



# The Grace Church Visitor

Grace United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 67, 624 Elm Ave.  
Story City, IA 50248-0067

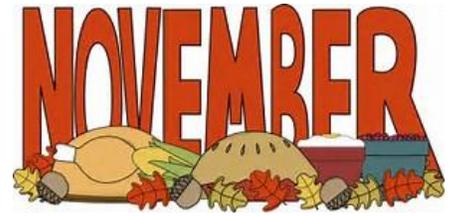
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**Pastor Fred Darbonne**  
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Cathy Hermanson, Secretary  
[office@grace-umc.com](mailto:office@grace-umc.com)

**Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

## *Invited to God's Party at Grace!*

Picture shared by Amber Hoskins



The Visitor is a monthly publication of  
Grace UMC, Story City.

If you would like to

\* add, change or remove your name from  
our mailing or e-mailing list

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*The Visitor...*

Mail us the information  
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*Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense*

## November Birthdays



Jeremy Hess	11-1
Natalie Tryon	11-3
Jim Wirth	11-4
Doug Doolittle	11-7
George Sellers	11-7
Marlene Doolittle	11-9
Owen Hubert	11-10
Chuck Matheason	11-12
Alec Mander	11-12
Parker Watts	11-12
Abby Cook	11-13
Sharla Mander	11-14
Savannah Jensen	11-19
Virginia Jewell	11-20
Dylan Kahl	11-20
Becky Barclay	11-23
David Loupee	11-24
Dave Doolittle	11-29
Eric Dowe	11-30

If we're missing a birthday please accept our apologies and let us know so we can update our records!

## November Lectionary

### November 5

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37;  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

### November 12

Joshua 23:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

### November 19

Joshua 4:1-7; Psalm 123 or 76;  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

### November 26

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100;  
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

**Deadline for submitting Visitor information is the 20th of each month. Information for the weekly bulletin and This Week at Grace is due in the office by noon on Wednesdays.**

## From Our Pastor

Fred Darbonne

November 2017

Revising hymns can be a touchy matter. This came up in a conversation about the revised lyrics in some newer hymnals. For instance, in the beloved hymn *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, the original words in verse two, "Here I raise *my Ebenezer*, hither by thy help I've come," are changed in some hymnals to read "Here I raise to thee *an altar*..." (italics mine)."



I certainly love this story of the Stone of Ebenezer (1 Sam. 7:12). In the book of First Samuel God had allowed the ark of the Lord, which carried God's presence, to be captured by Israel's enemies because of their behavior patterns. The people turned back to God, and God delivered them from their oppressors. The prophet Samuel then set up a stone between the ancient towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah and named it "Ebenezer" (Hebrew, *Stone of Help*), saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." This stone would continually remind the people of the great things God had done for them, prompting their worship and thanksgiving. Moreover, it would remind them of God's past help when they inevitably experienced trouble again. It's good to remember where our real help is found.

Calling the Stone of Ebenezer an "altar" is still accurate. An altar is a place of prayer, where we offer God thanks and acknowledge our need for God's help. That's certainly what Samuel and the ancient people of God did in this story. And that's what we do when we worship, pray, listen to Scripture, celebrate Communion and baptism, and share our joys and concerns in prayer. In these we give God thanks, remember God's mighty acts, and remember God as our ever present help and strength. To remember is a deeply *spiritual* act; by remembering our source of help we are acknowledging that we don't make it on our own. That's a safe place to be.

As you celebrate the season of Thanksgiving this month, consider going a step beyond giving thanks and do some remembering as well. In remembering what God has done we can see our true help more clearly, and be more aware of God's presence on the road ahead. For this we can be thankful people.



