

I was having a conversation with a 23-year-old college student last week. He was telling me about what was going on in his life and catching me up since I hadn't seen him in some time. Naturally around this time of year, I asked him if he was looking forward to Christmas. His answer was, "I don't usually get excited about Christmas because I don't like what we have made it into. I hate to Christmas shop and never know what to buy people so I dread it and don't go until Christmas Eve. All the consumerism makes me crazy and we miss the point." I thought that was an accurate appraisal of what Christmas in America has become. Then he continued, "I am so excited about Christmas this year. I can't wait to go shopping." I had a puzzled look on my face, "Wait a minute, I thought you hated all that stuff?" He said, "I talked with my family and suggested that we do something different this year. Instead of buying each other things we don't need or want, why not help someone else. Everyone agreed, so I found a single parent family with four kids and we are going to give them Christmas this year. I can't wait to go shopping for the kids some clothes and toys. It is going to be an amazing Christmas this year." Wow! I was speechless.

This young man certainly gets the point. I don't think when I was 23 that I understood what Christmas was all about. I was too self-absorbed to be thinking of others, but not this guy. He understands what Christmas is all about – Jesus. Not giving each other more things just because we can. It is about generosity and changing the lives of those around us. It is about making a difference in the world in the name of the one we celebrate. My hope and prayer is that all of us will do something this season that honors Jesus. Find a way to make a difference. Change your little corner of the world. We have given you a great option by participating in the Advent Conspiracy. Give less gifts so that you can give more to the church and feed hungry children (see article inside for more details). I don't think anything would please Jesus more than to give a life-changing gift in honor of his birthday.

I hope that you will join us in worship during this Advent season. Make plans to be here on Christmas Eve at either 5:30 pm or 11:30 pm for communion and candlelight. We'll also have a special 10:00 am service on Christmas Sunday complete with Christmas carols, kids in their pajamas and a blessing of your favorite Christmas toy. You won't want to miss any of these special worship experiences.

In His Grip,  
Kissa



There are MANY openings in the 2012 flower calendar for chancel flowers on Sundays. If you want to honor or memorialize a loved one next year, please contact the church office about available dates. The flowers cost \$30.00, payable the week you provide them. They are delivered to the church and you are encouraged to take them home to enjoy during the week.

Woods Flowers & Gifts in Temple work with us each year and work hard to keep the cost at \$30.00. We appreciate what they do for our church.

*The mission of Troy United Methodist Church is to be a Bible based community church where people are transformed by the Spirit of God into deeply committed followers of Jesus Christ.*

**OUR PRAYERS GO OUT TO...**

**ASSISTED LIVING/NURSING HOMES**

Brooksie Curlee ~ *Meridian, Temple*  
 Vi Howell ~ *Garden Estates, Temple*  
 Johnnie Krumnow ~ *Temple Living Center, Temple*  
 Wil Long ~ *Park Place, Belton*  
 Margaret Maedgen ~ *Park Place, Belton*  
 Henry Olejnik ~ *Wm. Courtney Home, Temple*  
 Laverne Reinhardt  
 Alma Smith ~ *Temple*  
 Ruth Taylor ~ *Weston Inn, Temple*  
 Louis Zaleski ~ *TLC Western Hills, Temple*

**HOME/CONTINUING CARE**

Grace Allison	Kirby Bush
Donette Collier	Wanda Dorsey
Gary Doughty	Dean Farrell
Laurie Herring	Janet Klement
Don & Minnie Knepp	Billy Joe Ledger
Katherine Maedgen	Lynn Owens
June Payne	Rowan Sebek
Jamie Thomason	

***We appreciate updates on those on our prayer list.***

**FRIENDS OF TROY UMC**

Randi Allen	Jesse Alford
David Barta	Jerry Beene
Roger Boone	Patti Branscum
Dylan Brown	Maudie Bulls
Billy Bush	Earl Butts
Corbin Burke	Shawn Cambell
Brent Cogburn	Jacque Collier
Jim Collins	Charlie Dupree
Kathy Edmundson	Alma Rose Ellis
Jack Flinn	Gabe Frampton
Gene Fricke	Casey Hallmark
Susan Hester	Bobby Johnson
Bobby Jones	Cameron Jordan
Shirley Kelly	Judith Koke
Sandy Lansford	Brianne Lynn
Jeannie Lynn	Weldon Mahan
Barbara Massey	Mary McGuire
Lori Meyer	Ed & Francis Miller
Deborah Muller	Leona Murrah
Mrs. Henry Olejnik	Annette Ortiz
Freddie Parker	Marsha Perry
Michelle Price	Sharon Richards
Sarrah Fawn Romero	Al Ruppert
Adam Russell	Connie Salsiccia
Nancy Snead	Eugene Tedford
Sharon Walker	Laura Westmoreland
Larry Wharton	Jeff White
Marsha White	Perry White
Betty Zook	



*You have recently received or will soon receive a letter from the church asking for your support during the Christmas season. Please read it carefully and prayerfully consider your contribution. The entire staff has agreed to forego all bonuses this year so we can work together and get our budget back in good standing.*

**OUR SERVICES**

Sunday Worship  
Services  
 8:30 am (Contemporary)  
 11:00 am (Traditional)

Sunday School  
 9:45 a.m.

