

# VALLEY VOICE

Volume 16, Issue 14

December 7, 2011



## December 24—Christmas Eve Services

- 4:30 PM CONNECT Praise Service
- 6:30 PM BVCC and PEACE CHURCH  
Combined worship service to include an unrehearsed Christmas pageant.
- 8:00 PM PEACE CHURCH Carols and Candlelight

## December 25—Christmas Day

- 9:30 AM BVCC Regular Morning Worship



## January 1, 2012—New Year's Day

- 9:30 AM BVCC Regular Morning Worship

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(BY AARON JAMISON, BVCC WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK SITE COORDINATOR)

Check out the blogs and discussions on the Blue Valley Christian Church website and Facebook pages:

Recent "Join the Discussion" questions and post dates include:

- What would you like to see God do in your life? (10/23/11)

Recent articles include:

- Holy Ground (11/15/11)

*Hallelujah!*

BVCC sermons are now accessible online at <http://sermons.bluevcc.org>

- Grace Upon Grace—From the Backside (10/16/11)
- Planting a Tree (10/23/11)

The shortcut URL for the BVCC Facebook site is: <http://www.facebook.com/bluevcc>.

## Interfaith Hospitality Network of Johnson County Empowering the Homeless, by Engaging People of Faith



Major New Fundraiser Needs Leader With Charity Auction Experience.

Board member Don Davidson is seeking someone with experience managing or working on charity auctions to lead a volunteer team working on IHN's first auction on March 30 to benefit homeless Johnson County children and their families.

Don, whose Development Committee masterminds and handles major annual IHN fundraising events, is urging anyone with experience handling charity events to contact him at [www.don777@swbell.net](mailto:www.don777@swbell.net) or 913-338-0129. Don also is interested in hearing from IHN volunteers can provide the names of anyone who has charity auction experience.

IHN's initial auction on March 30 already has recorded its first so-called "sale" by convincing the popular Nigro Brothers to serve as pro-bono auctioneers. Termed "one of the hottest items a charity can obtain" by Kansas City's NBC Action News, the Nigro Brothers raise nearly \$6 million annually at charity auctions as their gift to the community. Even if you lack auction experience but want to help out, Don is interested in hearing from you if you'd like to serve on the auction team. The March 30 auction is the third in a series of new IHN fundraisers developed by Don's committee to strengthen IHN's ability to address Johnson County's mushrooming population of homeless families.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION GROUP (BY JAN HARRIS)

The topic for the Adult Faith Formation Group for December 2011 and January 2012 is Visions of a Universal Humanity, a DVD featuring Barbara Marx Hubbard, a visionary and futurist. Hubbard is one of the founders of the Foundation for Conscious Evolution. For this DVD program, Hubbard gathered nine other visionaries and futurists with different areas of expertise to talk about their views of the future of humanity.

The material in the program is compatible with Christianity but might also appeal to people of other religions or no religion. Why do I think this DVD is appropriate for our discussion group? I can get bogged down in the immediate problems of Christianity, the church, the economy, the nation and the world. The futurist perspective presented in the DVD helps me look out further, provides an “attractive” image for the future of the planet and humanity, reassures me that many people are reaching out for a positive future and challenges me to contribute to conscious evolution. As a Christian, I think of the futurist perspective presented as an image of the reign of God.

The group meets on Sundays at 10:45 – 11:30 AM in the yellow education room. For the Sundays in December and January, except for Christmas Day and New Year’s Day, we will view a portion of the DVD and discuss it. Everyone is welcome to join the conversation any time.



## Financial Pledges for 2012 Sought

Members and friends of BVCC are making financial pledges toward 2012 operating needs.

A letter with pledge card and envelope was mailed to members of the congregation. Many have returned their pledges to the church.

If you have not responded we ask you do so now. Planning for 2012 will be based on the information provided through the pledges.

As the Leadership Circle becomes aware of the total in pledges from BVCC, the planning team will add to it the amount of support offered by Peace Christian Church and Connect Community. That total will provide the picture of the ministry and mission we will be able to offer in 2012.



## 2011 CHRISTMAS OFFERING GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

**“But the angel said to them, ‘ Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...” —Luke 2:10**

Sometimes we get to be the angels who sing out **Good News of Great Joy:**

“I’ve been so inspired by changes afoot at my church!”

“I’m going to Camp this summer!”

“We’ve just called a new pastor!”

“I’ve decided to become a minister!”

“Help is on the way!”

“There really are people who care!”



A song of celebration is certainly appropriate when we reflect on the ministries brought to fruition through our efforts as a Region.

Collectively, like an angel choir, we inspire the best in congregations; in gatherings of youth; in candidates for ministry; in mission to the world. **100% of this offering will stay in our Region as a collective witness to our shared faith.**

Make your 2011 Christmas offering today. Your generous gift will sing God’s praise. And the many ways it strengthens our regional ministries will lift **Good News of Great Joy** throughout the coming year.

### Goal for Food Wagon Within Reach

In February it was 3000. At the beginning of December it is 147. That’s the number of items needed in our Food Wagon to reach our goal!

Thank you for your very generous donations and for your discipline throughout the year of consistently bringing items. We are close to reaching our goal thanks to people bringing a few items every month, and to people bringing large donations occasionally, and to people of other faith communities making donations.

We look forward to January 1 when we can announce the number of donations exceeding our goal!

### Children Worship and Wonder

Rev. Lisa Engelken (Family of Faith) is offering Children Worship and Wonder during the Blue Valley Christian Church Sunday morning worship service at 9:30 AM through Advent (November 27 through December 18).

FYI—the children begin in the sanctuary and then move to the education wing with Lisa.

## MISSION THIS PAST YEAR (BY NANCY BOYER)

I want to sincerely thank all who participated in the missions we had this year for 2011.

