

The Challenger

November, 2011

Volume 62, Issue 11



THE DICKENS, YOU SAY?

The most captivating Christmas story, other than the birth of our Savior in the gospels, is *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Published in 1843, it's one of the best-loved stories to be set at this time of year. You probably know the story back to front. After all, it's been adapted into over 200 movies or T.V. shows, and is such a powerful tale that it's credited with helping to define our contemporary understanding of Christmas.

Our Christmas sermon series will be titled *From Humbug to Hallelujah*. We will be using some clips from Disney's *Christmas Carol* with Jim Carrey. We'll recall the captivating characters; Scrooge, Marley and Tiny Tim. We talk about Dickens' original intent for writing the book and compare that to the way many modern film makers look at the story.



The birth of our Savior is not a tale, a legend or story spun to make us feel good about ourselves. In fact it is the opposite. The fact that God gave His one and only son to us is not a reflection on the fact that God trusted Him with us but the fact that sin has corrupted us. There was no other answer but to give the Son who would be

killed because without Jesus we all have a Scrooge in our heart.

If you have never read Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* I suggest that you may enjoy this sermon series more if you read it or maybe catch a movie version. Either way I believe our Christmas services this year will encourage us toward the life transforming power that Dickens hoped sour old Ebenezer Scrooge experienced.

Christmas Eve Services 5:30 & 7:00

If you will be in town for Christmas this year we invite you to join us for an evening time to celebrate Jesus birth together. We will sing Christmas carols, read a children's story, share a devotional, special music and lighting our candles while we sing *Silent Night, Holy Night*. This one hour service is a great time to invite friends and family to join with you before or after you spend time together opening presents or having dessert.

Christmas Choir & Bell Program

Join us Sunday, December 18 at 4pm for a wonderful musical celebration. Our program will include our vocal choir, bell choir, bell ensemble and NEW this year our kids' chime choir. The choir numbers will include *Come and Worship* and *Noel Festival*, the bells will play *Ukrainian Bell Choir, Hallelujah Chorus* and *He is Born*. Plus I have heard, afterward there may be COOKIES!

Christmas Morning Service

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year and we will still have a worship service! We will have only a 10:00 a.m. worship service with carols and a sermon on Christmas wisdom and story of the Wise Men.

Pastor Mark

Honor God by Developing Completely Committed Christ Followers

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Articles submitted for publication
may be subject to editing.

e-mail articles to:
secretary@fbcchehalis.org

Church Office Hours
8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Monday through Friday
Closed for lunch 12:00 to 1:00 P.M.

Advent Candle lights

Symbolism is a regular part of life. We see signs with symbols everywhere we go, from traffic to directional signs and even the most simple restroom sign that tells you which one to enter. Symbolism at Christmas is can sometimes be more subtle – often we don't know the real reason for the symbols. For example, holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one

English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly.

Each week during Advent, we light the Advent candle. We are reminded that the Jews longed for their Messiah to come but they missed him. Focusing on the real reason for the Advent season helps us to slow down and remember Christmas is not about the gifts under the tree but the gift of Jesus Christ that was not only laid in the manger but hung on the cross.

Can You Help US – We NEED YOU

We are almost to the end of the year so we want to let you know how we are shaping up to finish the year. Currently we are a little behind.

Year to date giving to the church is ...	\$316,122.48
Total budget for 2011 is ...	<u>\$364,497.97</u>
Needed to meet budget this year...	\$51,754.98

This has been a grace filled year! God has blessed us and we are all so thankful. We are asking if you can help us this year with a little (or more than a little) we want you to know you would be helping to keep our ministry going strong. Your giving makes a difference.

Thank you

Pastor Mark

GriefShare- Surviving the Holidays

No matter how long it's been since your loved one died, grief can make the holidays a painful time. But there's hope. Join us for an encouraging seminar that will help you survive the holidays and discover new reasons to enjoy them again.

Come to the GriefShare Surviving the Holidays video based seminar at Cooks Hill Community Church, 2400 Cooks Hill Road, in Centralia. It is facilitated by Pastor Skip Grover, Julie Gamewell (Cooks Hill CC),

Nancy Hovde, and Pastor Carolyn Vian (Cooks Hill CC). For information call Pastor Skip Grover: 748-8628

Hosted by Cooks Hill Community Church, December 10, from 10 am to 12 pm, it is free of charge, with a "Survival Guide book" for note taking and ongoing helpful tips and devotions. Refreshments and childcare provided.

