DECEMBER 2024 ADVENT/CHRISTMAS VOLUME 111, NUM. 12

## The Witness

### THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, TOPEKA, KS

### ADVENT | XMAS AT WEST SIDE BAPTIST

Budget Breakfast & 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Advent ..... 1

WWW Kids Bible Club Christmas Program ... 4

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sunda	ay Ac	vent	8
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- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent
- Christmas Cantata .. 15
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Advent.... 22
- Christmas Eve ...... 24
- CHRISTMAS DAY ..... 25

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas Refugee Sunday...... 29

### FROM PASTOR'S PEN:

### "BE STILL AND KNOW"

"Hurry up, Honey!" Amelia's boyfriend shouted as he rushed to the car—arms full of wrapped gifts. "We're going to be late." Amelia hated being rushed! As she grabbed her coat off of the back of the chair, she stopped in her tracks. "Wait a minute," she said aloud, "I'm forgetting something." The small black box on the table caught her eye: "Oh, yeah, my phone." Scooping it up, she headed out of the house in a hurry, with Liam unapologetically honking the horn.

"How does anyone survive the holidays?" she muttered to herself as she buckled the seat belt. As usual, Liam wasn't listening. He was focused on getting across town in record time despite the piles of new fallen snow. She thought to herself: "Is this what the holidays have come to:

hunting for the best Christmas tree,

putting up decorations and binge-watching holiday movies, cleaning up after large meals and wrapping presents,

dealing with family gatherings and navigating holiday traffic, and excessive cooking or baking?"

Something about it all felt...empty and exhausting. It was as if the noise around her mirrored the noise in her heart, drowning out what she was really hoping the holidays would be this year.

*Ssshhh-crunch,* snapped Amelia of our her reflection. The car skid a bit before stopping.... (Continued on Next Page)



A PLACE TO BELONG, BELIEVE, and BE INVOLVED

# Pastor's Page >>>+&+cc-&









"We're here!" Liam cheered. "Hurry up! We need to get this family dinner over if we're going to meet our friends later at the show." Liam dashed for the house and his mother's arms who was standing at the front door with a smile as bright as her sweater. "Come on, Honey!" he cheered. "Hurry up!"

Dinner with Liam's family was something Amelia looked forward to every year—but not tonight. She wished she could be at home in warm, comfortable clothes, sitting quietly on the couch with a book or her phone...or watching a Hallmark movie.

"What's wrong with me?" she asked herself. "You love Christmas. You love the Johnsons." She told herself, "Snap out of it!" But, no matter how hard she was on herself or how much she tried to force it, it just didn't feel right this year.

The future In-Laws were welcoming and warm like always hugs and kiss with questions galore. Amelia slapped on her smile and pleasant disposition everyone knew - grinning at the right moments. When no one was looking, she slipped into the empty music room. In the stillness, her eyes were drawn to the nativity scene on the piano. There it was—the simple story of Christmas, told without fanfare: **a baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger—a silent night.** 

Amelia closed her eyes, and the words from Psalms 46 whispered in her heart: **"Be still, and know that I AM God."** She realized she had been so caught up in the noise and busyness of the season that she had forgotten the quiet wonder of Christ's birth.

"What are you doing in here?" Liam asked. Amelia smiled for real. "Being quiet," she said. "Being quiet? he asked. She pointed to the *creche*. "That's what I want this Christmas quietness," she told Liam as she reached for his hand. "Can we have a quiet Christmas like the one Jesus had?" Liam smiled. "Of course." Warm tears kissed their cheeks as they embraced.

Amelia and Liam made a conscious choice to seek moments of silence that year. Instead of filling their evenings with errands, they lit a candle and read the Christmas story. When they felt rushed and overwhelmed, they paused to pray or sing a hymn. And when Christmas morning came, they turned off the music, gathered as a family, and together they sat quietly, reflecting on the true gift of the season: **Jesus**, the Prince of Peace who slipped in the world one silent night years ago.

