

A LETTER FROM REV DEB

Come to Advent

Dear Friends,

With profound uncertainty, we may ask, "come to what, the advent of what...." Our hearts are filled with doubt and our spirits are quashed by discouragement. Yet we come, inevitably, to the Advent season once again, unable to halt the calendar of our lives. The impress of world events and the burdens of our own lives have bombarded our expectation at the dawn of this most sacred season.

It is with greater urgency and conviction I say to us all, "Come to Advent!" This is another way of saying, "come to *the coming!*", for this is what the word Advent really means - to come...

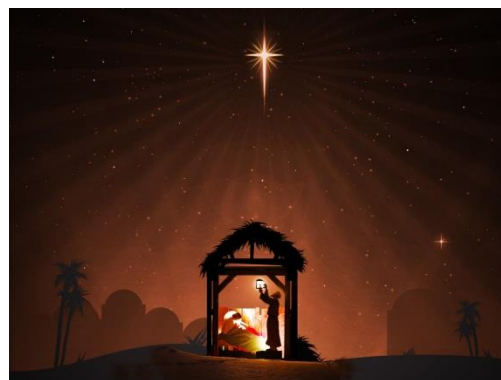
Jesus said, "I have come into the world as Light so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness..."
John 12:46

Lord our God, we come to You. We know to turn to you in prayer is your gift of faithful presence. We come on battered and bended knee, bruised by the rubble of human hardship and hate.

Lord our God, you have come to us. We know that you promise to be with us. Immanuel. Grant that in our coming to you our resolve to hope will grow like quiet embers which flair and catch, warming and glowing. In your coming to us, grant that we will know you as the great God of goodness and grace and guiding Light.

Jesus said, "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Lord, our God, giver of all good things,
Immanuel, God-with-us,
come in comfort
come in challenge
come in promise
come in perseverance
come in healing
come into our hearts
Prepare us once again to expect and
receive the coming of
Jesus, Messiah and Lord!
Amen.



Clinton and I wish you the true blessings and treasure of this season of light and as we celebrate Christ birth once again.

Deb



This time of year is marked by a busy-ness unlike any other time of year. There is always a lot of excitement and anticipation; the expectation of meaningful traditions and the gathering of family and friends. It is a very special time for all of us, but way too often in spite of our best intentions, we end up longing for the time to be over and for the tree to be on the curb for pick up. "Whew!" we say, "we survived once again."

This year especially, let the message of Christmas clear the way through the mess and the messiness. You've heard it a thousand times, make Jesus the reason for the season. This year at Knox we'd like to help clear the way with you. Here's how, starting in December....

- Sermon Series
- Weekly Advent Devotions - on the web and facebook
- Suggestions on how to "do it differently" - on the web and information for pick-up in the Commons
- Resources for study and devotion
- Special events

Nov 29	1 st Sunday of Advent – “Managing the Mess” Isaiah 46: selected, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Dec 6	2 nd Sunday of Advent – “Expecting What?” Nehemiah 9:27, Revelation 21:1-6
Dec 13	3 rd Sunday of Advent – “Struggling Through...” Psalm 55:1-8, 16-18, Luke 3:1-6, 10-14
Dec 20	4 th Sunday of Advent – “Surprising God” Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:44-55
Dec 24	Christmas Eve – “The Message of CHRISTmas” The Christmas Story – Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-20

ADULT EDUCATION

All classes welcome newcomers of all ages and biblical knowledge.

Sunday

9:00 am - Advent study on *"Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam"* by James W. Moore; led by Brooks Reid in the Senior High Room

10:30 am - Christianity 101 - This is a six week class that will provide straight forward information on key elements of our faith and life together at Knox. Session 3 will be *Who is Jesus Christ?* Class is facilitated by Josh Weir and Rev. Eric Heinekamp in the Library.

10:30 am - A series entitled *Great Minds of the Medieval World* by Dorsey Armstrong, Purdue University professor. Each lecture in this series stands alone--one can miss a week or two and not fall behind. The class is facilitated by Jim Clinton in Room 202.

7:00 pm - Chapter 2 of *"Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam"* by James W. Moore; facilitated by Randy Johnson in the Middle School Room.

Tuesday

9:00 am - Men's advent study of *"Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam"* by James W. Moore; class is facilitated by Frank Mayer in the Middle School Room. Contact Frank at fjmayerxge@comcast.net.