United Methodist  
Youth Fellowship  
 Jr. and Sr. High  
 5:00 ~ 7:00 p.m.

*They share a light meal each week.*

Coffee and doughnuts are served before Sunday School each week. Join us!!





Here Everything's Better.™

HEB Grocery is offering an instant 11 cents savings per gallon of gasoline when you purchase it with an HEB gift card. This offer is good through the end of 2011. Please consider purchasing that gift card through our SCRIP program!!



### in December

- 1 Tommy Valle
- 2 Johnnie Krumnow, Kellie Johnson
- 3 Nathan Maedgen, Kayla Sammons
- 5 Fern Pipkin, Steve Ellis
- 6 Nevaeh Allison
- 10 Marcus Ketcham
- 11 Tom Clark
- 12 Cheryl Sanders
- 13 Heath Ranly
- 15 Margaret Willson
- 16 Mike Birdsell
- 17 Matt Jarma
- 18 Terry Martinez
- 19 BJ Finch
- 21 Brooksie Curlee
- 23 Mary Knepp
- 27 Virgil Thompson, Tana Luna
- 28 Brett Payne, Scott Payne, Avery Williams
- 29 Mia Ecker, Ty Porter
- 30 David Walston
- 31 Karen Lindberg

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Bill and Lisa Ledger
- 18 Tommy and Jennifer Valle
- 30 Matt and Phyllis Lynch
- 31 Charles and Evelyn Gover
- James and Mary Thomason



## Candlelight Service



Join us at 5:30 and or 11:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve for a time of carols, worship and Communion. What a beautiful way to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Christmas Day there will be one worship service at 10:00 a.m. The children are encouraged to come in their pajamas and bring their favorite toy to be blessed.



### Children/Youth Christmas Program

The children will perform a short Christmas skit at 6:00 on Sunday, December 18. Parents, you will hear more about this from Christin very soon.

Immediately following, the chancel choir will perform "A Simple Christmas", the Christmas story in song and narration. It's not too late to come to Wednesday night practices and sing along that evening.

The events will end with a snack supper reception. Bring finger foods (sandwiches, cookies, candies, etc.) to share. Punch and coffee will be provided.

## Christmas Cantata

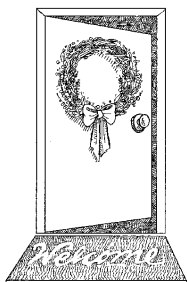




## Come to the Stable

This Christmas season we want to provide you a quiet break from the bright lights and busy shopping. We want you to have an opportunity to pause and remember the real reason for this season. Come to the Stable is a self-guided tour featuring nativity sets owned by church members. There will be music, soft lights and opportunity to just focus on Jesus. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 13 any time between 10:00 am and 7:00 pm and come to the stable.

If you are willing to let us use one or more of your nativity sets for the Come to the Stable event, please e-mail Kissa at [revkissa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:revkissa@sbcglobal.net) or call the church office. Please let me know what type of set you have and any special story about the set.



## OPEN HOUSE at the PARSONAGE

*You are invited to a  
Christmas Open House at the home of  
Doug, Kissa & Hamilton Vaughn  
1105 Lower Troy Rd.*

*Sunday, December 4  
2:00-4:00 (come and go)  
1105 Lower Troy Rd  
(254) 938-7294*

*Come enjoy some holiday treats  
and some Christmas cheer!*



Rather than giving a gift card out of obligation, wouldn't you rather give gifts that really will change the world -- like quality time, providing clean water, feeding the hungry and looking for ways to be more loving? It's not just about saving money; it's about remembering that when we give presence instead of presents, the real meaning of Christmas shines through. Again this Christmas we are participating in the Advent Conspiracy, a movement calling us to proclaim Christ in how we celebrate Christmas. The concept behind Advent Conspiracy is simple: worship fully, spend less, give more and love all. We're asking everyone in our church to buy ONE LESS GIFT this Christmas. The average cost of a Christmas gift in America is \$50. So if each person in worship would give that \$50 to the church instead, we could really make a difference! Part of this year's Christmas offering will support church ministries like our community outreach programs and other life changing ministries right here at home. The remainder of the special Christmas offering will support Kids Against Hunger which supplies meals to children around the world. You will even have a chance to go and help package the meals in 2012. We have printed cards to give to someone telling them what you have given instead of a traditional gift. Feel free to take those and send them to people you want to remember in this special way. One less gift. One unbelievable present in the name of Christ. Won't you join me in the conspiracy?

