

The Epistle



for the week of December 18, 2011

MINISTERS

Every Member

PASTORS

Rev. Robert Fisher
Senior Pastor

Rev. Richard Luna
Associate Pastor

Rev. Stephanie Scott
Associate Pastor

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

David Luna
Director of Music Ministries

Arnold B. Sherman
Director of Chancel Choir

Leigh Ann Bugg
Director of Children's Ministries

Liz McGee
Director of Kids' Kaleidoscope

Jane Allen-Milner
Organist/Worship Keyboard

SUPPORT STAFF

Lowell Hinsch
Finance Secretary

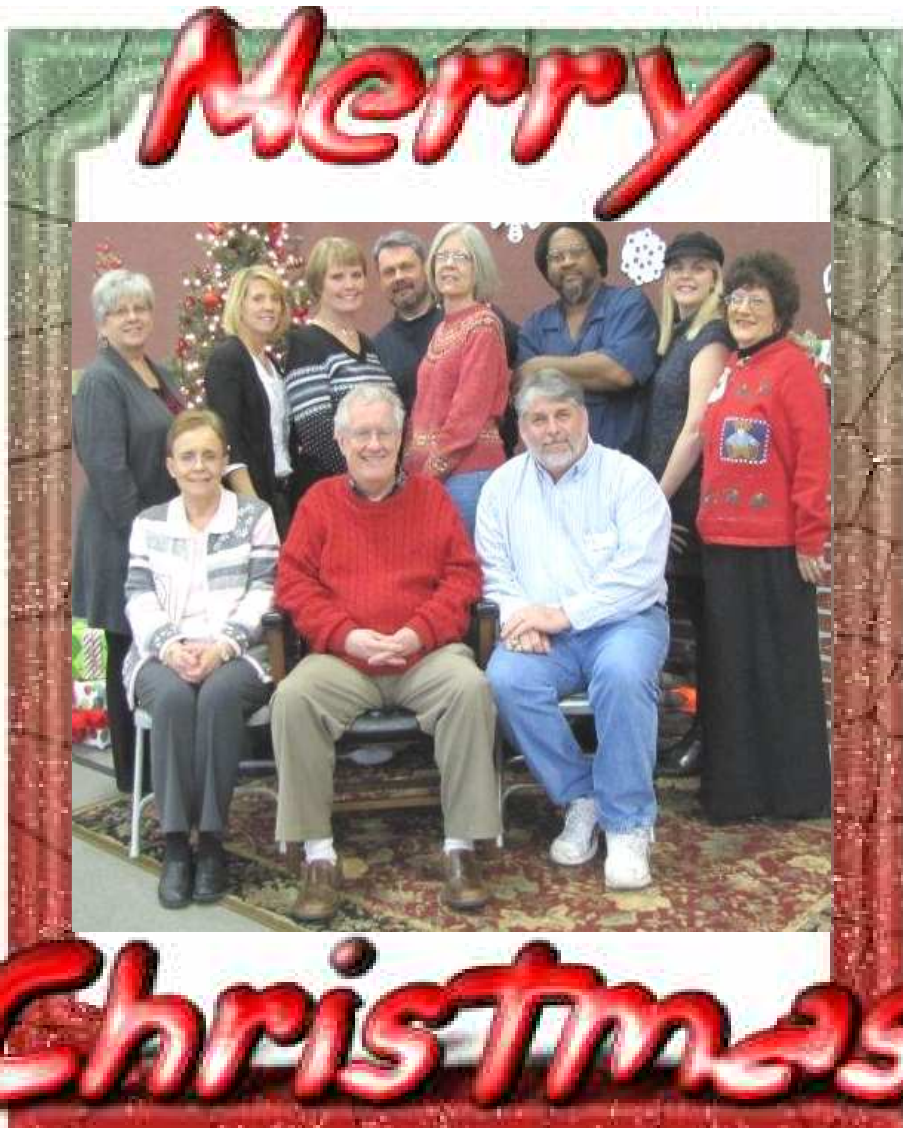
Cindy Doyle
Pastoral Administrative Assistant

Debbie Donaldson
Information Secretary

Debra Kennedy
Education/KK Secretary

Jimmie Ann Floyd
Head Custodian

Don Caldwell
Evening Custodian



Looking Ahead at the Worship Schedule...