That year, Amelia and Liam discovered that silence wasn't empty—it was full. Full of peace. Full of gratitude. Full of the presence of the One who came into the world to be the Savior; not with silver bells and cheerful carols, but with the soft cry of a newborn baby, caressed in the arms of his mother. And in the stillness, Christmas became more beautiful than ever before.

Acceptor Quiet Blessings, Pastor Ivan+

## CHURCH OFFICE Our Staff



12/12 Doug & Jan Mauck 12/27 Tony & Pat Carreno



12/01 Judy Plehal 12/05 Bob Roesler 12/07 Lindsey Wabaunsee 12/09 Pat Carreno 12/16 Terry Poe 12/22 Nancy May 12/23 Jack Janway 12/29 Nicholas Emery

If I have left anyone off the **Birthdays or Anniversaries** please let me know. Lynda Cokeley, Church Secretary



### CHURCH CLOSED

The Church will be CLOSED on Wed.. December 25 for the Christmas holiday.

News Articles Due Tues. Dec. 17 The Office will be **CLOSED** on **Wed**... January 1, 2025. We will return to our regular hours on Thursday January 2, 2025.



**ANNUAL REPORTS** – It is that time again for all the Council members to start thinking of what you want in your report. Please submit your report to Lynda (office@wsbctopeka.org)

### **Annual Meeting & Potluck** Luncheon on Sunday, February 2, 2025 after worship in Fellowship Hall

See Sonia Roling, Church Moderator, for information and agenda items. more Annual reports will be distributed prior to the meeting.

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

### **MONDAYS - CLOSED**

TUESDAYS-THURSDAYS 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

> FRIDAYS 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

### **Call for a Pastoral Visit** and Deacon on Duty Pastor's Day Off: FRIDAYS

THE WITNESS is published monthly free of charge at 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka Kansas, 66606. Submission deadlines is the third Tuesday of each month to office@wsbctopeka.org. Lynda Cokeley, Church Secretary and Editor, reserves the right to edit submissions for content, grammar, and publication spacing. Send address corrections and subscription requests to:

WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH 1008 SW 4th St. Topeka, KS 66606 Phone: (785) 233-4241 Email: office@wsbctopeka.org www.wsbctopeka.org

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL CINEMA -** Christian Ed is doing a Sunday cinema during December beginning at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings. Please join us for this time of fellowship, food, entertainment, and good discussion with friends. **Sign-up to bring breakfast treats** - sign up sheet on the bulletin board or sign up ONLINE.



December 8 & 15 "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

December 22 & 29 Max Lucado's "The Christmas Candle"



"QUIET!" KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM The WWW Kids Bible Club will present their Nativity Play "Quiet!" on Wed., Dec. 4, at 6:00 pm. Free Supper @ 5:30pm. This will be a fun evening of skits, songs, and smiles. This is also the last WWW Kids Bible Club session for this year 2024.
WWW Kids Bible Club will start back up on January 8, 2025. See you in 2025!

**THANKSGIVING POTLUCK REPORT** Christian Ed and the Kitchen Krew served 70+ adults and children on Wednesday, Nov. 20 during the annual Church Thanksgiving Potluck. Thank you to our courageous cooks, volunteers and many hands who filled the tables with delicious food and desserts.



\*All Food is Available for Free\*



### REQUESTED RECIPE Sour Kraut Salad

- 1 Cup Sour Kraut (drained)
- 1 Green Pepper (diced)
- 1 Cup Celery (diced)
- 1 Medium Onion (diced)
- 1 Small Jar Pimento
- 1 Cup Sugar
- 1/4 Cup Vinegar

Heat vinegar and sugar to boiling, stirring constantly. Pour over rest of ingredients which have been mixed together. Refrigerate 24 hrs. before serving. *Enjoy!* 

Grandma Mary Sidener Submitted by Rexanne

## OUTREACH

### WE NEED ALL SIZES **OF BABY CLOTHES**



Sisters in Christ

FOOD PANTRY **3rd WEDNESDAY** 3:30 - 5:30 PM

### Yes! Food Pantry is open **THIRD WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18TH**

\*wsbctopeka.org/get-help/food-pantry

### SUSPENDING PROGRAM

We will be suspending the Food Pantry from January to March 2025 due to the inability of our partners to provide consistent healthy food for our neighbors.