9:00 am - 11:00 am Beth Moore study - *A Woman's Heart...God's Dwelling Place*. Facilitated by Sue Curry in Room 203. No class on second Tuesday of any month. Contact Sue at curry.sue21@gmail.com for more information.

1:15 pm - Advent study on *"Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam"* by James W. Moore; facilitated by Rev. Deb Roberts in her office

Wednesday

9:15 am - 11:15 am - Women on Wednesdays - study of 1 and 2 Peter facilitated by Margaret Lambka and Robin Kolar; takes place in Fellowship Hall and some classrooms; activities and childcare for infants through Kindergarten. Contact Robin at skolar7227@aol.com or Margaret at mllambka2@gmail.com.

7:30 pm - Advent study on *"Christmas Is Not Your Birthday"* by Mike Slaughter; facilitated by Rev. Deb Roberts in her office

7:30 pm - Beginning December 2 - Advent study of *"Awaiting the Already"* by Magrey R. deVega at Hopvine Brewing Company, 4030 Fox Valley Center Drive; facilitated by Rev. Eric Heinekamp.

Thursday

6:00 am Men's Daybreakers Group facilitated by Rev. Clint Roberts at the Coffee Bar; Advent study is *"Awaiting the Already"* by Magrey R. deVega

9:30 am - 11:00 am - We will meet Thursday, Dec. 3 from 9:15 - 10:45am and Thursday, Dec. 10 from 9:25 - 10:55 am in the Middle School room. Our study will be the final 2 chapters of *"Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam"*. Class is facilitated by Rev. Cindy Karis in the Middle School Room; child care is available.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Hearts of Hope for Single Moms

We are excited to invite you to consider being part of a new small group at Knox Church! It is a 7-week nurturing experience for single mothers entitled Hearts of Hope. Hearts of Hope will meet on Thursday

nights from 6:30 - 8:30 pm Jan 7 through Feb 18, 2016. It includes dinner, fellowship and a Bible study entitled "Finding Joy in Life's Ups and Downs."

We are single or formerly single moms who are seeking to encourage single women with children by sharing a meal, studying scripture, and learning together. We will prepare and provide dinner for you in one of our homes.

We hope this will be a special night out for you. Remembering the demands of being young single mothers ourselves, we want to serve you and encourage you through God's word and Christian fellowship. On the last week we will have Celebration Night just for fun.



We hope you will prayerfully consider being part of this new program. Feel free to call Rev. Deb at 630-615-4306 or Karen Van Iten at 630-355-0284 with any questions you have.



Women on Wednesdays

will conclude our study of 1 & 2 Peter on Dec 2 and then review with Brunch on Dec 9. Peter's words have been an encouragement to persevere in living the "Holy Life" that God calls us to and equips us for. After our brunch we will break for Christmas and resume with a new study in January. WOW meets from 9:15-11:15 a.m. with fellowship and refreshments, followed by large and small group discussions and prayer. WOW welcomes women of all ages and Bible knowledge and includes childcare and activities for infants through Kindergarten. For more information see the WOW link or contact Robin Kolar at skolar7227@aol.com, 630-369-4539 or Margaret Lambka at mllambka2@gmail.com, 630-420-7885.

Rachel-Rebekah Circle

The December circle meeting will include a Christmas salad luncheon. We will gather at the home of Betty Hemmeter, 1125 N. Street at 10:00 a.m. Please note the meeting time change. RSVP to Betty at bhemmeter@sbcglobal.net or by phone at [630-357-8223](tel:630-357-8223). Everyone is asked to bring a small salad to share. We always welcome anyone, who is interested in learning about our circle, to join us.



Knox Book Club will discuss What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty on Tuesday, December 8, 7:30 p.m. New readers always welcome. We now meet at Knox, room 202. Our January selection is Five Days Left by Julie Lawson Timmer.

MISSIONS AT KNOX

Dakota Partnership Christmas Angels

The Christmas lists have been checked twice. The tree is up with the Angels all ready to be picked off the tree. The parents are all waiting for wonderful presents for their children. One less worry as the parents or guardians prepare for the Christmas season. If you would like to participate choose an angel but make sure you get the form for that child and place the tree angel in the box provided with the back of the angel

all filled out. Presents need to be back by **Sunday December 13**. They can be dropped **before the 9 am service** to Lehman Hall. If you are interested in joining our Christmas adventure just call or contact Julie Milldrum 630-717-8240.