## G.R.A.C.E. Team "E"

### Dale & Lynn Henricks - chair

Mark & Joan Barrett, Melissa Brown, Kurt & Denise Carlson, Helen & Donyel Caruth, Alex & Amy Franco, Josh & Val Gregori, Andrea Jensen, Brian & Charlotte Jensen, Craig Jensen, Mike & Patsy Jensen, Brent & Jody Larson, Kevin and Linda Larson, Vena Mae Larson, Duane & Sharon Matson, Claudia Pauk, Al Rau, Louis & Tep Reeder, Owen & Gloria Sampson, Sam & Becky Senti

## New Baby



Rod and Sue Bohner welcomed their 5<sup>th</sup> grandchild and second granddaughter on September 27th. Little Katherine Elizabeth joins big sis, Addy and her parents Ryan and Emily Bohner.

## Thank You!



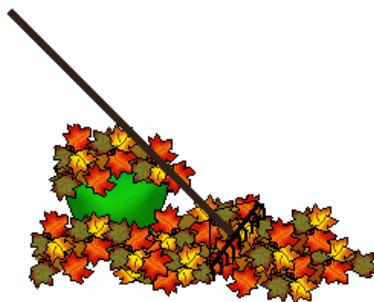
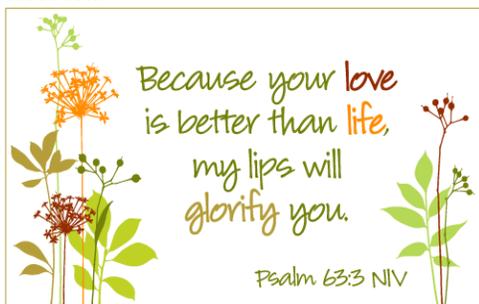
I am very thankful for the prayers, cards, and thoughts for me. I think I am on the mend. I have some therapy to take for a while but with God's help, the thoughts, prayers, help from family and friends I will make it. Thank you to everyone.

God bless you all.  
Sharene Lykiins

## We Remember



Our sympathy to David and Linda McVicker as they mourn the passing of Dave's dad, Dwight "Mac" McVicker. Mac passed away on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. A funeral service was held at Bethany Life Communities and led by Chaplain Sandy Anenson.



# THANKFUL FOR BOUNTI-FUL HARVEST BLESSINGS!

## November Volunteers

### Friday, November 3

Bulletin folding – Mike & Patsy Jensen

### Sunday, November 5

**Liturgist** – Gloria Sampson

**Greeters** – Tep & Louis Reeder  
Mike & Patsy Jensen

**Ushers** – Dale & Lynn Henricks  
Andrea Jensen, Kurt Carlson

### Friday, November 10

Bulletin folding – Mike & Patsy Jensen

### Sunday, November 12

**Liturgist** – Terry Gustason

**Greeters** – LeRoy & Priscilla Johnson  
Craig & Savanna Jensen

**Ushers** – Larson family

### Friday, November 17

Bulletin folding – Priscilla Johnson

### Sunday, November 19

**Liturgist** – Gloria Sampson

**Greeters** – Mark & Joan Barrett  
Dan & Marilyn Webster

**Ushers** – Claudia Pauk, Kate Feil  
Mike & Patsy Jensen

### **Coffee Fellowship –**

Claudia Pauk, Mark & Joan Barrett,  
LeRoy & Priscilla Johnson

### Friday, November 24

Bulletin folding – Priscilla Johnson

### Sunday, November 26

**Liturgist** – Claudia Pauk

**Greeters** – Craig & Savanna Jensen  
Owen & Gloria Sampson

**Ushers** – Dale & Lynn Henricks  
Andrea Jensen, Kurt Carlson

**Newsletter folders** – Dale & Lynn Henricks  
Mike & Patsy Jensen



## Our Prayers



Family of "Mac" McVicker; Natalie Tryon; Julie Jacobson; Denny Michel; Norman Patti; Sharon Matson; Marjorie Gookin; Pam Hillis; Jeanne Hohneke; Ray Hults; George Sellers; Lois Johnson; Al Rau; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family in Africa

## Our Presence

### Attendance October 1 – October 29:

Worship: 492 Total – 98 avg

S. School: 150 Total – 30 avg

## Our Gifts

### Offering – October 1 – October 29:

**\$11,771.85**

## Our Service



Mike, Patsy and Savannah Jensen and Gini and Caleb Michel participated in the Food for the Heartland food packing event on Saturday, September 30.