Pastor Skip

IN HIS GRIP

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." 15

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." Luke 2:8-21 NIV

If you have been around the church for very long, you know this story. We

hear it every year and celebrate the birth of our Savior. Some folks have a problem getting "into the Christmas spirit". To really celebrate Christmas, not just endure it, we need to prepare.

Preparing for Christmas has little to do with shopping early, or making lists, or getting cards in the mail. It is something you do for yourself.

We prepare for Christmas by starting now. For instance . . .



What do you want out of Christmas this year? What do you want out of Christmas? Not what do you want *for* Christmas. But what do you want *from* Christmas? What would you like to have happen to you? To others?

Do you want to bring joy to someone? To whom? Do you want to feel the deeper meaning of the birth of Jesus? Do you want a bigger, better Christmas party? Do you want to be reborn? Do you want lots of presents?

Do you want some time alone, time for you?

You may aim high or low, but your dream will help decide what kind of Christmas it will be. You may choose to do nothing. You may wait and hope that someone else will make Christmas good for you. And they may.

But what you do now can make a difference. You can choose to make it a good Christmas for someone else -- and your own Christmas will be influenced.

If you really anticipate Christmas, some beautiful things can happen. So try anticipating Christmas -- by starting now.

To anticipate Christmas is to decide now that miracles are possible, and that some are going to happen. It is to stand out on the back porch, or on the roof, or out in the park for a while on a clear, crisp night and think about Jesus being born --

Hope and love coming to earth, God Himself wrapped in swaddling clothes. God Himself as a babe. He has come for you and for all of us. This makes Christmas wonderful.

Now you can celebrate that in your heart - Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

God has indeed blessed us! Merry Christmas.

Pastor Skip

Worship is.

. A Suite for Christmas. " And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. (Luke 2:1-3 NIV). So "Come, and worship" with us on December 18 at 4:00 PM and hear the rest of story as we celebrate with song the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. We will feature

many well-known carols, but also something fresh to the ears. The Christmas Choir, Bell Choir, Bell Ensemble and Children's Chime choir will be presenting music for you to enjoy and remember why we celebrate Jesus' birth every year and, indeed, all year long. Christmas music is always inspiring and joyful. Come, join us as we present our Christmas present to the Lord and to you.. You will hear the "Hallelujah Chorus", "He is Born",

"Ukrainian Bell Carol", "Angels from the Realms of Glory", "Joy to the World", and many others. Kids will be doing "Away in a Manger" on chimes. Each entity has worked very hard to make this program possible and it is our prayer that you will enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

Grace Grover

DOWN ON THE FARM – CHARACTER

“Eighty acres with character.”

“What? What’re you talking about?” My question hangs in the air as I try to match what my husband said to any recent conversation we’ve had.

“You know. You asked what my dream property would be like -- if we ever moved.” Mike’s answer helps me recall a question I’d posed quite some time ago. From that point forward, I’d look for the For Sale signs in our area, guessing which new listing he might think had enough character.

Less than a year later, a sign lead to property nearby. Picture a half-bowl shape with a creek and flat pasture forming the bottom. The sides gradually slope up, becoming increasingly



steeper. It was loaded with character -- lots and lots of character. We came, we saw and the thirty-six acres became our farm.

Okay, friends, I need to fess up. When it comes to certain farm tasks, I’m a big chicken. Using the tractor on a slope bumps my anxiety button into high gear. With Mike’s help, I’ve learned to drive the tractor and even enjoy my flat land experiences with it. Mike would handle anything even remotely risky.

“The more experience you get, the better feel you’ll have for it; just keep-

ing going.” Husbandly advice, graciously given, is a huge encouragement. I’m grateful he cheers me on rather than belittling me because of my fears. He’s right; my confidence grows as my competence slowly increases.

His words ring in my ears as we start turning up the ground on a hillside behind the house. This is definitely not flat land work. My goal is to go straight up, across the hill and straight down the other side. What’s that old saying about the best laid plans of mice and men?

Please, God, help me out here.” Squeaking out this quickie prayer, I lean horizontally across the tractor, grabbing the handle to the right of the seat, toes nudging the foot pedal forward.

