

# 01'Twas The Day After Christmas

David Frank

'Twas the day after Christmas and all  
through the house children sat slack-  
jawed, bored on the couch.

Wrappings and toys littered the floor,  
An incredible mess that I did abhor.

With Mom in her robe and I in my  
jeans, we waded in to get the place  
clean.

When suddenly the doorbell: it started  
to clatter, I sprang to the Security-  
View to check out the matter.

The new-fallen snow, now blackened  
with soot, was trampled and icy and  
treacherous to foot.

But suddenly in view, did I gasp and  
pant: An unhappy bill collector and  
eight tiny accountants.

The door flew open and in they came,  
Stern-looking men with bills in my  
name.

On Discover, on Visa, on American  
Express, on Mastercard too, I sadly  
confess,

Right to my limits, then beyond my net  
worth, over the top I had charged, in a  
frenzy of mirth.

The black-suited men, so somber, so  
strict, I wondered why me that they  
had first picked.

They stared at me with a look I  
couldn't miss, that said "Buddy, when  
are you for paying for this?"

I shrugged my shoulders, but then I  
grew bolder, went to the cabinet and  
pulled out a folder.

"As you can see," I said with a smile,  
"It's bankruptcy that I'll have to file!"

And with a swoop of my arm, my  
middle digit extended, I threw the bills  
in the fire: the matter had ended.

The scent of burnt ash came to my  
nose, as up the chimney my credit-  
worthiness rose.

Without another word they turned and  
walked out, got into their limos, but  
one gave a shout:

"You may think that's the answer to all  
of your fears, but it's nothing you'll  
charge for at least seven years!"

Good reason to keep Jesus at the  
center of Christmas.....

Merry Christmas from Pastor Doug



## FROM OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Attendance for November:

	Sunday School	Worship
11/1	36	132
11/8	36	133
11/15	41	116
11/22	60	137
11/29	0	103



Thank you Friedens UCC,

You made my day! Your donation of \$186 crossed my desk today and just in time. Your gift may be used to help fund and expensive medical procedure needed by one of our clients in our residential program, not covered by state funding; shelter for a young mother and her child in our pregnant and parenting teen program; a bed for a foster care client, possibly the first bed the child has ever slept in.

With deepest gratitude,  
Craig Steiner  
Director of Philanthropy  
Hoyleton Ministries

### Baptism:

Benjamin Matthew Zipprich was baptized on November 8, 2015.

Newsletter articles are due on **December 20<sup>th</sup>**

You may:

- bring your articles to the office
- e-mail them to:

[friedenscircuitrider@hotmail.com](mailto:friedenscircuitrider@hotmail.com)

- fax the article: 667-6006



## CLOSING

Friedens UCC will soon be closing P.O. Box 211. Effective January 1, 2016, be sure to address all correspondence to 207 East Center Street, Troy, IL 62294.

### **Pecans for Sale**

Fresh pecans available!  
\$10 per bag.



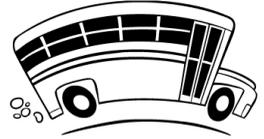
December 20

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



## Bus Drivers

A new bus rotation  
be available soon.



## Ushers

<b>Dec. 6</b>	Ron & Mary Emmons John Deloney Andrea Maneke
<b>Dec. 13</b>	Doug & Debbie Brendel Kellen King Jarod Willis
<b>Dec. 20</b>	Joe Smith Sean Smith Jamie Todd Rayne Smith
<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>7 p.m. service</b> Schwehr family
<b>Dec. 27</b>	Donna Bingham Vickie Fischer Claudia Galaske Marilyn Wesselman
<b>Jan. 3</b>	Pat Ruger Tom Fischer Kenny Grotefendt Swiss Kamm

If you cannot be present on your day,  
please call Yvonne, 667-8409.

## Liturgists

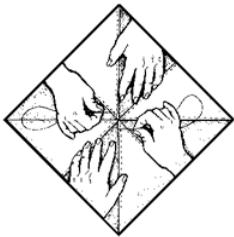
<b>Dec. 6</b>	Gabriel Gregson
<b>Dec. 13</b>	Olivia Bosaw
<b>Dec. 20</b>	Jamie Todd
<b>Dec. 24</b>	Schwehr family
<b>Dec. 27</b>	Doug Brendel
<b>Jan. 3</b>	Marla Brown



*Birthday Blessings*

## *December*

1	Jeff Seymore
2	Mary Chasteen Kody McGhee
3	Connor Stephens Jacob Whittington
5	Andrea Maneke
7	Kristofer Ferguson Kyle Ferguson Frances Layfield
10	Travis Whittington
12	Dax Wilkins
13	Dennis Kniser
14	Karen Whittington
15	Jax Andreas Cole Meyer
16	Alyssa Matz
19	Gene Klenke
21	Jaden Stephens
28	Millie Leffert
29	Debbie Brendel Wilma Edwards
30	Dylan Patton



The Fourteenth Quilt and Art Show is over. I am thanking everyone who helped in any way to make it so successful. Thank

you to the ladies who sold raffle tickets. Special thanks to the food makers, kitchen helpers, and all the workers upstairs and downstairs. Also thank you to our night watchman, Kevin.

