Hoyt*

Our Brothers and Sisters Who are in Nursing Homes

For this New Year, let us focus on our Christian brothers and sisters who are in the nursing home.

First, let us focus on Vera Amdor, who is in residence at Washington Christian Village. Vera has been a member of our church for many, many years. Vera, with her husband, Laurel were quite active in keeping the library at our church full of good books. They would order and upkeep the library for our use. She had been active in the

women circles, as one of her supporting positions in our church. Please keep her in your prayers and thoughts as this year begins. Drop her a card or stop by and see her.

Now let us focus on our Christian brother and sister, Ruby and Ed Baker, who are also in residence at Washington Christian Village. They originally came from the State of Mississippi and settled in this area. They were quite active in Prime Timers and in Burt Nordhielm's Sunday School class. Ed was also, after retiring, a greeter for the local Wal-Mart store. After leaving their apartment at Washington Christian Village, the Bakers moved to Snyder Village, and while there they celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They later moved back to the Washington area and settled at Washington Christian Village. Keep them in your prayers and stop by and see them. They may not know you at first, but do know that you are familiar. We need to keep them in our hearts as they are our brother and sister in Christ.

We would now like to focus on our Christian sister, Mary Blumenshine, who is a resident of the Apostolic Christian

Nursing Home in Eureka, Illinois. Mary was an active member of the Loyal Circle Sunday School Class and Ladies Group. One of her greatest loves was for children. Even today, Mary still perks up a little when children are around at the nursing home. Mary is the mother of one of our faithful church members, Nelda McCallister. Mary also loved to travel after her husband retired. It was mentioned that she was, and is, a very pleasant woman who would always have a smile on her face. Please keep Mary in your prayers, stop and visit her, and keep her in your thoughts.

Let us now place our focus on Margaret Hamilton, our Christian sister, who is in residence at Restmore Nursing Home in Morton, Illinois. Margaret had been a very active member within our church family along with her husband Deforrest. She helped further several members' walks within our church. A couple would be, her neighbor Shirley Zeone, whom she spent many hours sharing her knowledge of Christ and His work on earth. Also, Helen Ramai, whom she bought a Study Bible for. Both Shirley and Helen have gone on to be with the Lord.

Margaret might not acknowledge you if you visit her, but God knows that you have been there and are keeping her a part of our family. Keep her in your prayers, send cards which Deforrest will read to her, and share your thoughts of her with her husband.

Fay McCarthy is our next focus. He is our Christian brother and

has only been in the Washington Christian Nursing Home for a short period of time. Fay was very active within our church body along with his wife, Evelyn. He continued to be part of us after his wife left her earthly home and entered the Kingdom of God. Fay has been active in Prime Timers, Bert's Sunday School class, and always a neighbor in sharing his garden produce with his church family. Fay may not be able to worship with us in our church building, but he is still part of our church body and continues to be with us in thoughts. Pray for him, visit him, and know that he is still part of us as a brother in Christ.

Helen Rau who is also our Christian sister has been active in the Christian Sister Sunday School Class and Circle of Friends. She has been very active in volunteering at the Washington Nursing Home where she is now in residence, with the sewing on of names on the residents' clothing, and also with our church group on our designated Tuesday in filling water glasses, delivering mail, and whatever tasks they may need us to do on our day. She was a good neighbor of the Chaney's and Jane Young. She is the roommate of Bernie Bankes' mother, Hazel. Please keep her in your prayers, drop her a card, and keep her in your thoughts.

Our brother in Christ, Bud Stiltz, is in residence at Restmore Nursing Home in Morton, Illinois. He has been a member along with his wife, Leona, and daughter Donna Chambers and son-in-law, Tom

Chambers here at our church for quite awhile.

One of Bud's favorite things was to greet people when they would come into church on Sunday morning. He did this for quite a while after Louie Heller could no longer do it. WCC came to have a Greeting Team a few years back and spread this ministry out among various church members, but Bud usually managed to be in the foyer to greet the people as they arrived. Bud was also a wonderful member of the PrimeTimers, Bert's class, and Seniors in the Smokies. He loved sharing some of Leona's little humorous incidents while in the Smokies. Together Bud and Leona delivered Meals on Wheels through Kathy Clang's job. Bud was also very active in doing behind-the-scene jobs that needed the electrician's touch. He helped do a lot of rewiring jobs around the church. They were quite involved and enjoyed sharing their time with others. Bud has touched many lives during his time here at Washington Christian Church. Please keep him in your prayers, along with his family, drop him a card which Leona or one of the girls will read to him, and keep him in your thoughts.