- Salvation Army bell ringers
- Food pantry wagon goal of 3000 items
- Aaron Jamison's Harvester work days
- Helping clean the church
- Sunday hospitality table volunteers
- Children's Mercy feeling dolls
- Prayers for our world
- My Father's House
- Donating items to the homeless shelters in the KC area
- And lastly, to all that our congregation has done to move Jesus' love out into the world.

Let us pause and thank God we were able to see and willing to help provide for some of the needs in our world. Let us reflect and rejoice in our Lord this Christmas season for all we have been given through mission.

A listing of our December missions:

- Angel tree challenge
- IHN volunteers
- 3000 items for our food pantry wagon
- Regional outreach donation to the Christian Church of Greater KC.

More information about the December missions will be on flyers distributed in the Blue Valley Christian Church Sunday morning worship bulletins December 11th.

### Quilt On Display



One of Marilyn Butler's modern art quilts is on display at BVCC. It hangs in the hallway of the education wing.

Thank you Marilyn for sharing creativity and beauty with us.

*Hallelujah!*

## ADVENT VISUALS (BY KATHY DOBBELS)



The Saturday after Thanksgiving our sanctuary was abuzz with activity. People were adorning the cross, hanging wreaths, assembling a Christmas tree, decorating the communion table, making bows, and one lady was even vacuuming the entire sanctuary. A few members from each of the three "separate" congregations who are now sharing the use of the same worship space ... Connect Christian, Peace Christian Church (PCC) and Blue Valley Christian (BVCC) ... met as a group with a singular goal. We brought our individual talents and traditions into this shared space, creating a peaceful and beautiful worship area for all. It was exciting working in a unified effort.



Each of the three churches are decorating the tree in the sanctuary with a different colored ornament. Connect is providing the red ornaments, Peace Christian Church is providing the silver, and Blue Valley Christian Church placed on gold ornaments.

*Hallelujah!*



As we go through Advent and Christmastide this year, the tree will symbolize our connection to each other and the ability to bring our differences together to make us one in Christ in mission and faith. We are thankful for the additional help from our sister groups as we all walk a sometimes bumpy road. Our partnership brings new energy and love into our shared church home.



Thank you to the following Blue Valley Christian Church volunteers who came to help with this project: Jan Harris and Connie Stokes, Dixie and Kirby Fuller, Diane Ahern, Karen Slater, and Kathy and Mark Dobbels. Laus Deo!



Pictures (L-R): Top Left: Dixie Fuller; Top Right: Kelly and Anne Ingersoll, Nancy Boyer; Bottom Left: Austin Jamison, Aaron Jamison, Alyssa Sutton; Bottom Right: Bart Holcomb, Linda Kesler.

### Special Music

Thank you to Bart Holcomb, Linda Kesler, and Karen Slater for providing special music during the morning worship service on December 4 for the Second Sunday of Advent. The trio sang "Dona Nobis Pacem" (Give Us Peace) by Mary Lynn Lightfoot.



## A SECOND KETTLE CAMPAIGN DATE?

BVCC's initial Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign was on Saturday, November 12 from 9 AM to 3 PM. This year's campaign was smaller than in previous years.

The gift of time by ringers Mark & Kathy Dobbels, Karen Slater, Kathy Putnam (Karen's daughter), and Nancy & Scott Boyer of BVCC along with Tom Hawley and Peggy DeSeure of the Peace Christian Church was deeply appreciated.

Donations amounted to \$302.68.

A number of people have inquired about another opportunity to ring. If I can get enough participants for a second date before Christmas, we will ring again.

Those who would like to have another opportunity to staff a kettle before Christmas, PLEASE either call or e-mail me at 451-9385 or [jjohnso21@kc.rr.com](mailto:jjohnso21@kc.rr.com) as soon as possible.

-Jim Johnson



*Hallelujah!*

Pictures from (L-R) #1 Tom Hawley and Peggy DeSeure from the Peace Church Community, #2 Shari Johnson, Karen Slater, Kathy Putnam, Mark and Kathy Dobbels (BVCC), #3 Nancy and Scott Boyer (BVCC), and #4 SA Bell Ringing Coordinator from BVCC, Jim Johnson.

Thank you to Shari and Jim Johnson for providing the pictures to the Valley Voice newsletter for publication.



### Baby Blessing—Alyce Shay

A blessing of Alyce Elizabeth Leigh Shay was held during the November 27th Sunday morning worship at BVCC.

Alyce was born on August 25, 2011. Alyce is the sister of Charlotte Shay and the daughter of Roland and Sarah (Holcomb) Shay.

Maternal grandparents are Bart and Mark Holcomb, maternal great-grandparents are Eve and Fran Smith. Paternal parents are Gayle and Skip Shay.



## *"Hallelujah Chorus" from "The Messiah" by George Frideric Handel*

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
For the Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
For the Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
For the Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world,  
Is become  
The kingdom of our Lord,  
And of His Christ.  
And of His Christ.

And He shall reign forever and ever.  
And He shall reign forever and ever.  
And He shall reign forever and ever.  
And He shall reign forever and ever.

King of kings forever and ever, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
And Lord of lords forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
King of kings forever and ever, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
And Lord of lords forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
And Lord of lords,  
King of kings and Lord of lords.

And he shall reign,  
And he shall reign,  
And he shall reign,  
He shall reign,  
And he shall reign forever and ever.

King of kings, forever and ever,  
And Lord of lords, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
And he shall reign forever and ever.

King of kings and Lord of lords.  
King of kings and Lord of lords.  
And he shall reign forever and ever.

Forever and ever, and ever, and ever.  
King of kings and Lord of lords.  
King of kings and Lord of lords.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah!