Thank you to the Worship Committee for hosting a crowd of 55 for a deliciously delightful evening with their soup supper on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Entertainment that evening was by Brian McNamara as he shared stories from his journey to Alaska and back in his Model T last summer. Erma Schaeffer, Lynn Henricks, Cheryl Semler, Gini Michel, Rhonda Hampton and Cathy Hermanson provided the yummy soups, bars and hospitality.



Members of the SPRC and Pastor Fred left early in the morning on October 5<sup>th</sup> for a daylong training opportunity in Conflict Management in St. Paul, MN Those attending include: Claudia Pauk, Shelley Hassebrock, Tep Reeder and Kevin Holm. Additionally, Tep and Claudia attended a workshop on Ethics. The information learned from these opportunities will be used to help draft a policy for handling any future conflicts that may arise within our church family.

## Our Witness



We appreciate our faithful October liturgists Claudia Pauk, Dylan Kahl, Terry Gustason, Gloria Sampson



We are thankful for Nate Warwick and Linda Poore has they led worship services while Pastor Fred was away in October.



Sharla Mander and Mike and Patsy Jensen participated in the Crop Walk on Sunday afternoon, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Ron and Darlys Orth help organize this special annual event.



Thank you to Judy Miller, Sue Bohner, Valerie Carlson and Claudia Pauk for volunteering to represent Grace Church as they shepherd The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in 2018.

## Meals on Wheels



deliver a difference

Thank you to all who signed up to help deliver meals. Delivery of the food will be to the North Entrance at Grace each day right around 11:10. You have about an hour to make your deliveries and return with the trays and coolers so HSS can take and fill them for the next day. As in the past, there will be no meals delivered on Thanksgiving or the Friday after (which this year is the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>). Our thanks to Claudia and our faithful volunteers for serving our community and Grace Church in this caring way. Please find a copy of the volunteer calendar in a separate attachment for this newsletter (Hard copy p.10).

## Ministry Training



At a special Charge Conference held on October 12<sup>th</sup>, our own Jerry Spencer received a unanimous Community of Faith recommendation in his quest to become a Candidate for Ministry through the United Methodist Church. This was just one step in his journey, but this man is on his way! The December Brunch proceeds will go toward Jerry's quest.

## 2017 Charge Conference



All members of Grace are invited and encouraged to attend with voice and vote our annual church/charge conference to be held on **Sunday, November 5, at the Boone United Methodist Church, 703 Arden Street, Boone.**

**The conference will begin at 2 pm and finish by 4:30 pm.** This year's church charge conference is with our neighboring United Methodist Churches in the southern 3 counties of the North Central District. This is a special way to meet together for fellowship, prayer, and discernment of God's way together.



## All Saint's Sunday



On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating our saints with a candle-lighting ceremony, where we will name and honor the members who have died since last All Saints' Day. Family members have been invited to take part in this service of remembrance. We are remembering: Molly Lykins, Donald Varnum, Bruce Leuschen, Bobby "Jake" Jacobson, Charles "Chuck" Jewell, Dwight "Mac" McVicker.

## 2016 Harvest Home



Please plan to participate in our Harvest Home Food Drive to benefit the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry which will be held the first two Sundays in November. We ask that members bring donations to church with them. Grace volunteers will transport your donation to the food pantry after church on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Monthly Sunday Brunch



Our October Sunday Brunch was enjoyed by a crowd of 62 people. Sharla Mander, Cheryl Semler, Tori Fournier, Gini Michel, and G.R.A.C.E. Team C members hosted this month. Just over \$345 was raised for the Angel Tree project! Please join us November 19<sup>th</sup> when Sharla's team and members of Team E will serve egg bake and proceeds will benefit the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry.