We continue to have special people donating to our raffle. Thank you for your generous donations.

We had 108 entries for the quilt show and could not have displayed all of these items without the wonderful help on Friday. Thank you Bob and Sue for the music. Thank you to Fred, Judy, and Gladys for your extra help.

Finally, thank you to Diana Bauer and her helpers and their wonderful Art Show.

The raffle winners are:

Quilt	Kathy Wanstreet
Caned Chair	Diana Bauer
Christmas Painting	Ruth Miles
Table Runner	June Tranker
Christmas Wreath	Shelby Ellis

Winners in the Quilt Show category were:

Best of Show

Evelyn Saunders, Butterfly Hankies

Machine Quilted

1<sup>st</sup> place Grace Cottingham, Sampler Quilt

2<sup>nd</sup> place Shirley Rieker, Tie Quilt

Hand Quilted

1<sup>st</sup> place Faye McMillin, Round Robin

2<sup>nd</sup> place Evelyn Saunders, Butterfly Hankies

Heirloom

1<sup>st</sup> place Marjorie Coler, Dresden Plate

2<sup>nd</sup> place Cindy Westfall, Double Wedding Ring

Baby Quilt

1<sup>st</sup> place Laura Mannz, Baby Duck

2<sup>nd</sup> place Vicki Fischer, White Hearts

Afghan

1<sup>st</sup> place Sue Hanks, Blue on White

2<sup>nd</sup> place Sue Hanks, Ripped

Wall Hanging

1<sup>st</sup> place Faye McMillins, Christmas

Star

2<sup>nd</sup> place Karen Heil, Christmas

Snowmen



Christmas

1<sup>st</sup> place Marjorie Coler, Prairie

Christmas

2<sup>nd</sup> place Faye McMillin, Christmas

Tree Skirt

Table Runner

1<sup>st</sup> place Wilma Edwards, 'N Twined

Squares

2<sup>nd</sup> place Vicki Fischer, Firecracker

Miscellaneous

1<sup>st</sup> place Faye McMillin, Pumpkin Little

Twister

2<sup>nd</sup> place Fran Hosto, Crochet runner

Winners in the Art Show category were:

Oil Division

1<sup>st</sup> place Rita Cooper

2<sup>nd</sup> place Ruth Schmitt

3<sup>rd</sup> place Peggy Lemons

Watercolor:

1<sup>st</sup> place Peggy Lemons

2<sup>nd</sup> place Kay Brendel

Drawing

1<sup>st</sup> place Kevin Carter

2<sup>nd</sup> place Jim Bailey

3<sup>rd</sup> place Peggy Lemons

Pastel

1<sup>st</sup> place Peggy Lemons

2<sup>nd</sup> place Charlaine Cavicchia

3<sup>rd</sup> place Lynne Dibadj

Photography

1<sup>st</sup> place Leonard Thomason

2<sup>nd</sup> place Diana Bauer

3<sup>rd</sup> place Rachel Korte

Mixed Media

1<sup>st</sup> place Charlaine Cavicchia

2<sup>nd</sup> place Helen Scheipeter

3<sup>rd</sup> place Dr. Frank Tejada

Special Theme Division

1<sup>st</sup> place Rita Cooper

2<sup>nd</sup> place Peggy Lemons

Overall Winner Peggy Lemons for her pastel entry of "CHO-den".

Anyone interested in participating in our 2016 show should contact Diana Bauer at 667-7074.

I would like to personally thank the volunteers who helped set up before the show and the men who broke down the tables after the show. A special thank you goes to Kevin Carter for helping early Saturday morning and for helping throughout the day.

Diana Bauer, Art Division

Next year's Quilt and Art Show will be on November 12.



Holiday  
Community  
Meal  
Dec. 16,  
5:30 p.m.