Hopefully we will find a way to make food available in the springtime.

Thank you, ~ Jack Janway

WOMEN'S MINISTRY - The Women's Ministry is working on a LOCAL MISSION **PROJECT** by collecting and packaging feminine hygiene products for our needy women and the homeless.

Our Feminine Hygiene Mission Project is vital because Women's Ministry many women and girls, especially in underserved areas, lack access to basic hygiene products. This impacts their health, dignity, and ability to attend school or work. By providing

these essential items, we help restore dignity and show the love of Christ in a practical way.

We invite you to support this mission through donations or volunteering. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need, showing them they are valued and not alone.

Women interested in starting small groups this fall for Bible study, prayer, spiritual enrichment, or affinity hobbies (crafts, croqueting, quilting, etc.) should speak with Deacon Laurie.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 5:00 PM IN HOLMER HALL. This will be a Christmas celebration so plan to bring snacks and a favorite Christmas movie! 5

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Our income for October was \$13,860.70. At the end of ten months our income is \$243,091.99 or 90.61% compared to \$198,681.83 or 74.06% last month. Our % goal for the first ten months is 83.33% of the annual budget so we are exceeding our goal.

Our expenses for October totaled \$31,837.05 and a total for ten months of \$277,846.15 which is 93.44% of our budget. Expenses to note includes three salary periods and \$2,925.95 in office copier expenses for overages.

The difference of income to expenses for the month is \$-17,976.35 and for the year is -\$29,087.00

Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet is \$38,308.90. A portion of our checking account, \$45,460.25, is in the Capital Campaign and of that \$6,605.52 is earmarked for missions. We have \$8,824.84 in Outreach funds. The main general fund is -\$17,221.78.

The Benevolent Fund balance is \$910.94.

Council members have been working with me on preparing a 2025 church budget to present at our **December 1<sup>st</sup> All-Church Breakfast Meeting**. <u>Please plan to attend and help us decide on our church finances for 2025.</u>

The Fortifying our Foundation for the Future Capital Campaign projects continue. Although it is a 3-year \$300,000 campaign and was to end at the end of 2024, we have not completed our list of projects and we have some church members pledging to give to the campaign in 2025. We've accomplished much but there are items still on our list. Macy continues to work on pre-



serving the historical room documents. Brice is checking with the piano/organ tuner who will help us determine if we need a humidifier for the organ pipes. We have decided to hold off on landscaping changes until 2025 because of the city's plan for 4<sup>th</sup> street. Discussion on sound and noise reduction for Fellowship Hall continues. And, the project of new chairs for Holmer Hall remains. As chair of the committee, **I encourage you to continue your commitment to our Fortifying our Foundation for the Future Campaign**. Review your pledge when you receive your year-end giving statement to see what remains on your pledge. And, if you didn't pledge to the campaign, want to make a new one for 2025, or feel led to make a year-end gift to help us complete the projects on our list, please do! We have done many projects that you requested more than 3 years ago but there are several remaining. It is important for us to maintain our church property!

Thanks for your pledge cards that were turned in on Stewardship Sunday. I have 33 pledges that have been offered. You can turn in your pledge card anytime between now and the end of the year and I'll get it entered into your record for the coming year. Thank you.

Thank you for your continued financial support of our church. Let me know if you have any questions.



Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

# MISSIONS

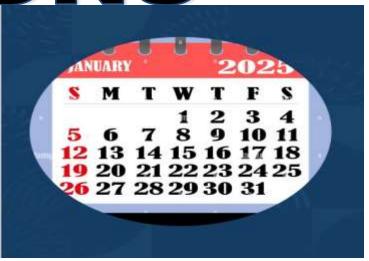
Save the Date: January 17-18, 2025

Mid Winter Missions Conference

Location: Prairie Homestead, Wichita



Guest Speakers: Jeanine and Walt White Global Consultants International Ministries



**ABCCR Mid-Winter Missions Conference:** Join us, **January 17- 18, 2025** at Prairie Homestead in Wichita, Kansas as we hear from Jeanine and Walt White, Global Consultants for International Ministries. **Registration is \$45.00 per person.** Registration helps cover travel expenses and the honorarium for Jeanine and Walt. The Registration fee also includes two meals: dinner and lunch, provided by Prairie Homestead.

**REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE ARE DUE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 3, 2025.** 

One registration per person. Lodging is on your own. Please visit the ABCCR website for more information on lodging.

An offering for Missions will be received.

You can register and pay online, or you can mail your registration to: *Melissa Newberry: 1502 Pawnee Street Leavenworth, KS 66048 Please make checks payable to: "Mid-Winter Missions Conference"* 



### RETIRED MINISTERS & MISSIONARIES OFFERING (RMMO)

Jesus' call all of us to "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in

the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28: 19-20).

We will receive the Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering (RMMO) in December. Why give to RMMO because retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses often have limited resources to adequately plan for the future. RMMO recipients have used their funds to pay for unexpected expenses or medical costs. Many times, it is the RMMO gift that allows them to obtain a hearing aid, eyeglasses, replace an appliance, or just purchase a new outfit. **Please help us reach this year's goal of \$1,500.00.** 



~ Don Johnson, Coordinator of Missions

IT'S COMING...MAY 2025 Experience! Learn! Plan! See! GO! Tijuana & Baja California, Mexico Watch for more information

# MISCELLANEOUS



### ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS -DONATIONS must be RECEIVED by December 31 to count on this year's giving statements.

The Stewardship Secretary will mail annual giving statements to our members before January 31, 2025. In the United States, donors cannot claim a tax deduction without a written receipt from the Church. Please wait for your giving statement. Contact Nancy Lindberg if you have any questions or needs assistance.

MENS & LADIES NIGHT OUT - This is a fun time of building friendships in church.

Ladies Night Out
 is on Tuesday
 December 3 at
 6:00 pm at Red
 Robin 6230 SW



**6th St.** Each person is responsible for paying for her meal, and don't forget to bring a friend and pay for their meal. If you need a ride, please get in touch with Colleen Smith. We are looking forward to a fun fellowship time!

 Men's Night Out is on Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00 pm at Red Robin 6230 SW 6th St. Each person is responsible for paying for his meal, and don't forget to bring a friend and pay for their meal. If you need a ride, please get in touch with Brice Smith. We are looking forward to a fun fellowship time! If anyone would like to suggest a place to eat let Colleen or Brice know. "Well, folks, the church boilers are cranked up, so it's nice and toasty in here - just like our gas bill, which is currently closer to heaven than we are!" ~ The Trustees



"All right, Ms Henley, we'll turn up the heat."



### TEXT THE WORDS TO (785) 432-5383

"JOIN" for GENERAL TEXT alerts and reminders

"BABY" for BABY CLOSET TEXT alerts and reminders

"FOOD" for FOOD PANTRY TEXT alerts and reminders

"KIDS" for KIDS MINISTRY TEXT alerts and reminders.

Terms and conditions apply. 4 Msgs/Month. Msg and Data rates may apply.

## Doorste

### **Doorstep Holiday Hours:**

- Closed from Noon on December 23<sup>rd</sup> through December 26<sup>th</sup> & January 1<sup>st</sup>
- Open for **donations only** December 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9am-2pm.
- Closed for ALL services December 27<sup>th</sup> – January 2<sup>nd</sup> for year-end wrap-up.
- Resume normal operation on Friday, January 3, 2025.