Sunday, December 18

8:30 and 11:00 am Traditional Service: Rev. Stephanie Scott, preaching

11:00 am Contemporary Service: Rev. Richard Luna, preaching

“What Are You Waiting For?: Believing the Impossible” (Luke 1:26-38)

Saturday, December 24

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service in the Spirit Life Center Gym

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25

10:30 am One Combined Worship Service in the Sanctuary: Rev. Rob Fisher, preaching

“He Is Here!” (Luke 2:1-20)

Sunday, January 1

10:30 am One Combined Worship Service in the Sanctuary: Rev. Richard Luna, preaching

“It’s More Than Words” (Luke 2:22-40)

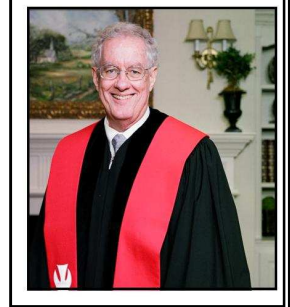


Remarks from Rob:

This will be the last Epistle until the new year. I wanted to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very blessed Christmas. Our theme throughout Advent has focused on love, peace, joy, and hope. Many continue to wait for all these wonderful possibilities to take place in their lives, and they fail to realize all of these are already here. Love, peace, joy, and hope became possible many years ago with the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My prayer for all of us is that we never miss the love of God for us through the birth of his Son into our world. Please join us in worship through the rest of Advent, and on Christmas morning.

Have a blessed Christmas, *Rob*



Sojourner's Class Fellowship

The annual Sojourner's class Christmas party was December 3rd at the home of Roger and Tania Birt. With food, drink, and the ever-popular white elephant gift steal game, a good time was had by all. Stayed tuned for our Super Bowl party which will be hosted at the home of Bryan and Stephanie Carl. Our new year's study kicks off in January, led by Eric Owens over the book "So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore?" by Jake Colson. Come join this dynamic group!

Women's Retreat 2012

“Women On a Journey Together”

Plans are moving along for our next Women's Retreat at Pollard on **January 27 & 28, 2012**. Registration forms are available, and the deadline to register for the retreat will be January 22nd. The cost of the retreat is \$40 and will include two meals (Friday evening and Saturday lunch), craft supplies, and study materials. Please go ahead and register as soon as possible, and you can pay for the retreat in January! Our Mission emphasis this year will be the Women's Crisis Center. We will be collecting kitchen items including new or gently-used dishes, pots and pans, and anything else that will help someone get set up in a new kitchen. We will also be asking the entire church to help us in this project. We will not start collecting things until after the new year! If you would like more information about the retreat, please contact Rev. Stephanie Scott 903-597-2571 or Fran Ayres 903-534-8929.

PLEASE NOTE RETREAT DATES HAVE CHANGED!!!!



Stephen Ministry Training

Pollard UMC would like to have a training for new Stephen Ministers some time beginning in early 2012. This training involves a weekly commitment of an hour and a half, for a total of 50 hours. In order to do the training, there must be a minimum of 4 participants. If you would like to train for Stephen Ministry, please let Sharon Moses 903-939-0712 or Stephanie Scott 903-597-2571 know as soon as possible. Men and women of all ages welcomed!

Children's Ministries would like to thank the following:

- Elementary teachers: Jimmie Ann Floyd, Michelle Smith, Casey Fisher, Lisa Malone, and Margaret Murphy
- Preschool teachers: Clay & Lanette Tipton, Andy & Amber Alexander, Wendy Madore, and Andy Bugg
- Crissy Huffman, our fearless Children's Council Chairman





The Music Ministries presents “Hope of the Nations”



Here is a photo (taken by Andy Bugg) of the finale from “Love, Peace, Joy, Hope,” the Pollard Music Ministries Christmas celebration held last Sunday. It looks like we are singing to an empty Sanctuary because that’s how many spaces were occupied by the various choirs and ensembles. The mixture of the new and old, instrumental and vocal, drama and video involved an army dedicated music ministers. [In this photo, the group presents the final mass choir piece “Hope of the Nations.” (Brian Doerskin)]

Merry Christmas from Kids’ Kaleidoscope





Breakfast with Santa benefiting the St. Paul Children's Foundation was a huge success. It could not have happened without your support. Special thanks to:

- Clark Thomas and his cooking crew who were there at 6:00 am Saturday morning.
- Ashley Graham and her Girl Scouts who helped with the crafts.
- And Santa, who worked us into his busy schedule.





The Gifts That Keep On Giving A Message from The Pollard Foundation Board

The Pollard Foundation Board met in late October to consider disbursement of earnings from the investments of the Pollard Foundation, now with assets of approximately \$660,000. Each year, earnings from the trust fund are available for Pollard’s mission and church maintenance projects. These monies allow needed church maintenance and repair as well as worthy mission projects to proceed without adversely affecting the church budget. This is truly a blessing for Pollard and for its members.