Instead of moving directly across the hill, I’m angling downward and sideways. My brain tells me the tires are still on the ground but feeling gravity’s tug, my emotions scream at me to bail off the tractor. Keeping pressure on the accelerator, I slowly adjust to a straighter downhill angle. My knuckles turn brightly white from my chokehold on the steering wheel.

Ahead of me, on another tractor, Mike fearlessly drags a ripper up, down and across the hillside we’re changing from pasture to a vineyard. Staying in low gear, I loosen my grip on the steering wheel and chug along. The tiller on our tractor rattles and bangs as the tines chew into the newly turned clumps of dirt.

Chinka-ta-chinka-ta”, the tiller complains. Looking back, I see it’s tilted sideways instead of following the tractor in a straight line. Disengaging the tiller, I hit the lift lever and

head downhill to a flat spot. Mike joins me and discovers a pin has fallen out.

My part in this project is finished until the part is replaced. With a sense of relief, I wonder if it was an accident the pin fell out or if God, hearing my prayer, has granted me a temporary reprieve.

Later, as I reflected on the day’s events, it occurred to me God has been working on my character in the same way we were working on renovating the pasture. God has not been satisfied with letting the soil of my soul sit fallow, unused because of fears of failure, rejection or unworthiness. He stirs it up, cutting away at the roots of sin and doubt. Chunking away at the clumps of habit and “me-isms,” He smoothes, levels and amends me. Digging deep, He drops in seeds of faith and hope.

God allows circumstances to force me to face my fears, into learning to lean into Him and trust His promises, His control over whatever life brings on. He’s even given me my own Barnabas to encourage and cheer me on. My hillside adventure on the tractor is an image of the way He honors my stepping out in faith with times of relief and refreshing.

My spiritual roots strengthen as each experience proves how faithful God has been. Each new challenge is less frightening because my Heavenly Father’s steadfastness has pushed my faith-roots deeper and secured them with His promises. Just as we work to turn a pasture into a vineyard, God’s hands continue to refine my character and faith to become more like Christ. I’m so glad He’s patient and won’t give up on me.

“...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6b NIV

Fay Ternan

Youth Happenings

Sunday Morning Small Groups

High School Girls—Youth Center
 11-12th Boys—Pastor Mark's Office
 9-10th Boys—Youth Center
 8th Grade—Pastor Jeff's Office
 7th Grade—Church Kitchen
 6th Grade—Downstairs Hallway

Wednesday Night Messages

December 7 Characters of Christmas
 December 14 Characters of Christmas
 December 21 Characters of Christmas
 December 28 How's Your Year Ending?

Wednesday Night Youth Group

Doors open at 6:30 for Dinner
 7:00-8:30 Worship, Announcements, Message,
 Games, discussion groups.

Wednesday Attendance	Students	Staff	Total
Oct 26	83	14	97
Nov 2	70	17	87
Nov 9	59	14	73
Nov 16	67	17	84
Nov 23	48	16	66

First Baptist Church Chehalis Youth Ministry's

SnowBlast 2012!

PLAY, LAUGH, LEARN, COMPETE, INVEST,
 ENERGIZE, DEVELOP, RESET, TUBE, EAT,
 INVITE, SLEEP, TALK, GROW, CREATE,
 WORSHIP, UNITE, SHARE, BREATHE, HONOR,
 SING, ENCOURAGE, SHOUT,
 WHISPER, PRAY, OBSERVE, RELIVE,
 CONNECT, ANNOUNCE, ENJOY, DISCOVER.

Join us

When: January 13-16, 2012
 Where: Camp Morrow, Wamic, Or.
 Cost: \$125 with deposit & registration
 by December 1

Christmas Tree Stand Open! Youth Fundraiser

Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from Thanksgiving to Christmas, our Youth Christmas tree stand in the old Food Bank building is open!
 This is a Fundraiser for our youth Ministry!

Your Tree is waiting for you! Grown locally and cut fresh, be sure to get your tree here, along with some beautiful deluxe wreaths, swags, and other decorations!

Funds raised go to help our students attend Snow Blast 2012 as well as helping with the expense of having a growing Youth Ministry!