### Food Room Needs:

Progresso & Chunky Soups, Ramen Noodles. Diced Tomatoes Canned Vegetables ~ All Types Canned Beans, Applesauce (Green Beans, Corn, Peas, Carrots)(Pinto, Black, Chili) Peaches Cream of Mushroom Soup, Vegetable Soup, Saltines, Chicken Noodle Soup Pork / Baked Beans, Egg Noodles

Men's Underwear, Sock, Shoes & Belts ~ All Sizes

Men's Jeans, Dress & Casual Pants, T-shirts, Sweats ~ All Sizes

Kids & Teens (Boys & Girls) – Jeans, Pants, Sweats, Tops & Hoodies ~ All Sizes

Women's Bras, Underwear, Leggings & Jeggings ~ All Sizes

**Diapers** ~ Sizes 5 & 6 and **Baby Wipes** (individual packages)

Sheet Sets ~ Queen

Blankets & Comforters ~ All Sizes

Pots & Pans

**Toasters, Silverware, Hand Can Openers & Crockpots** 

Doorstep will not take donations of used clothing and household items from November 28<sup>th</sup> until December 27<sup>th</sup> for our Christmas Adoption Project.

We will still take food donations until December 13th, Christmas and monetary donations will continue as usual.

### Doorstep Christmas Project ~ 2024

Doorstep is adopting 260 households with 800+ individuals from the Christmas Bureau again this year. We need your help to make Christmas bright for these families and individuals.

#### We still need the following NEW items:

### (Needed by 12/10/24)

- Household Items: Sauce Pans. Dutch Ovens & Griddles
- **Kitchen Utensil Sets**

Candles

Body Care Sets

Nail Sets

- **Kitchen Food Storage Sets**
- Laundry Baskets & Cleaning Supplies
- (glass, all-purpose, toilet, micro-towels, dish soap) Queen & King Sheet Sets (darker colors)
- Women's Gifts:

https://bit.ly/doorstepchristmas2024

Purchase gifts directly from our registry!

- Men's Gifts:
  - Wallets
- Tool Sets
- Body Care Sets
- (Body Wash, Lotion, Spray) (Axe. Adidas, Old Spice)
- Visit Doorstep's Walmart Christmas Registry:

Visit Doorstep's Amazon Wish List: https://a.co/ff4EokG Purchase gifts directly from our list!

#### Volunteer Opportunities:

Tuesday, December 17th ~ Opportunities from 8:30am - 12:30pm and 12:30pm - 5:30pm. (Lunch provided)

Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Opportunities available from: 8:30am – 1:30pm, 1:30pm - 4:30pm and 4:30pm - 7:30pm. (Lunch & Dinner provided)

Thursday, December 19th ~ Opportunities available from 8:30am - 12:30pm and 12:30pm - 5:30pm. (Lunch provided)

Call Doorstep (785) 357-5341 to sign up & help during distribution week!

Doorstep is located at 1119 SW 10th, 66604 (10th & Buchanan). Christmas Donation hours are Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm thru Dec. 13th.

> You can mail your monetary donations, or use our website: DoorstepTopeka.org under the Donate Tab.





Canuases (Value Packs)

Money for Gift Cards & Food

- Paints & Brushes
- Ear Buds & Headphones

9

**Donations Accepted:** 

Monday – Friday 9am – 2pm

1119 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave (10<sup>th</sup> & Buchanan) Use the South Door

## Retirement Celebration for Sue Ann Seel

On Sunday December 29th our beloved pastor of the last almost 15 years, Sue Ann Seel, is retiring and moving on to the next chapter of her life. We cordially invite you to come and celebrate with us at 10:00 am for a special worship service and after worship at 11:45 to participate in a time of joy and fellowship as we remember our time together with her and give her a hearty send off to whatever God has in store for her.