This year, the Foundation was able to provide \$25,235 to both Missions and to the Trustees, a total of \$50,470 to our church. As the principal of the Pollard Foundation Trust grows, there can be additional earnings each year and therefore more money available to our church for maintenance and mission projects.

When considering your end-of-year giving and memorials, please consider a gift to the Pollard Foundation. These are the “Gifts That Keep On Giving.”

For more information or for any questions you may have, please contact Don Freeman (Board President), Rob Fisher, Gary Landers (Secretary), Barbara Bass (Treasurer), or the church office.

Van Trip to Biblical Art Museum in Dallas

When: January 18, 2012

Both vans have been reserved. There is room for 20 people. Cost is \$16 which includes admission to museum and transportation.

Sign-up sheet is in the office. Make check payable to “Pollard UMC.”

Leave church at 9:30 am; then a short stop in Terrell.

We’ll have lunch at Luby’s before going to the museum; bring money.

We’re scheduled for a short tour at 1:00 pm. Then, you will be able to explore on your own.

Of special interest is Don DiCianni’s large mural of the Resurrection of Christ. Deadline is January 11, 2012.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

For this Sunday, December 18, 2011

8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Classrooms
11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship	Founders Center Auditorium
5:00 p.m.	Into The Word Bible Study	Builders Classroom
6:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship	Spirit Life Center Gym

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As members of Pollard, we vow to uphold the Church by our Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness

OUR “PRESENCE”

CHRISTIAN LEARNING

Sunday School 12/11/11.....	253
Bible Study.....	35
Worship 12/11/11.....	396

MEMBERSHIP

Received 12/11/11	0
Received in 2011	38
Removed in 2011	31
Total Current Membership	1132

Please pray for our known ill:

- ◆ Sue Mann — ETMC

Altar Flowers for 2012



The altar flower calendar has been

cleared and is ready for sponsors for 2012. If you would like to reserve a date to donate flowers in honor of or in memory of loved ones, please call Cindy at 903-597-2571 and let her know. Sponsors are already calling, so don’t wait til the last minute!

Remember! No reserved dates are carried over from 2011 unless you’ve already notified Cindy.



Staff Appreciation

It has been our custom to take up an annual Christmas love offering for our church staff to show our appreciation to this dedicated group of God’s servants. If you would like to contribute, please send your checks to the attention of Lowell Hinch with the notation “Staff Christmas Offering.”

—Chet Thomas, SPRC Chair

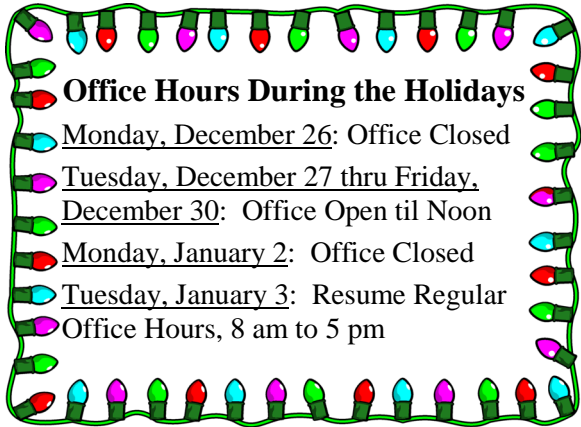




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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Have you remembered your church in your year-end giving? Either by fulfilling your pledge or making a commitment for 2012?

All contributions for 2011 must be in the office or in an envelope postmarked no later than December 31!

(Checks that are mailed and postmarked in 2011 are deductible in 2011 even if they are not received until 2012.)

If you have any questions or needs, please feel free to call Finance Director, Lowell Hinsch, in the church office 903-597-2571. Checks placed in the January 1 offering plate will be considered 2012 contributions.



Help Santa Deliver Meals on Christmas Day

For those who want a special Christmas experience, you can join members of Pollard UMC who annually give the regular delivery volunteers the day off to be with their families. **We meet at the Meals on Wheels facility**

(3001 Robertson Road, Tyler, TX 75701) at 10 AM for a devotion and then team up for our route assignments. **Please call 903-360-1313 to let us know you are coming.**

We usually finish by noon, but the experience is lasting and adds a good perspective to Christmas Day. For some families, this has become an annual tradition. **PLEASE be sure to call and let someone know you are coming!** And, oh yes, we *will* be counting you for worship attendance this year ☺!

