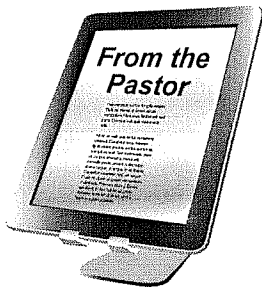


Burlington Zion Express

January 2013



Every January, I make a few New Year's resolutions. As of today, I am enjoying huge, unmitigated success in the fulfillment of these resolutions. I have fulfilled every one of my seventeen resolutions! I am a New Year's resolutions success story! Hannibal has crossed the Alps! OK...I'll slow down. Current literature on New Year's resolutions and my own

pathetic personal history do not indicate a favorable outcome. Not only do I generally abandon my resolutions after about two weeks (at the time of writing this, I'm on day 3) but according to a recent issue of The Journal of Clinical Psychology, only 8% of all people who make resolutions actually achieve them. I guess I am just one of the 92%.

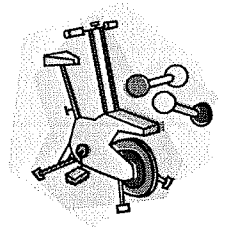
But I do have one goal that is sure to meet success—working out at the gym (for me, “gym” is the Burlington YWCA). The reason I will stick with going to the gym is this—I enjoy it. Forbes Magazine says in “Five Resolutions You Won't Keep and Five You Will” that a resolution works best if it is “pleasant” or if you really enjoy it. Well, I enjoy the gym—I enjoy the people, the energy I feel when I walk in the weight room, the encouragement of the staff, the fact that we are all there for the same reason—improved health and quality of life. So I know I will not abandon that particular resolution.



The gym is a good image for the church. Similar to the gym, the church is where we go to work on our faith and build up those spiritual and ethical “muscles” we rely on when we are not in church. Just like my strength training sessions with my YWCA trainer, Stephe (who is really awesome), everything I do in church is

deliberate. Nothing is without purpose; or if it seems lacking in purpose, I may have forgotten why I come to the “gym” at all. Is my reading of the scripture just one more element of the worship service or does it move me with the voice of God? Do I pray knowing I am heard or am I just repeating words? Do I know if I swing a kettle bell to strengthen my back or just for the entertainment of Stephanie? Hmm...could be a little of both.

The other day, while clearing out our basement, I picked up a large box of books and quickly carried it up two flights to my office. I commented to Don that if I hadn't been working out, I wouldn't have been able to do that so easily. In other words, there are things I can do now that I couldn't do without the benefit of the gym.



What benefit does your gym/church bring to you? Is there anything that happens for you in church that helps you when you are not in church? Are there loads you can now carry that would prove too heavy without your faith community?

Send me a comment; I would love to hear your thoughts!

Pastor Jane





January Worship

Sunday, January 6 - Communion

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School
10:00 am: Worship service
Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12
11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Sunday, January 13

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School
10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church
Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Sunday, January 20

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School
10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church
Scripture: John 2:1-11
11:00 am: Short congregational meeting;
Coffee Hour

Sunday, January 27

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School
10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church
Scripture: Luke 4:14-21
11:00 am: Annual Meeting in fellowship hall;
lunch following

Our **January schedule** is as follows:



January 6: Pastor Jane
January 13: Wayne & Ruth Smith
January 20: Juanita Williams and
Lela Neely
January 27: Lunch provided after
annual meeting

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary if you would like to be a sponsor/host at any time. We need volunteers for February. Thank you!

January Worship Helpers

Church closer: Kathy Morrish

Sunday, January 6

Communion preparers: Milt and Laurie Paule
Greeters: Joe and Sandy Deal, Jim and Deb
Ritters
Reader: Marlis Robberts
Tower Bell: Jeff Graham
Valet: Tom Ralston

Sunday, January 13

Greeters: Emily Roane and Keith Schulz, Bill and
Ann Hummel
Reader: Don Kellar
Tower Bell: Caleb Mehaffy
Valet: Jim Ritters

Sunday, January 20

Greeters: Lyle Gibson, Glen Gottschalk, Jim
Levins, Kathy Morrish
Reader: Dyan Dietzman
Tower Bell: Milt Paule
Valet: Rich Goble

Sunday, January 27

Greeters: Dennis and Dyan Dietzman, Alyson
McCullough and Noah, Matthew Patrick
Reader: Theresa Ritters
Tower Bell: Will Neises
Valet: Milt Paule

Rosebush Sing-along Sunday, January 20



We will be going to Rosebush Garden on Sunday, January 20, at 2:00 p.m. to sing with the residents there.

Please join us!



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

by Janice Gibson

Christmas Season Thank You's

There are lots of folks who deserve a great deal of thanks for the extra time and talents they shared during the Advent/Christmas season at Zion!