# GIVE PRESENCE

CENTRAL TEXAS  
METHODIST FOUNDATION

Did you know that individuals can open accounts and invest with the Texas Methodist Foundation? This organization pays you better interest rates than banks and credit unions. And your money will be used to help church starts in the Central Texas Conference. This can really be a win-win for everyone. For more information go to <http://ctmf.org/> or give them a call at 800-333-4096. Minimum investment is \$1000.



*The Quilters will celebrate Christmas at the Olive Garden on Wednesday, December 7. Former and present Quilters are invited to attend. Please call Janice Porter to make your reservation!*



*Merry Christmas*

Project Troy will host Christmas in the Park on Saturday, December 3, beginning at 5:30.

There will be free food, lots of goodies, music and joyful fellowship. Come on out and enjoy the evening. There MIGHT even be a special guest arrive at some point. ☺



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

*We wish you a wonderful holiday season!  
Our prayer is that you remember the reason  
for this season and that you can spend it  
with those whom you love!!  
Christmas blessings to you all ~  
From your Church Staff*

*Kissa Steve Lindsey  
Betty Christin  
Joey Becky*

# GREETERS SCHEDULE

## DECEMBER GREETERS

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
4	BJ Finch	Matt Jarma Kay Nan Ledger
11	Don Valenta	Norman Baker Karen Machalek
18	Bill Tyler	Becky Baker Kay Nan Ledger
25	10:00 service	Russell Reinhardt Becky Baker

## DECEMBER USHERS

4	Gary Doughty Lou Klement	Barrett Ledger Bill Ledger
11	Darin Crawford Bill Tyler	Gary Doughty Gaylon Ivey
18	Russell Reinhardt Tommy Valle	Matt Jarma Bill Tyler
25	10:00 service	Norman Baker Jamie Tomason

## DECEMBER LITURGISTS

4	BJ Finch
11	Courtney Ledger
18	Nancy Birdsell
25	Doug Vaughn

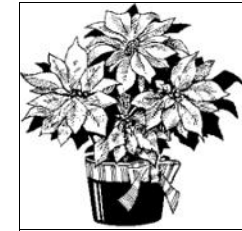
## DECEMBER YOUTH MEAL PROVIDERS






4	Richard & Betty Hester
11	Gary & Lori Roessler
18	No youth--children's program and cantata
25	No youth--CHRISTMAS DAY





# December 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP...</b> Contemporary Worship: 8:30 Sunday School for all ages: 9:45 Traditional Worship: 11:00		<b>YOUTH SUNDAY ACTIVITIES...</b> Junior & Senior High Youth: 5:00-7:00 They share a meal each week, provided by parents, members. If you would like to provide a light meal, please contact the church office.		1 <i>Men's Fellowship 5:15</i>  <i>Cub &amp; Boy Scouts 6 &amp; 7:00</i>	2 	3 <i>Project Troy</i> <i>Christmas in the Park</i> 5:30
4 <i>Open House at Parsonage</i> 2-4:00	5 <i>Cub &amp; Boy Scouts 6 &amp; 7:00</i>	6 <i>CTLTC 12:30</i>	7 <i>Quilters Luncheon @ Olive Garden 11:30</i>  <i>Choir Practice 6:00</i> <i>Praise Team Practice 7:00</i>	8 <i>Men's Fellowship</i>  <i>Cub &amp; Boy Scouts</i>	9 	10  
11 <i>Cantata Practice</i> 6:00	12 <i>Cub &amp; Boy Scouts</i>	13 <i>Come to the Stable</i> 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.	14 <i>Quilters 10-2:00</i> <i>Choir Practice</i> <i>Praise Team Practice</i> <i>UM Women 7:00</i>	15 <i>Men's Fellowship</i>  <i>Cub &amp; Boy Scouts</i>	16  	17 <i>Church reserved</i> 10:00-4:00
18 <i>Final Cantata Practice 5:00</i> <i>Children's Program 6:00</i> <i>Cantata following</i> <i>Snack Supper Reception</i>	19 <i>Cub &amp; Boy Scouts</i>	20 	21 <i>Quilters</i>  <i>Choir Practice</i>  <i>Praise Team Practice</i>	22 <i>Men's Fellowship</i>  <i>Cub &amp; Boy Scouts</i>	23 	24 <i>Candlelight/Communion</i> <i>Services</i> 5:30 and 11:30 p.m.
25  <i>Worship 10:00 only</i>	26 <i>Church Offices</i> <i>will be closed!</i>  <i>Cub &amp; Boy Scouts</i>	27  	28 <i>Quilters</i>  <i>Choir Practice</i>  <i>Praise Team Practice</i>	29 <i>Men's Fellowship</i>  <i>Cub &amp; Boy Scouts</i>	30  	31 <i>New Years' Eve</i>