This is a great opportunity to support our students!
 (Volunteer opportunities available also)



Harvest Dinner



Dickens "Scrooge" Christmas Set



Mission of the Month



Remember with **LOVE**
Give with **GRATITUDE**

*For the LORD is good:
His steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.*
Psalm 100:5

RMMO connects generations

The 2011 Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) is our December Mission of the Month.

The RMMO is an annual ABCUSA offering that provide (1) "Thank you" check to more than 3,000 retired American Baptist ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses, based on 15 or

more years of ABC service, and (2) emergency and other financial assistance based on need.

Let God's love flow through you by contributing to the Retired Ministers and missionaries offering during the month of December.

Mary Funk,
Mission Team Leader

PRIME TIMERS (55+)

Our annual Prime Timers Christmas dinner will be held in the church Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 9, at 6:30 P.M.

A delicious meal will be prepared by Mike and Cheri Foster. The cost for the evening is \$10.00 per person, and the profits will go to youth

camper scholarships. There will also be a program that includes carol singing, special music and a Christmas devotional.

This is always our best attended event of the year- a special evening that you don't want to miss. If you need a ride in order to attend, contact

John Lyttle (748-4765). There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the office.

Do you have ideas for our 2012 calendar (luncheon programs, day activities, overnights)? Write them down and give them to John Lyttle.

Women's News

LOUISE CAMPBELL/C.O.S. CIRCLE

All ladies of the church are invited to attend the Louise Campbell/ C.O.S. Circle Christmas luncheon to be held at 12 pm, Thursday, December 1 at the church. Sharon Gober will have a presentation on International Ministries. Please bring a salad. Looking forward to seeing you there. For more information, please contact Mary Funk, 748-8718. Ladies, come join us for a great time of fellowship and celebrating the gift of our Savior!

lunch and stay for awhile! Bring a dozen cookies to share and exchange. Cheri will be making up a pot of hot mulled cider yum yum. Contact Cheri, 360-219-3571, for more information.

ANNUAL RETREAT



Two months to retreat time! Wow, it will be here before we know it! Sweetly Broken is the theme for our next women's retreat. Our speaker GiGi Horrell (who recently shared in worship the life of her daughter who suffered with cancer) will be sharing with us what it means to experience God in the midst of trials and tragedy.

Join us February 3 – 5, 2012 at Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center in Cannon Beach, OR.

The cost is \$140 per person in a room for 3-6 people; add \$40 per person for 2 in a room, and \$50 per person for a private room. You can reserve your spot anytime with a \$40 deposit; balance due January 29, be sure to mark your check "women's retreat."



CRAFTING BEE

Our next crafting session will be Saturday, Dec. 17 at 10 am. Bring your own craft to work on, or work on the group craft. Either way, it's a great time of fellowship while you have fun with a project! Bring your



Thank you Awana Clubbers/Parents for your generous participation in our Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. We hit an all-time record in our giving this year!

- On Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011, Awana Club will have a float in the Chehalis (Santa) Christmas Parade. Kim will be transporting Awana Clubbers and their parents in our church van starting at 9:30 a.m. from the church parking lot to the float site. Be sure to dress for the weather and in Christmas colors!
- Dec. 4 – “Super Hero Night” Come dressed as your Super Hero/Tell us Who your Super Hero is Cubbies/T & T Store Night
- Dec. 11 – “Lego Night” Bring your Lego creation to Awana Club – Sparks Store Night
- Dec. 18 – No Awana Club - Come to our Christmas Program at 4 p.m. We’ll have a Fun Celebration!
- Dec. 25, 2011 – Happy Birthday Jesus! - Merry Christmas! – No Awana Club
- Jan. 1, 2012 – Happy New Year! – God Bless You! No Awana Club



Sunday School News

GREAT BIG THANK YOU goes to our Sunday School Kindergarten – 5th Grade Classes for your generous Offering to World Missions!

Your Celebration in Sunday School will be Dec. 4, 2011! Be sure not to miss it!!

Opportunities are always available for Christ Followers to serve, contact Kim Marcus (office) 748-8628, (home) 748-2124.