First of all, thanks to the **children** who participated in the **Christmas musical**, *Good King Wenceslas*. It was a wonderful, enthusiastic group who did a great job sharing the Christmas story! A special thanks to the **adults** who helped us – Peggy Wilkinson, Craig and Lisa Neises, Paulette Upton, and Paula Mehaffy.

Then, a big thank you to everyone who participated in the **Christmas cantata/pageant on Christmas Eve!** Special thanks to our **choir** and our **choir accompanist**, Renita Jarrett. They spend many hours rehearsing all year long. A Christmas cantata is wonderful but takes a lot of extra rehearsal time, and we are so lucky to have a talented, devoted choir and accompanist who are willing to take it on!

The crèche scene, which added so much to the cantata and the **Christmas Eve service**, would not have been possible if we didn't have people who were willing to "step out of their comfort zone a little" and be a character in the **nativity story**. Thanks to all of you! Thank you to Lyle Gibson and Ruth Smith, our **narrators**; Sandy Levins, **costumes**; and a special thanks to Don Lutz for all his help with our **sound system** for the children's musical, choir cantata, and well, just about every Sunday!

THANK YOU, EVERYONE!!

Coming Up in Children's Church

Children's Church will be back in full swing starting this Sunday, January 6th. We will be viewing a video, *The Star of Bethlehem*. We'll learn more about the World's Most Famous Star!

Over the next few weeks we will be exploring the theme, "*Character Counts!*" and studying some Bible stories that illustrate the values of honesty, loyalty, anger management, and more.

Make sure your child is able to attend regularly to help them grow on their own faith journey!

NOIZ Nites for Families

The next NOIZ Nites will be on Wednesday, February 6th. Stay tuned for the upcoming plans!!

There will be details in the Sunday bulletins, and a mailing will go out to the children later this month.

Want to Raise Money for the Food Pantry? Throw a Party!

Vivian Kellar turned her Red Hat holiday party into a fundraiser for Zion's food pantry. Instead of going out to eat at a local restaurant, the Red Hatters arrived at Vivian's for a home-cooked meal and donated the money they would have spent. The party raised \$120 in cash, along with two bags of groceries. At a time when people are trying to buy gifts for their children other things such as food are often in short supply. Zion's food pantry was running low – but not anymore!! Thank you, Vivian!!



We are happy to announce that the Youth Group is now going to also include all kids from third through sixth grade! If you are in this age range, you have a golden ticket to our opening celebration on January 20, 2012.

We will be meeting in the youth room right after church on that Sunday. We will play games, a little ping pong, have some spaghetti tacos for lunch, and decide what all of us want to do for the year as a group. We will be there until 2:00 pm, and parents can come back for kids. Or if you need a ride home, we can arrange transportation. We hope to see many of you there!

Lisa Neises and Peggy Wilkinson,
Youth Group Leaders



It's true that I can't imagine Advent without the liturgy, the candles, the music, the feeling of joyous expectation. But there is one thing I really, really can't imagine Advent without....the presence of **Janice Gibson!** Without Janice there would be (almost) no Christmas at Zion. Since I work with Janice every day, I probably know more than anyone (not counting Lyle) how much WORK she puts into Advent starting weeks before that first advent candle is lit. From the chaotic-but-lots-of-fun Advent workshop to the spectacular Christmas Pageant to the moving and inspiring Christmas Eve service, Janice makes it all happen. She is an inspiration and an honor to work with, and I know I speak for all of us when I say....THANK YOU, JANICE!!!*Pastor Jane*

Adult Sunday School

January 6 and 13: we will finish out our very interesting exploration of Next Christians. Be there for the wrap-up!

January 20 and 27: a video and discussion of the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. The video is a PBS special called "In Remembrance of Martin." Personal comments from family, friends, and advisors fill this remarkable documentary honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coretta Scott King joins the Reverend Ralph Abernathy, Julian Bond, Jimmy Carter, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Senator Edward Kennedy, John Lewis, Bishop Desmond Tutu, and Andrew Young, who recall Dr. King's career and trace his leadership in the civil rights movement. Includes portions of his "I Have a Dream" speech.

February 10: a class exploring the two gay marriage cases the U.S. Supreme Court has accepted for review this term, Windsor v. The United States, and Hollingsworth v. Perry. We will examine the factual background of each case to understand why each presents the court with remarkably different questions of standing, state's rights, equal protection, and the Defense of Marriage Act. Finally, we will consider the implications of the various ways the court might decide the two cases.

February 17: a 6-8 week series called *Divinity of Doubt: The God Question* and will present class participants with opportunity to recognize the limits of what we know and what we cannot know about the mysteries of existence. The author, Vincent Bugliosi, a foremost prosecutor (Charles Manson, Lee Harvey Oswald, and O.J. Simpson) comes at religion and Christianity from the point of view of agnosticism, so participants should be prepared to face challenging points of view regarding tenants of faith. The goal is to enrich and strengthen our understanding of our faith.