## **Parenting Friedens Kids Keeping Christ in Christmas**

Have you ever experienced the Christmastime tug-of-war? As a parent, you want to shower your children with good gifts and revel in their expressions of joy. Yet you want to say “enough is enough” with material possessions and remind kids why we celebrate the holiday in the first place. To maintain balance, experts recommend keeping things simple when children are young. Be selective with gifts, ensuring each will stand the test of time. Don’t feel guilty when gift-opening isn’t a three-hour extravaganza. Instead, create memories and traditions that kids will cherish for years to come. And find ways to make Christmas special for other people, too. Try these ideas with your family this holiday season:

**It’s a Boy!** As a family, create a birth announcement for Jesus—complete with a baby footprint, if you have access to an infant. Make copies of the announcement, use them as your Christmas cards, or give some away with small gifts.

**I Heart Jesus** Make a big felt stocking with the name “Jesus” in glittery gold or silver. Then have each family member make a felt or paper heart, put his or her name on it, and give the

“heart” to Jesus. After all, that’s what he wants most at Christmas!

**Shine On** Cut out poster board stars, and have family members write their names on several stars using glow-in-the-dark paint. Tape the stars on the ceiling above your Christmas tree. Turn off the lights, and talk about the star that pointed people to Jesus when he was born. Tell kids they, too, can be “stars” who help other people find Jesus and tell them about his love and forgiveness.

**Share the News** With younger children, have them retell the Christmas account to you. Write each sentence on a different piece of paper, keeping it in children’s words. Then have kids illustrate each page. Put the pages in order, have kids create a cover, and staple it together. Every Christmas Eve, read the book together.

**Share the News, Part 2** With older kids, let them each choose a role from the Christmas account and then write and present a Christmas drama from that viewpoint. Record the plays, and watch them together on Christmas Eve.

**Silent-Night Sleepover** Curl up in sleeping bags beneath your tree on Christmas Eve. Just before you go to sleep, talk about what it must have

been like for Mary and Joseph to sleep in a barn with newborn baby Jesus. When you awake in the morning, you'll have a sense of how uncomfortable that first Christmas night must have been. Before you open gifts, talk about the arrival of Jesus, the first and best Christmas gift.

The one who is the true light,  
who gives light to everyone,  
was coming into the world.”  
—John 1:9

*Sunday*   
*School*  
*Calendar & Events*

6<sup>TH</sup> Come make a Christmas craft!  
Stay for the Family Christmas party  
after worship

12<sup>TH</sup> Santa Breakfast 9:00 – 11:00 call  
the office to reserve your spot!

Children's program practice at 11:15  
in the sanctuary

13<sup>TH</sup> Sunday School Christmas  
program. All Friedens Kids will be  
sheep! Please wear white pants and  
shirt, black shoes and gloves if you  
have them.

20<sup>TH</sup> Happy Birthday Jesus Party

27<sup>TH</sup> NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 3<sup>rd</sup> NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

May your Christmas be filled with  
Christ's blessings, and my wish for  
you is love, laughter and special  
memories to cherish for many years!

Stephanie



*Last day to submit  
your order is  
Sunday,  
December 13.*





*Show Them  
You!  
Care!*

Items collected for Ministries Unlimited  
in November were:

- 1 can pink lemonade
- 4 boxes dry pasta
- 1 box crackers
- 1 Louie's Italian beef
- 1 box onion soup mix
- 3 cans chick peas
- 1 can pork & beans
- 1 can butter beans
- 1 can tomatoes, okra, and corn
- 1 can chocolate pudding
- 1 can garbanzo beans
- 1 box white rice
- 1 bottle coleslaw dressing
- 1 bottle chocolate syrup
- 1 bottle vinegar
- 2 packages bacon bits
- 1 can black beans
- 4 cans soup
- 1 jar light mayonnaise
- 1 jar enchilada sauce
- 1 jar mild pepper tings
- 1 jar Spanish omelet mix
- 1 jar pesto
- 3 small boxes jell-o gelatin mix
- 3 small boxes jell-o pie filling
- 2 large boxes jell-o pie filling
- 1 jar marshmallow topping
- 1 jar strawberry topping

- 1 box hot chocolate mix
- 1 can hair styling mousse

Thank you for your donation! The  
items for **December** are: **shampoo,**  
**deodorant, and bath soap.**



### Santa Breakfast

Sat., Dec. 12, 9 - 11 a.m.  
Call the office to make  
your reservation by  
December 6!

### Blood Drive

Saturday, December 5

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Our goal is 20 units.

We need the help of our church  
members to reach this goal!



Noon,  
Thursday,  
December 10  
"90 Minutes In  
Heaven"