## Confirmation Class News



The Confirmation Class this year includes four young men: Chase Blagg, Connor Blue, Tanner Blue, and Mychal Spencer, They will meet with Pastor Fred and Sharla Mander nine times for regular study (two lessons each session to accommodate family schedules). In addition, they will have "field trips" to visit worship services of other denominations. In October, they attended a Greek Orthodox service.

## UMW News



The United Methodist Women met for their regular meeting October 11. Erma led the meeting with the purpose. Erma shared information about the mission society of the Methodist church women and showed an

overview of where our money has been sent in the past. We will need to think ahead to the missions we want to give to by next month.

Our unit has been invited to the Sheldahl UMW fall festival on Saturday, October 14 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and also to the Radcliffe UMW Christmas Lesson/Guest day on December 7 at 1:30.

Patsy moved we pay \$125 for the postage needed to complete the in-gathering health kits. Gloria seconded, Motion carried. Marilyn reminded the members that we will be assembling the kits on October 18 at 1:00.

New officers for 2018: President: Gloria Sampson, Vice-president: Claudia Pauk; Secretary: Terry Gustason; Treasurer: Sharla Mander will begin working on the new program book for 2018.

Marilyn presented the program using one of our reading program books concerning immigration and the DACA program.

Velda Frette served lunch.

**Addendum:** Thank you to Grace members for your generous contributions towards the health kits. Volunteers met October 18 and assembled 101 health kits for the in-gathering. "Many hands and hearts make quick work".

## Thanksgiving Ingathering



**NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2017**

Asbury UMC

921 Des Moines St.; Webster City

**Schedule of Events**

**8:00-10:30 a.m.**

Registration, Check in kits,  
Coffee & Rolls available

**10:00 a.m. - Worship**

**11:00 a.m. - Quilt Auction**

**Noon - Luncheon**



## 2018 Stewardship



### From the Finance

**Committee:** Pledge cards will be mailed in the first week of November. We

ask that you prayerfully consider your level of financial giving for 2018. Your giving estimate helps as we plan for the coming year. Pledge cards will be collected and dedicated at our worship service on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your continued support of Grace Church.

## Fall Clean-Up



Gather up your rakes and other tools and come help get our outdoor areas ready for winter. Fall clean up days are

**Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 6 pm and Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 – Noon.** (Rain dates are a week later on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.) All are welcome to come lend a hand!

## Angel Tree Gifts



Grace Church families are invited to participate in the Angel Tree Gift Program. Families who receive the gifts live in the Story City and Roland communities. To participate, a family or an individual anonymously adopts member(s) of a family in need and receives a wish list of desired gifts and essential items specific to that individual. Gift lists will be available in the narthex on Sunday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. All gifts should be attractively wrapped, labeled and delivered to Immanuel Church by Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Decorating for Christmas



The first Sunday in Advent is not until the first Sunday in December (the 3<sup>rd</sup>) this year. You're invited to help with "hanging the greens" at the church after worship that day. This is a fun group activity that involves putting up the Christmas trees, the advent candle

stand, hanging the wreaths and garlands, setting out nativities and preparing the sanctuary and other areas of the church in anticipation and celebration of the Christ Child's birth!

## For Your Information



When there is a weather-related early out at Roland-Story schools, all church activities for that day will also be cancelled. Worship services will NOT be cancelled in the case of inclement weather. You are urged to use your own good judgment as to whether or not you are

able to attend the service when the weather is nasty, but there will be a service.

## Norsemen Food Pantry



### Norsemen Food Pantry Open Weekly!

The Norsemen Food Pantry, located in Roland-Story Middle School, is available to all residents of Roland and Story City. The food pantry is open every Sunday from 4:00-6:00. Thanks to support from the Food Bank of Iowa and our local chapter of Kiwanis International, the pantry offers non-perishable food items, frozen food, dairy products and produce, as well as a variety of paper products and cleaning supplies. Appointments are not necessary. To make a donation to the Norsemen Food Pantry or ask questions, please call Roland-Story Middle School at (515) 388-4348.