Timeline for:



- **January 13:** All Committee Chairs or Board Presidents must have their reports turned in to the church office.
- **January 13:** The proposed budget will be available for review by the congregation.
- **January 20:** A brief congregational meeting will be held after the worship service to discuss the 2013 budget and answer any questions you may have.
- **January 20:** Copies of the 2012 Annual Report booklet will be distributed.
- **January 27:** Our Annual Meeting will be held immediately after the worship service downstairs in the fellowship hall. It will be followed by lunch, provided by the Fellowship Committee and the Consistory. Members should plan to stay for this very important meeting as we vote on the 2013 annual budget and elect church officials.

The **2012 4th quarter giving statements** are ready to be picked up and are in a box on the credenza at the back of the sanctuary.

There are also a few people who still need to pick up their boxed set of **offering envelopes for 2013**, which are also on the credenza at the back of the sanctuary.

Christmas Poinsettias



This past Christmas season donations were made to our poinsettia fund as follows:

- In loving memory of **Virginia Schnicker** from the Harold Schnicker family
- In loving memory of **my loved ones** from **Flo Fickel**
- In loving memory of **Kearney and Josephine Roane** and **Henry and Iral Schulz** from Emily Roane and Keith Schulz
- In loving memory of **Joe and Marge Ralston** from Tom and Connie Ralston
- In loving memory of **our parents** from **Milt and Laurie Paule**
- In loving memory of **Paul and Arline Bell**, from Deb, Jim, Theresa, and P.J. Ritters
- In loving memory of **our parents** from **Marvin and Marcia Fraise**
- In loving memory of **our parents** from **Chuck and Martha Landstrom**
- In loving memory of **Merle Robberts** from Marlis Robberts
- In loving memory of **Cathy Burk** from Johnathan Burk
- In loving memory of my husband **Ray Fisher** and daughter **Gretchen Reilly** from Jeanette Fisher
- In loving memory of **Rev. Albert & Mrs. Koelling, Donald & James** from Elizabeth K. Lewis
- In honor of **Don and Vivian Kellar** from their family
- In honor of **Ken & Kathy Tomkins** and in loving memory of **C. D. Tomkins** and **Thomas Tomkins** from Judy Tomkins

Thank you all for your donations, which helped make the sanctuary so beautiful for the Christmas Eve service and the entire holiday season!



Don and Vivian Kellar will again be taking “gently used” Bibles to the Potters Hand organization in Crystal, Missouri. The Bibles will be donated to mission projects in Appalachia.

Please bring your Bibles to church by the end of January and see that Don and Vivian get them. Thank you.



During the month of December, we were delighted to welcome the following new members into our Zion Church family:

Alyson McCullough
Matthew Patrick
Darlene Pruett

Thursday
January 24
7:00 p.m.



The book chosen for the January gathering is A Winter Dream written by bestselling author Richard Paul Evans. Books are now available for purchase at \$11.00 each. Please see Deb Ruble in the narthex area to get your book.

The group will meet at the home of Judy Tomkins at 628 South Leebrick Street.

Thank You

The entire church staff extends their thanks and appreciation to all of you for your generosity to each of us during this past Christmas season. We were overwhelmed by the kindness and extreme generosity shown to us when we received the monetary Christmas gifts. You are such a special congregation, and we thank you very, very much!

Jane
Marilyn
Janice
Kay
Renita
Earnest
Deb



Debbie Gottschalk and her family on the death of her father, Paul T. J. Hayes, on December 6 in Maquoketa, Iowa.

Noina Workman and her family on the death of her younger brother, Peng Raksat, in early December in Thailand.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both these families during these difficult times.

Thank you to everyone in our Zion family who sent a card or offered prayers on our behalf at the passing of Jim’s mother. Thanks also to Pastor Jane for attending the funeral and to Janice for serving as organist. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. God bless each one of you.

Jim and Sandy Levins

January

Birthdays

- 1 --- **Flo Fickel**, 628 S. Leebrick St.
7 --- **Linda Thornburg**, 2013 Vogt St.
8 --- **Avery Levins** (6), 11737 Tama Road
15 --- **April Kenney**, 2020 S. 14th St.
16 --- **Jeanette Fisher**, 1700 Hillary St.
17 --- **Lyle Gibson**, 204 Crestview Dr.
20 --- **Mary Robberts**,
1212 Indian Hills Drive
22 --- **Rod Reeves**, 1605 South St.
23 --- **Shirley Wilson**, 537 Spring St.
West Burlington, IA 52655
Christina Cowles, 5254 Ferres Lane
Chase Graham (14), 321 Summer St.
West Burlington, IA 52655
25 --- **Emery Kerr** (3), 12081 50th St.
Jacqueline Workman (9)
2613 Evergreen
27 --- **Karen Sneller**, 1903 River
30 --- **Jeffrah Levins**,
11737 Tama Road