When: Sunday, December 29th 10:00 –11:00 for worship, 11:45 –2:00 for the celebration.

(dinner served starting around 11:45, presentations and speakers starting around 12:20)

Where: Potwin Presbyterian Church 400 SW Washburn

RSVP: 785-608-0002 or yoda66675@gmail.com

You may bring or send gift cards and well wishes in advance to the church, attention Angela or Linda

# **MUSIC MINISTRY**



### 10:30 AM Worship Service

We're excited to announce our upcoming Christmas Cantata!

We'd love for you to join us in this joyous celebration through music. Whether you're a seasoned singer or love to share a joyful note, all voices are welcome!

### REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS @ 7:05 PM in SANCTUARY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 @ 2:30-4:30 PM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 23 @ 2:30-4:30 PM Warm wishes, Rexanne



Rexanne Greuter, Choir Director

WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

1008 SW Fourth Street | Topeka, KS 66606 Phone: (785) 233-4241 | www.wsbctopeka.org

EYE WITNESS REPORTS NEEDED: Did Anyone See the Look the Choir Director Gave the Pastor on Nov. 17?

### The Revised Common Lectionary Texts Year C <u>Scripture Reader</u> Sonia Roling

**K**S

First Sunday of Advent December 1 Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36

Second Sunday of Advent December 8 Malachi 3:1-4 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

Third Sunday of Advent December 15 Zephaniah 3:14-20 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-8

Fourth Sunday in Advent December 22 Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-40 (46-55)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service December 24

First Sunday after Christmas December 29 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52



\* \*WORSHIP WITH US THIS CHRISTMAS!\* \*



**ADVENT READERS** – Thank you for volunteering as Advent Readers in December. Speak with the Pastor if you would like to read a prepared text and light the advent candles.

Sunday, December 1 - Advent 1 "The Hope of Tamar" -Carpenter & Hersh Family

Sunday, December 8 - Advent 2 "The Peace of Rahab" - Nancy Lindberg

Sunday, December 15 - Advent 3 "The Joy of Ruth" - Angie Foster

Sunday, Dec. 22 - Advent 4: "The Love of Bathsheba" - Sonia Roling

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve "Quiet" Traci & Elijah Brown

### **DECEMBER USHERS**

Jack Janway, David Greuter, Ernie Longstaff, Tony Carreno

Interested in being an Usher? See Clarence Payne, Head Usher

### **COMMUNION SERVERS**

Matt & Ashley Smith Brice & Colleen Smith (1st Sunday and Christmas Eve)

## **ACTIVITY PAGE**





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> ADVENT 9:00 am Budget Breakfast 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	2 9:00 am Baby Closet	3 6:00 pm Men's & Ladies Night Out at Red Robin	4 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir	5 1:00 pm Baby Closet	6	7 1:30 pm Praise Team
8 ADVENT 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	9 9:00 am Baby Closet 5:00 pm Cornerstone Christmas Dinner	10 6:00 pm Council Members Meeting	11 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm No WWW 7:00 pm Choir	12 1:00 pm Baby Closet	13	<b>14</b> 1:30 pm Praise Team
<b>15 ADVENT</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	16 9:00 am Baby Closet 5:30 pm Women's Ministry Meeting	17 5:30 pm Christian Ed Meeting	18 10:30 am Bible Study 11:30 am Missions 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm No WWW 7:00 pm Choir	19 1:00 pm Baby Closet 2:00 pm Finance Meeting	20	<b>21</b> 1:30 pm Praise Team
<b>22</b> ADVENT 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	23 9:00 am Baby Closet 6:00 pm DAR	24 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 1:00 pm Baby Closet	27	28 1:30 pm Praise Team
<b>29</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet	31 New Years Eve	Ha Ha	evry C uppy N	Christn Iew Y	nas ear