What's Happening at FBCC this Month

<p>Louise Campbell/C.O.S. Circle Thursday, Dec. 1 @ 12 pm Library Mary Funk, 748-8718 or Charleen Davis, 748-7437</p>	<p>Men's Breakfast Saturday, Dec. 17 @ 7 am Fellowship Hall Mike Foster, 978-4735</p>	<p>Christmas Eve Candelight Service Saturday Dec. 24 @ 5:30 & 7 pm Carols Candle Lighting Children's Christmas Story</p>
<p>Awana Participates in Chehalis Christmas Parade Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 am Parade Staging Area Prindle and Pacific Kim Marcus, 748-2124</p>	<p>Women's Crafting Bee Saturday, Dec. 17 @ 10 am Fellowship Hall Cheri Foster, 978-4735</p>	<p>Community Christmas Dinner Sunday, Dec. 25 @ 1-5 pm Fellowship Hall Mike or Fay Ternan, 748-0130</p>
<p>Prime Timers Christmas Dinner Friday, Dec. 9 @ 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall John Lyttle, 748-4765</p>	<p>Christmas Program Sunday, Dec. 18 @ 4 pm Worship Center Followed by Refreshments in the foyer</p>	<p>New Years Eve Service Saturday Dec. 31 @ 7 pm</p>

Please extend our appreciation to the Fellowship Team for the fine meal and especially for making the effort to work around all our food allergies and intolerances at the Harvest Dinner.
 Steve Trent

Thank you to everyone, for the calls, cards, food and encouragement that you gave me during my illness
 Eileen Boes

Annual Christmas Day Dinner

The annual Christmas Day dinner is in the planning stages once again. If you are interesting in donating food items, decorations or some of your time on Christmas Day, please contact Mike or Fay Ternan at 360-748-0130 or 360-880-9552. Here's where help is needed:

- Prayer that both our church family and our community attend
- Advertising set up
- Posting Flyers in the community
- Drive the church van to pick up and deliver people in Chehalis and Centralia. (Must be certified to drive)
- Food donations
- Food preparation on Christmas Eve. (All food prepared in church kitchen)
- Food preparation on Christmas Day
- Table set up either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day
- Entertainment
- Decorations
- Food service
- Beverage service
- Fellowship Hall Cleanup
- Dishwashers
- Kitchen cleanup
- Food delivery to Shelter
- Final cleanup the day after Christmas



This dinner is for those who have no family to share Christmas dinner with as well as those who have no Christmas dinner. Volunteers for previous dinners have been as blessed as those who received the dinners. We'd love to have you join us!

DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Awana Club participates in Chehalis Christmas Parade
4 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Sunday School & Worship Service 11 am Worship Service 4:30 pm Awana 4:30 pm Divorce Care	5	6 6:30 am Men's Morning Connection Group 8:30 am Moms in Touch	7 6:30 pm Connection Group 6:45 pm Youth Groups 7 pm Women's Connection Group	8 7 pm Hwy 603 Connection Group	9 6:30 pm Primetime's Christmas Dinner	10 4pm Adult Christmas Party
11 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Sunday School & Worship Service 11 am Worship Service 4:30 pm Awana 4:30 pm Divorce	12	13 6:30 am Men's Morning Connection Group 8:30 am Moms in Touch	14 6:30 pm Connection Group 6:45 pm Youth Groups 7 pm Women's Connection Group	15 7 pm Hwy 603 Connection Group	16	17 7 am Men's Breakfast 10 am Women's Crafting Bee
18 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Sunday School & Worship Service 11 am Worship Service 4 pm Christmas Program 4:30 pm Divorce	19	20 6:30 am Men's Morning Connection Group	21 6:30 pm Connection Group 6:45 pm Youth Groups	22 7 pm Hwy 603 Connection Group	23	24 5:30 & 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
25 Merry Christmas 10 am Worship Service 10 am Nursery 10 am Children's Church 1 pm Christmas Dinner	26	27 6:30 am Men's Morning Connection Group	28 6:30 pm Connection Group 6:45 pm Youth Groups	29 7 pm Hwy 603 Connection Group	30	31 7pm New Years Eve Service



Christmas Eve
SERVICE

Saturday Dec. 24, 5:30 & 7:00 PM
Christmas Carols
Lighting the Christ Candle
Children's Story

NEW
YEAR'S
EVE
WORSHIP
SERVICE



Saturday, Dec. 31
7:00 P.M.
Celebrate New Year's Eve
with a new start.

First Baptist Church



1866 S. Market Boulevard
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