Anniversaries

- 1 ---- **Sandy and Jim Levins** (12)
714 Whitewood St.
12 --- **Teri and Ron Hummer** (28)
2533 Cliff Road



Early February Birthdays

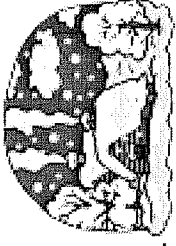
- 2 --- **Ethan Kerr** (5), 12081 50th St.
Debbie Ritters, 209 Curran St.
Kendra Murray,
11386 S. Prairie Grove Road
West Burlington, IA 52655
4 --- **Gage Hill**, 935 N. 8th St.
5 --- **Briana Landstrom**,
2105 S. 10th St.

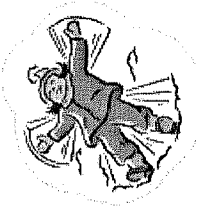
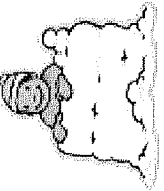

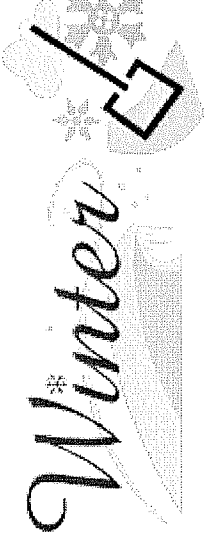
Early February Anniversaries

- 2 --- **Nancy and Gary Haley** (33)
13797 90th Avenue
5 --- **Dennis and Dyan Dietzman** (41)
2819 Fair Acres Drive



JANUARY 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 8:45 am: Adult Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Coffee Hour	 6:00 pm: Fellowship Comm.	 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest	7:00 pm: Choir			5
8:45 am: Adult Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Coffee Hour		7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest	7:00 pm: Choir	11:00 am: Wise Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm: Consistory		12
8:45 am: Adult Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Coffee Hour		7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest	7:00 pm: Choir	11:00 am: Wise Women's Bible Study		19
8:45 am: Adult S.S. 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Cong. Mtg.; Coffee Hour 2:00pm: Sing-along		7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest 6:30 pm: Social Justice Comm.	7:00 pm: Choir	11:00 am: Wise Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm: Book Club		26
8:45 am: Adult Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Annual Mtg.; lunch following		7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest	7:00 pm: Choir	11:00 am: Wise Women's Bible Study		

*“Well done good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little,
I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.”*

Matthew 25:23b

Sharing Talents

The members of the Microcredit and Savings Project of the Disciples of Christ in the Democratic Republic of Congo are generating funds that improve the lives of their family and community. The microcredit project began in 2008 with the women in communities where congregations are located. Now there are 40 projects, with an average of 25 members each.



The microcredit project offers two ways to effect change. Individuals may borrow up to \$200.00 at a time to start a small business or make a needed investment. Borrowers must repay their loan in a prescribed amount of time, usually up to six months. From the modest interest on the loans, participants are given money for immediate needs, and a portion is then put into a savings account for them. The interest also becomes income to women who have invested with the group. As individuals demonstrate their ability to repay the loans with interest, they are able to borrow again. Subsequent loans may be larger because they have proven themselves trustworthy.

One project began with 20 women and grew to 43 participants of which 38 are women and 5 are men. One of the participants, a mother of eight children has made enough to build a house! Another used the loan to make and sell jams, cake, soap, and perfume. Her challenge now is acquiring the wrapping paper to package her wares for sale. This particular group meets twice a month and has \$16,000 available for loans and \$5,000 in savings.

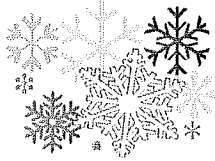
Together we pray, God, small ways make great differences. With your support and guidance we see possibilities bloom. Help us to remember how our actions may touch and change the lives of others.



You make the difference...

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG



The BZ Express

January 2013

Zion United Church of Christ

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Pastor's email: pastorjane@zionuccburlington.org

Website: www.zionuccburlington.org

Staff

Rev. Jane A. Willan, Pastor

Janice Gibson, Organist, Choir Director,
and Christian Education Director

Marilyn Stein, Office Administrator

Kay Jacobs, Treasurer's Assistant

Renita Jarrett, Choir Accompanist and
Wedding Coordinator

Megan Agnew, Nursery Supervisor

Earnest Turner, Custodian and
Buildings & Grounds Coordinator

Deb Ruble, Director of Bridging the Gap

Judy Taylor, Heritage People Coordinator