Things needed for our Christmas Sisseton adventure. Blankets, sheets and towels are always needed by the children in Sisseton, as well as any gently used or new toys that we can give to a family. There always seems to be someone who did not make the list. Money to help with the transportation costs. But the most important part is prayers that we have a flawless trip and these presents give the children joy and the knowledge that is God is there with them all the time. If you have any questions feel free to call Julie Milldrum 630-717-8240



Christmas Card Fund

Instead of sending Christmas cards this year, Knox members are invited to join a longstanding tradition by offering Christmas greetings to the entire congregation while making a donation to Knox mission projects at the same time! A large Christmas card will be in the Commons area on the mission Table. Make checks payable to Knox Presbyterian Church, marking the memo section "Christmas Card Fund - your mission choice."

Mission projects to designate include Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Hesed House, The Scott Moreau Fund, The Lehman Foundation Fund, The Pastor's Discretionary Fund and The Anne Sherren Scholarship Fund. You set the amount of your donation and either place it in the offering plate or give it to our Financial Secretary. Those signing by December 14 will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Donations are accepted immediately but the card will be posted November 29 until New Year's Day.

Can you think of an easier way to send over 500 Christmas Cards? Contact Anne Sherren at 630-932-0481 with questions.

Christmas Joy Offering

Two Promises - One Offering

How is the Christmas Joy Offering used?

As we prepare for the Advent season, we remember the promise of salvation God made to us – a promise that was kept through the birth of Jesus. With the support of our congregation, the Christmas Joy Offering honors that promise by making and delivering upon meaningful promises of our own.

- 50% - Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions
Financial assistance to individuals and families that have dedicated their lives to the church.
- 50% - Presbyterian Mission Agency ministries in racial ethnic education and leadership development Education and leadership development opportunities.



Knox receives donations to the Christmas Joy Offering during Advent and culminates in the Christmas Eve offering.



Loaves & Fishes

The next Hunger Sunday is **Dec 6**. Donations can be left in or near the Loaves & Fishes bin next to the Mission Council table. Thank you!

Loaves & Fishes 2015 Holiday Food Drive

HOPE

Help Other People Eat



You can provide a complete holiday meal for a family of 8 for just **\$30!**

The Power of Compassion

With your help and compassion, last fiscal year Loaves & Fishes provided food to **20,266** individuals or **4,959** households in Naperville and DuPage County. This holiday season, you can help Loaves & Fishes provide a family with a complete holiday meal for just **\$30**. Visit our website to donate online, or mail a donation to our address below.

You are giving more than a holiday meal—You are providing HOPE.

Your donations of holiday food are also very helpful:

Store gift certificates (to purchase turkeys or hams)	canned fruit or pineapple
boxed or bagged stuffing mix	canned green beans and corn
canned yams or sweet potatoes	cream of mushroom soup
canned gravy or broth	Jell-O & pudding mixes
	brownie mix or pie filling

Hesed House



Thank you to all of our volunteers who continue to make our mission at Hesed House a loving way to give back to the community. We appreciate the time you devote and would encourage new volunteers to give it a try. We will "train" you on the spot and you're guaranteed to have a warm heart when you're done. If you are not able to volunteer your time this month, please consider donating items that Hesed House needs:

Travel Size Shampoo, Travel Size Toothpaste, Cold Medicine, Cough Drops, Bath & Shower Gel, Towels, Wash Cloths, Deodorant, Batteries (AA AAA & C) Twin fitted

and flat sheets and Prayers.

If you would like to donate these or any other items, please place them in the Hesed House donation box.

If you would like to know more about volunteering at Hesed House, please go to knoxpres.org and click on volunteer donation opportunities, and then click on Hesed House OR, you can email Jill Wittwer at jillwittwer@yahoo.com or Carol Reinerio at atreinerio@wideopenwest.com, and they would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Encourage your students, who are on winter break from school, to get involved with this mission while they have a little free time. It's a wonderful way to get in the Christmas spirit.

Next Volunteer Night: December 26

Please sign up in the Commons to bring food or to work one of the three shifts:

6:00 pm 11:00 pm 3:00 am

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Special Sunday School Classes on Dec 13 & 20: On these Sundays, the classes for Kindergarten through Middle School will be combined and meet in the basement. Children still sit with their parents for the start of Worship but pick-up will be from the basement. The Preschool Sunday School class will meet as usual.