Last, but not least, let us focus on our Christian sister, Ethel Young. Ethel Young lived for awhile in a wonderful assisted living facility in Morton before having to go to the hospital and from there going to Morton Villa. I had visited Ethel in her apartment quite a while ago. She is a very interesting person. I enjoyed her talking about her family, a wedding of her granddaughter at the one time when I

visited her with my granddaughter, Jessica. Ethel related that she was active in the Loyal Circle Sunday School class. She loved hearing Gladys Bride play the piano. Ethel misses being at church with us and enjoys getting copies of the church's newsletter, the Christian Messenger. Please keep her in your prayers, stop and see her, send her cards, and keep her in your thoughts throughout this year. She is indeed one of our Christian Sisters.

As we focus on these Christian brothers and sisters, let us remember that only through God are all things possible, and they will always be part of our Body of Christ. Let us offer our prayers for them throughout this New Year and God Bless You All.

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## REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTERS

### *Staff Prayer Requests*

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Jeff's Prayer Requests for 2006:

I know that 2005 has drawn to a close, but I want to give thanks to God for the new team members He brought to us. I am extremely grateful and excited about Jon and Ed's future at WCC.

Personal . . .

1. Health . . . Spiritual & Physical
2. Continuing family transitions in our home.

Ministry . . .

1. God would continue what He started in '05
2. God would help us this year to strengthen our spiritual

foundation in '06 ("2006 - A Year of Construction")

3. God would help us to be alert to ways we can serve and minister to those in our community that do not know Jesus Christ.

4. God would help us to be bold with the message of Jesus Christ.

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Jon's Prayer Request:

Personal . . .

That in these early stages of marriage, I would find a healthy balance of time in the office and at home, to develop habits that will keep my marriage healthy and vibrant through the many years of ministry. Pray that I would be the husband my wife deserves. Family first, church second.

Ministry . . .

That as a leader in the church, I would be above reproach, and lead (with guts) in the way that God intends, whatever that means. Pray that I would have wisdom and discernment in deciding where to direct this church's ministry to kids and students. Pray that we would not be satisfied with where we are, knowing that faith is a journey. Pray that Jeff, Ed, and I would grow together as a team, and that I would find ways to encourage and spur them on.

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Ed's Prayer Request:

For 2006, I hope you will pray for our LIFEGROUPS, that through intentional relationship building and through modeling a lifestyle of worship, we will

embrace the seven functions of community:

**S - SPIRITUAL FORMATION:** Pray that participation in LIFEGROUPS will lead to spiritual maturity both collectively and individually.

**E - EVANGELISM:** Pray that LIFEGROUPS will not be static but open and will aggressively seek to embrace the seeker.

**R - REPRODUCTION:** Pray that LIFEGROUPS will multiply to spread the blessings of Christian community.

**V - VOLUNTEERISM:** Pray that commitment to LIFEGROUPS will lead to an explosion in group and individual service.

**I - INTERNAT'L MISSIONS:** Pray that each LIFEGROUP, by adopting an international mission, will live out the great commission.

**C - CARE:** Pray that the structure of LIFEGROUPS will serve the pastoral and accountability needs of the church without burning out its leaders.

**E - EXTENDING COMPASSION:** Pray that LIFEGROUPS will reach out and share the burdens of our community.

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## Annual Report

With the start of a new year we take time to look back over the old one to see just what we have accomplished and get a vision of where we are headed. To help us do that and to communicate to the Congregation these accomplishments, thoughts, and ideas, we publish an Annual

Report which is due to come out on April 1st of each year.

In order to publish this report I need the Chairman from each Team or Organization in the church to turn in a report for the group they oversee. That report needs to include a little of what that Team does in the church, accomplishments over the past year, goals for the present year, and Team members involved in the committee. Also, those Teams or Organizations that have financial reports need to include that information also.

In order for me to get this report out on time I need each Team's report on my desk by Sunday, February 12th. Of course, I always appreciate when your reports are turned in early and I will gladly accept them as soon after the 1st of the year as you can get them to me. And, it's usually easier to find your notes and remember what happened in the past year as soon as the year is over than it is to wait until we get too far into the present year. So Chairmen, be thinking about getting your reports in soon.

Thanks, Mary

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## **MissioNews**

*by Wally Born*

### **Illini Christian Ministries**

These are times that try the very soul of the family. What with the ever increasing pace of life; the perceived demands, wants, needs; and all of today's temptations to confuse us, families are now under more stress than ever. They're not out there alone though. Illini Christian Ministries (ICM), a mission we help support, has devoted itself to

providing children and family guidance, nourishment, and salvation through Christian social services. Their vision is of children and families who are strong, restored and saved by the love of Jesus.

Since its inception in 1967 (ICM) has focused on preserving families and protecting and caring for children at risk. Whether the problem is abuse, neglect, crisis pregnancy, infertility, a runaway or behavior problem child, parental inability to care for their child or family dysfunction, (ICM) has positioned themselves to help.