# October Pictures of Grace

Pictures shared by Loretta Parker, Christine Semler-Blue, Cathy Hermanson



2017 Grace Church Quilters



Nate in the Pulpit



Becky and Nate delivered Children's Messages



Soup Supper and To Alaska and Back in a Model T stories by Brian McNamara



Nov. 29, 2017 Al Rau is 96!



## *Church Council Notes*

### Unofficial Minutes October 23 2017 meeting

**Present:** Loretta Parker (Chair), Tim Tryon (Finance), Shelley Hassebrock (SPRC), Sue Bohner (Lay Leadership), Gloria Sampson (Missions), Cheryl Semler (Worship), Erma Schaeffer (UMW), Gini Michel (Education), Cathy Hermanson (Communications)

**Loretta offered a prayer and opened the meeting.**

**Gini moved and Cheryl seconded that the September minutes be accepted as printed. Motion passed.**

**Finance:** Tim reported that all budget items are paid. Tim presented the budget for 2018, noting the \$208,278.26 figure reflected each committee's request for funds in the coming year. As Finance approved the budget at their meeting, they noted that all committees were very conscientious in their sections of the budget and that the final product is just a 1% increase over the 2017 Budget. Cheryl moved with Gloria providing a second to adopt the 2018 Budget. Motion carried. At this time, all present were given the opportunity to review Form I (Pastoral Support Report) and to indicate their approval by signing the document. Everyone signed.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Fred out-of-state at an Interim Ministry Training event.

#### **Committee Reports: Ministry Areas**

**Worship:** Cheryl reports that our Pulpit Supply speakers Linda Poore, Nate Warwick and Jerry Spencer have all been very well received. The Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> Soup Supper with Brian McNamara's Alaska in a Model T presentation was well attended and went very well. Harvest Home is set for November 12<sup>th</sup> this year with our donated bounty to be on display in the narthex rather than the sanctuary as the bell choir will be set up. The church will be decorated for Christmas after the worship service on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The serving G.R.A.C.E. Team members will be responsible for turning off sanctuary lights after worship services when custodian Dave Doolittle is not present.

**Education:** Gini reported everything is going well and that preparations for the Dec. 17 Sunday school Christmas program are underway. The December Brunch profits will go to Jerry Spencer in support of his ministry training quest. Gini will collect the sacks of change for the "Jingles for Julie" campaign that runs through the month of October. No Nov. or Dec. Education meetings will be held.

**Missions:** Gloria reported \$345.14 for Angel Tree was received at the October Sunday Brunch. 62 people were served. Sue Bohner shared the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry served 63 individuals and 14 families during Grace Church's watch on October 21. Sue, Judy Miller, Claudia Pauk and Valerie Carlson will provide leadership as officers on behalf of Grace Church for the Pantry in 2018. Thanks to each of them for volunteering! Sue also mentioned the need for special assistance for the Pantry on Friday afternoons in 2018. Hy-Vee donates lots of fruits, vegetables and baked goods each week and someone must pick up those goodies and deliver them to the Pantry.

**UMW:** Erma reported a book report on Dreamers (children of illegal immigrants) was very interesting. 101 Health Kits were assembled with donated materials and will be sent to the Thanksgiving Ingathering on Nov. 4. \$175 was raised for postage for the kits at the August Brunch – UMW will cover the remaining \$128 needed.

#### **Committee Reports: Administrative Areas**

**SPRC:** Shelley reported five committee members attended a workshop on conflict management and two attended an Ethics Workshop. This special training will help SPRC write a policy for managing conflict in the church as we go forward. SPRC is working with CDT to draft a document stating what Grace Church desires in a new pastor. This will be shared with potential pastoral candidates.