Sunday School Calendar: Dec. 27 & Jan. 3: Sunday School will not meet. Remember at Knox, children are always welcome in worship. When SS doesn't meet, children up to PreK are also welcome in childcare. Jan. 10: Sunday School will resume.

Worship Bags for Children: Worship Bags are available for children staying in worship. Please find these bags as you enter the sanctuary. They can be returned to their stand at the end of the worship service. Please return all items to the bag for the next child.



Need Time to Christmas Shop?

G3 Pay It Forward Middle School Fundraiser Babysitting Services



The Middle School kids and adult advisors will be providing a fundraiser to raise money for the young adults participating in the Young Adult Mission Trip that takes place after Christmas. We will be providing babysitting for infants to age 10. Parents can drop off their kids and go Christmas Shopping, go on a date, or just relax. Structured activities will be planned.

When: Friday, December 4

Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Cost: \$20.00/child or \$50.00/family

Register Online

Questions, please contact Jenny Hubbard at 630-615-4318
or jhubbard@knoxpres.org

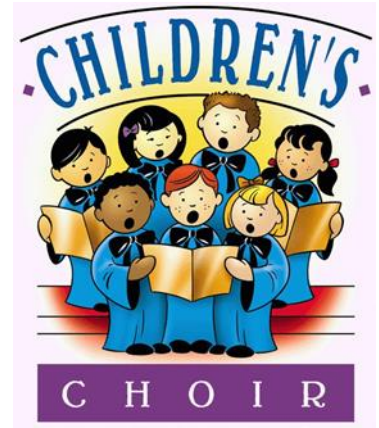
Children's Christmas Eve Choir

ANY CHILD K-5 who would like to sing (regardless of their involvement in Youth Club on Wednesday nights) is invited to be a part of the Children's Christmas Eve Choir. We will sing the same song for the 4:00 and the 7:00 Christmas Eve services. You do not have to sing for both services!! If you are in town for Christmas and have family visiting, this is a wonderful opportunity for them to see your child involved in church! The rehearsal times are as follows (or immediately after the 10:30 service) and will be held in the music room:

Sunday, December 6 – 11:30-12:00

Sunday, December 13 – 11:30-12:00

Sunday, December 22 – 11:30-12:00



Dance & Music Ministry - Blessed Ones

Blessed Ones are adorable children ages 3-6 who meet Thursdays from 5:00 - 5:30pm.

- Session 2 - December 3 - December 17 and performing on Sunday, December 20 at the 10:30 am worship service and Christmas Eve at the 4:00 pm Children's Service.

Register Online. Contact [Jenny Hubbard](mailto:jenny.hubbard@knoxpres.org) with questions or 630-615-4318, jhubbard@knoxpres.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRIES



G3 Middle School Fellowship Christmas Dance Party

Friday, December 4 – 9:00pm – 11:00pm
(immediately following the Pay It Forward babysitting fundraiser)

Register Online

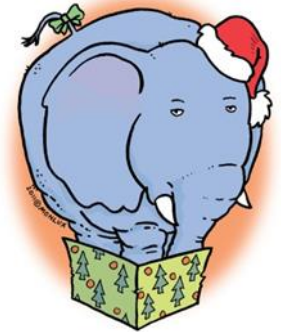
HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRIES

What: White Elephant Gift Exchange & Christmas Party

When: Wednesday Night – Dec. 9 - Dinner 6-6:30; 6:30-7:30 Party Knox Basement

What to Bring: **A Wrapped Present from Home** Don't buy anything, find something not being used at home any more that you think people would enjoy or would want to "steal" during the game (ask your parents if you can take it). Don't bring anything that cost you more than \$10 to buy when you originally bought it.

Dress: **Everyone is encouraged to dress in their tackiest Christmas sweater OR tackiest Christmas socks, hat, etc.!**



CHURCH NEWS



College-Age and Young Adult Christmas Get Together

Sunday, Dec. 27 - 11:45-1:45

We will have a get together right after worship in the basement of Knox on Sunday, Dec. 27. We will have pizza, board games, and fellowship. Hope you can come!

Poinsettias for Decorating the Sanctuary

Sign-up sheets are in the Commons from November 15 to December 13.

The cost is \$16, payable to Knox Presbyterian Church with poinsettias in the memo line.