(ICM) recruits, licenses and trains individual families to provide foster care to children in need. They also provide pregnancy education, birthing preparation, social services support, and referral services to woman in crisis pregnancies. Adoption services are offered to Christian Church and Churches of Christ couples who are residents of Illinois.

From a recent phone conversation it was related that (ICM) could do more to help if they had more counselors and staff. Also more foster parents are needed. They say that they are turning away families and children for lack of the Christian volunteers to care for the children. Visit their website to learn more how you can help @ <[www.icchm.org](http://www.icchm.org)>.

Pray for families that are in trouble. Pray that they will find their way to Jesus and that our partnership with (ICM) will be used for God's glory.

### **Washington Christian Village News**

On Friday, December 16, WCV held its residents' Annual Christmas Party at 2 p.m. The Snyder Village Kitchen Band entertained the residents with Christmas songs and several solo pieces. Then Santa arrived to greet everyone and to signal time for treats. After punch and cookies the residents opened all the gifts.

Celia Adams, Pat Connaughton, Marilyn McDonald, Anamarie Morris, and Edna Neal all attended to help the residents and to serve snacks. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

This will be the last Christmas event that Donice will plan. Jim Gorby is taking on the responsibility of directing the key ladies and the volunteers while Donice will be more involved with the responsibilities of admissions.

For your information WCV has installed a security door system. An automatic robotic voice which seems to resemble Jim Gorby's voice announces the code that needs to be used to enter and to leave the building without setting off an alarm.

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### **Circle of Friends**

Since Circle of Friends is holding the Ladies Banquet in January, the monthly meeting is canceled for January.

In February, Circle of Friends plans to make crayons for disabled children. We thought that various members of the congregation would like to get rid of all the bits and pieces of old crayons that are stored at their homes. If each family has a lot of bits and pieces, it would be helpful to have the pieces

sorted by colors - blues, greens, etc.

If the children get bored during vacation because there is nothing to do, they might like to help other children by sorting out their old crayons. See Anamarie Morris with questions.

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### **The F.I.S.H. menus for January are as follows:**

January 4th: BBQ, Carrot Salad, Chips, Dessert; Jan. 11th: Pizza Salad, Dessert; Jan. 18th: Pancakes, Sausage, Hot Apples, Ice Cream; Jan. 25th: No F.I.S.H.

Please sign up in the foyer by the Sunday before the meal. If you have to cancel, please call the office ASAP so we can plan accordingly. Cost: \$3 per person or \$7 per immediate family.

Join us after the meal (6:15 p.m.) for Adult Bible Studies and Youth Groups.

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### **Youth News**

#### *Mexico Mission Trip Meeting*

Wednesday, January 18th @ 7:30 p.m. High Schoolers (including 8th graders this year) wanting to go on the missions trip this summer to Mexico must be at this meeting! It will be after F.I.S.H. in the church library.

*5th-6th graders @ the R.O.C.K. Redo - Jan 13, 7-9 PM*

The December 3rd event that was canceled has been rescheduled for Jan. 13th! C.O.R. will be playing again, and there will be food and games, your friends from other

churches, and teaching from Jon! We will be collecting Teddy Bears again, but this time for the Heart House in Eureka.

#### *Valentine's Day Banquet*

February 15th

This will be a fundraiser for this Summer's Missions Trip. There is much planning to do. High Schoolers wanting to take part in this, let Jon know ASAP. All those participating in this Summer's Mission Trip will be expected to participate in this fundraiser. Again, talk to Jon ASAP.

#### *Sr High Youth Group*

High School Youth Group will once again be meeting at the Pittman's after a short Christmas/New Year's Holiday break. We will resume on Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. starting Sunday, January 8th.

#### *Sr High Progressive Lock-In*

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 6th for a Sr High Progressive Lock-In starting at 10:00 PM at Crossroads United Methodist Church. For this event we will be hooking up with Crossroads United Methodist, St. Mark's Lutheran, Calvary Mennonite, and First Baptist Churches and taking it on the road! We'll be making stops all around Washington throughout the night, including a session of midnight bowling. Cost: \$7 and sign-up is by Jan 1st. See Jon with questions.

#### *January's Youth Team Meeting*

January's Youth Team Meeting will be held Wednesday, January 4th at 7:30 PM. This is for all the Youth Ministry

Teams. Please see Cory Hynek if unable to attend.

#### *Aluminum Can Drive*

If you are saving cans for our Youth fundraiser you may bring them in plastic bags to the South Parsonage garage. Please, we can only take aluminum cans. No other aluminum will be accepted.

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**Just for Laughs:** A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds.

After explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

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#### **Prime Timers Perspective**

Prime Timers Calendar of Events for January:

January's Prime Timers Prayer Breakfast - Saturday, January 7th @ 9:00 a.m.

WCV Volunteer Day - Tuesday, January 24th @ 9 AM.