**Leadership Development:** Sue Bohner reported everything is complete for 2018.

**Trustees:** Loretta reports that Kevin Larson and Adam Hubert will be joining the Trustees in 2018. Jim Hassebrock has fixed a small opening on the back entrance stairs. Alex Flaspohler and Jim completed the annual Parsonage Inspection. Our insurance coverage has been renewed with present carrier for 2018. An outside light fixture was replaced.

**Communications:** Cathy reported that the committee continues work on the website and offered for approval a brochure to be shared with potential new members. As she told about the plan to try online giving through the website, Tim noted the Finance Committee has reconsidered the financial feasibility of the current plan (start-up, monthly maintenance and per transaction fees are prohibitive – lose money). This issue has been tabled.

**Meeting adjourned.**

**Next meeting is November 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**  
Cathy Hermanson, Rec. Sec.





## CURRENT GIFTS – CASE STUDY



As is the case with many families, there are times each year when Jim and Sharon focus their attention on gift giving. For years, they have created a gift list that includes family members, friends and loved ones. Last year Jim and Sharon made an addition to their list and began including their favorite charity in their giving plan.

**Sharon:** Years ago, I inherited stock from my grandmother. We held the stock for several years, but decided to sell a portion of it this year. The stock had gone way up in value, and our CPA informed us that we had a capital gain of nearly \$120,000. We had always planned on making a charitable gift and the CPA reminded us that if we were to make a gift of this stock before the end of the calendar year, we would receive a charitable deduction on the gifted shares. This deduction will help offset the capital gains tax on the stock we sold.

**Jim:** We contacted our favorite charity to discuss the best way to make a gift. The gift planner noted some of the most common gifts - a gift by check or by transfer of bonds or real estate, to name a few. However, he also mentioned that it might be especially beneficial for us to think about giving some of our remaining appreciated stock.

**Sharon:** We were still holding \$80,000 in the same highly appreciated stock and did not intend to sell, primarily because of the substantial capital gains tax we already faced. To sell any more would only increase our tax. The gift planner recommended that we consider an end-of-year gift that would help lower our taxes. He called this a Gift and Sale plan. It meant that part of our stock would be sold and the proceeds would come to us, and part would be gifted to our favorite charity.

**Jim:** That is what we decided to do. By giving the \$80,000 in stock, we received two benefits. First, we avoided a large capital gains tax on that stock. And then, we received a charitable deduction. The deduction even offset the capital gains for our prior stock sale of \$120,000. We are very pleased with the double benefits of our gift. And, we're delighted that we've been able to make a nice charitable contribution.

Grace's Endowment Committee encourages you to consider the various ways your giving can help to **Endow Grace**, preserving the future of our Church.

Please contact the church office at 515-733-4712 or [office@grace-umc.com](mailto:office@grace-umc.com) or visit our website at <http://www.grace-umc.com/endorwgrace.aspx> .



# November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>  6:00 Youth 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells			<b>4</b>  Thanksgiving Ingathering
<b>5</b> 9:15 Worship - choir, Communion 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school & Confirmation 2-4:30 Charge Conf - Boone	<b>6</b>  5:30 Communications	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  1:30 UMW  7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Church work day 4-6 PM  	<b>11</b> Church work day 9-Noon  
<b>12 Harvest Home</b> <b>8:00 Trustees</b> 9:15 Worship - bells 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school	<b>13</b>  5:30 SPRC 7:00 Worship		<b>15</b>  7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	<b>16</b>  5:00 Scrapbooking	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>  9:15 Worship - choir 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school & Confirmation	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING</b>  	<b>24</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>25</b> Tomorrow is...  
<b>26</b>  9:15 Worship - children 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Sunday school	<b>27</b>  5:30 Finance 7:00 Council		<b>29</b>  7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	<b>30</b>	<b>Looking Ahead –</b> Sunday Dec. 3 – “Hanging of the Greens” Sunday school Christmas program – Dec. 17  	