Plants may be picked up after the last service.

Contact Liz Bradley with any questions at [630-983-8737](tel:630-983-8737) or Online at bradley.richard@comcast.net



Carols and Candlelight

December 13, 2015

7:00 p.m.

As the bustle of Christmas activities swirl around us, we invite you to slow down and re-discover the profound gift God gave to us. Through scripture, readings and music, we offer you the opportunity to:

listen,

sing,

and breathe the Good News of our newborn Savior.

All of our choirs will be participating along with our orchestra, under the direction of Brad Pfeil. Invite your family and friends, and stay for refreshments following the concert.



Dinner for 8...

Beginning in January, groups of 8 adults will be organized for each Dinner for 8 group. Each group will plan two dinners between January and May. After the group decides on a date, the host will choose a theme and assign each dinner group member a dish to share. This is not a gourmet dinner club, but an opportunity to strengthen and deepen the relationships between those who attend Knox Church. Can't commit to joining a group? Sign-up to be on the Substitute List. Registration sheets will be in the

Commons or you can sign-up online at the Knox webpage. If you have questions, contact Joan DuChane (630.747.8513) or Jan Reid (630.244.5151).

You can take "tons of baking and candy making" OFF of your list of things to do! Just make 3 batches (or about 8 dozen) of ONE of your favorite Christmas cookies or candies and bring them to the church kitchen on Dec. 10 or 11.

Come to the Christmas Cookie Walk in Lehman Hall on Dec. 12 between 9 am to 2 pm. Purchase special homemade treats for just \$6.50 per lb. You will also find gift trays, small gifts, individually wrapped treats and other surprises ready for giving - take some OTHER items off of your list! Life is good! Especially with cookies and candy!

- **Everyone** is welcome to come and shop - neighbors and friends, come check it out!
- You will be able to pick and choose the quantities you want from a large variety of cookies and candy
- This is a fund raiser for the Knox Deacons to help our Knox families with meals and rides.



Family Advent Event

Our Knox Family Advent Event will be on Sat., Dec. 5 from 5-7:00 pm. Join us for a chicken potluck dinner, holiday crafts and a chance to meet Santa. Santa will read a story to the children and your child can talk to him in a relaxed setting. Bring your camera!

Register Online or in the Commons Sunday, November 8 through November 29. Families will contribute to the dinner according to their last names. Those beginning with A-L will bring a side dish, M-R will bring a dessert, and S-Z should bring fruit or a salad.

Caroling with Clint

Sunday, December 20 - 3:00 - 5:30pm

Join us as we board a school bus and venture to visit our members in need of a visit to share some Christmas cheer with song. All ages welcome and encouraged! After we carol we will enjoy some refreshments and hot chocolate. Please bring a dessert to share. Pastor Clint looks forward to seeing you! No need to sign up, just show up! If you can, please bring a dessert to share.



"Come, help set the Lords table." Many hands make for light work.....

Worship Council is looking for behind the scenes help with Communion. Prepare the juice and cut the bread prior to Communion on Sunday mornings. Commitment ONLY a few times a year.

AND

Be a part of our set-up or clean-up crews on Sunday mornings when Communion is served. We have a rotating, flexible

schedule and encourage young families and individuals to participate.

For more information please contact either: Dawn Thomson [630-355-1930](tel:630-355-1930)/dawnmariethomson@gmail.com or Jerri Picha [630-876-0119](tel:630-876-0119)/jpg7@prodigy.net.

Already attending the 9:00 or 10:30am Service? SMILE !!

Worship Council is looking for USHERS. Greet fellow parishioners, pass out bulletins and collect the Offering. Rotate every third month-flexible schedule.

Contact: Ed Crabill - edwincrabill@gmail.com or Renee Hicks [630-637-4014](tel:630-637-4014).



As you do your Christmas shopping to share on Christmas Day, have you remembered your share in Knox? When people share their blessings in support of their church, they are really giving to the Lord himself--for we are his Body in the world today.

"As you did it unto the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it unto me," Christ said.

If you have not done so already, please pledge "a generous share" for the work of your church next year.

CARE MINISTRIES

Illness/Health Concerns:

Cari Shanahan (friend of John and Susan Lies)
 Anita and John Meyer (Carol Galen's parents)
 Penny Clark (Diane Charles' mother)
 Maggie Quizon
 Donovan McCoy (Tom Sieczynski's grandson)
 Ken Chapek (hospice)
 Betty Bohlander (friend of Diane Charles)
 Jeff Jackson (son-in-law of Carol Brand)
 Carol Sieczynski Taff
 Kay Bledsoe (cousin of Janet Schletter)
 Kari Erwin
 David Wayne (friend of Mark and Pam Guth)
 Suellyn Steigmeyer (friend of Anne Mair's daughter)
 Pat Gislain
 Carole Mickelson (friend of Diane Charles)
 Lynn Berg
 Helen Scheiner (Sarah Carlson's mother)
 Anja de Leeuw (friend of Ineke Pelella)
 Jack Parker
 Patricia Renggli (mother of Anne Renggli)
 Abby Swanson
 Brent Fry (friend of Carol and Charlie O'Neill)
 Frank Robles
 Larry Sieczynski Jr. (Tom Sieczynski's nephew)
 Larry Sieczynski Sr. (Tom Sieczynski's brother)
 Larry Trimnell
 Stephenia Siczewicz (Pete Siczewicz's aunt)
 Marilyn Cortright (Bob Cortright's mother)
 Barb England (Kristy Cortright's mother)
 Mitch Porter (nephew of Bob Porter)
 Carol DeYoung (Dawn Pakkebie's mother)
 Paul Norris (friend of Jim and Ruth Hutto)
 Gerry Cornett (friend of many Knox members)
 Julie Hardesty (Dana Garman Stables' mother)
 Mark Scoughton (friend of Diane Charles)
 Brandon McKenzie (nephew of Kathleen Olson)
 Steven Obremski (son of co-worker of Kevin Williams)
 Jason Hand (husband of Don and Joan DuChane's niece)
 Dr. Tom Jandris (co-worker of Joan DuChane)
 Margie Kasper (friend of Carol O'Neill)
 Sarah and Kevin (sister and b-in-law of Rebecca Klopp)
 Bill Barcheski (Wayne Barcheski's brother)
 Marleen North (friend of Betty Barcheski)
 Barb Stewart (friend of Helene Schaefer)
 Kingsley Margaret Outzs (grt grndter of Judy Powell)
 Roy Cole (brother-in-law of Norah Johnson)
 Bob Stout (co-worker of Kevin Williams)
 Oliver Thomson (father of Clayton Thomson)
 Kari Erwin (Edward Hospital)

Alan Graves (Edward Hospital)
 Dale Colby
 Gina Velino
 Al Pelella
 Theresa Inman
 Cecil Inman
 Anne Sherren
 Laura Armstrong (family friend of Gary and Ruth Dispensa)
 Matthew Gill (friend of the Morten families)
 Gary Nichols (former member)
 Elaine Nelson (friend of Bobbie Britton)
 Leslie Greene Novinger
 Doug Shields (The Springs at Monarch Landing)
 Howard Larson
 Ron Hiltz (friend of Carol and Charlie O'Neill)

Grieving:

The friends and family of:

Richard Oak Amos, on his death (Ken Amos' father)
 Diane Zwiers' father on his death
 Joanne M. Bott on her death (Kelly Pickett's mother)
 Vivian Kopecky on her death (friend of Helene Schaefer)
 Ed Tanaka on his death (Sandi Hurford's father)
 Fran Lukes on her death
 Martha Gorman on her death (Pat Real's sister)
 Carol Good on her death (Karen Elmgren's mother)
 Harry Cook on his death (uncle of Rita Eagleson)
 Arleen Omerod on her death (mother of Margaret Thomas' son-in-law Paul Cramer)

Congratulations:

Michael and Ally Van Iten on the birth of their son
 Archer Lewis on October 2. Proud grandmother
 is Karen Van Iten and great-grandparents are
 Jerry and Corrine Borg.

Military:

Jonathan Ballew
 Matt Cincotta
 Chris Hurford
 Matt Krempel
 Morgan Plummer
 Calvin Warren
 Adam Barnes
 All military personnel & their families.

Nursing Home/Home Bound:

Pick up a weekly prayer concerns card in the
 Commons for a list of our members who are in
 nursing homes & home bound.

Knox Holiday Office Hours:

Dec 24 – Office closed at 12 pm
 Dec 25 – Office closed

Dec 31 - Office closed at 12 pm
 Jan 1 - Office closed