

**DECEMBER 2011**

# REYNOLDS NEWS WRAP

**Reynolds United  
Methodist Church**

2496 Reynolds Road  
Ashton, IL 61006

**PASTOR ALAN MEYER**

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## NEWSLETTER REPORTS

AND ITEMS DUE  
THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 15TH

*I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the City of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests Luke 2:10-14.*

***Christmas  
Eve Service  
Friday, Dec. 23rd  
7:00 pm***

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***Christmas  
Worship Service  
Sunday, Dec. 25th  
10:00 am***





***Let the stars in the sky remind us of man's compassion. Let us love till we die and God bless us, everyone! In your heart there's a light as bright as a star in heaven. Let it shine through the night and God bless us, everyone. Till each child is fed; till all men are free; till the world becomes a family. Star by star in the sky and kindness by human kindness, let me love till I die and God bless us everyone!***  
***A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens***

Dear Reynolds Members and Friends,

Charles Dickens' work has helped me to better understand the real meaning of Christmas and of the Incarnation of the Son of God. We know from scripture, that the birth of Christ, the coming of God's Word into our human flesh, was an expression of God's mercy and compassion for the human race. The fragile and broken state of life in this world could only have hope of improvement and salvation if the Almighty himself actually came among us to show and teach us the way. With that in mind let me say that usually, about this time of the year, I'm searching for someone to hear my complaints about all the Christmas hoopla in the stores and all the vain materialism that has come to characterize the season. But this year is different. The plastic glowing Santa's still sit on the store shelves. The garland still has a price tag on them. The shelves of battery-powered toys still greet shoppers who will return home without them. What's so different? For the first time in a long time, the Christmas we all known and loved has been stolen by recession. Economists are fearful that Christmas sales will slump dramatically this year. It seems Santa may need fewer reindeer to pull his new lighter sleigh. But just like Santa's newly unemployed reindeer, many people will find the Christmas season missing something: a job. These times are tough, especially during the holidays. It can become easy to turn on God or even deny Him altogether when things aren't going well. This is the perfect time for God's people to remind the world that it's Christmas time. What a perfect time to fill Christmas with gifts again. These aren't trendy expensive gadgets or cheap plastic toys that will last only a month. These Christmas gifts are all free. Free! Church, the whole reason we give gifts is because Jesus came as the first gift on the first Christmas just over 2000 years ago. God sent His Son to give us hope in a hopeless situation. Our sin deserves nothing but condemnation from God, but He gave us a gift in Jesus. He gave us a gift in Jesus' death and resurrection, bearing our condemnation and giving us the gift of forgiveness. Then God gives us the gift of faith to believe in the gift of Jesus and once those gifts get started, they just keep piling up! With gifts of hope, peace, love, joy, assurance, and more under your tree, you'll need to prop it up so high that you'll have to get a shorter tree! The most important gift you can give this Christmas costs nothing. In a world of pain, both inward and outward, we have a gift to give that brings hope. So how do you give this free gift? It's easy. Talk. Every time someone brings up Christmas, resist the urge to be secular and talk about Jesus. Talk about your free gift and how it can be their free gift too. Reynolds UMC we have some gift giving to do this season. Let's make sure as many trees as possible are loaded with free gifts this year! Recession or not, IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME! It is my sincere prayer and hope that this Christmas be a special experience of the compassion of God and the kindness of and towards others, for each of us. May Our Lord Jesus Christ help us to spread the love and compassion of God's reign, into the world in which we live. "Star by star in the sky and kindness by human kindness, let me love till I die and God bless us everyone!" May the Peace and Blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, descend upon you all, your families, loved ones, and friends. May the true Spirit of Christmas remain with you and within your heart. Take time to worship with your family and give the gift that will last forever. God's Blessings and a Happy Blessed New Year,

Yours in Christ,

***Pastor Al***





**INDIVIDUALS:** Ashlynn Riley, 6 yr old Emma, Baby Molly, Bill Kunkel, Curt Sprague, Debbie VanDyke, Donald Adams, Ed & Kristen Riley, Gladys Linebaugh, Holly Schier, Jerry Ford & family, Jim Steder Keith Long, Marie Kurz's Niece, Marion Berry, Mike Olmstead, Neil Miller, Paula Vogeler, Pastor Al & Linda Meyer, Terry Hunley, & Tina (niece of Keith Morge) .

**ALSO:** Families who have recent lost loved ones, The Unemployed, and All Members of the Armed Services, and Families who have lost loved ones in the Armed Services , Needy Families & Unspoken Requests.

**SERVING IN December:**

**Communion Steward: Megan Knight**

**Ushers: Lyle Ranken, Gary kBrown, Jerry Lawrence, Bob Cheeseman**

**Greeters: December 4th & 11th - Jeff & Annette Cappel**

**December 18th & 25th - Bob & Kathy Becker**

**Flowers: Linda Meyer or Lynnette Lawrence**

**Church Hostess: Nancy Gittleson**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Children's Moment</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
<b>Dec. 4th</b>	<b>Kathy Clark</b>	<b>Help Needed</b>
<b>Dec. 11th</b>	<b>Pastor Al Meyer</b>	<b>Kathy &amp; Rhonda Brown</b>
<b>Dec. 18th</b>	<b>Kathy Becker</b>	<b>Tina Phipps &amp; Heather Lehnert</b>
<b>Dec. 25th</b>	<b>Lois Heimbaugh</b>	<b>Help Needed</b>



<u>Date</u>	<u>Snow or Lawn</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
<b>Dec. 4th</b>	<b>Bob Cheeseman</b>	<b>Justin &amp; Jane Rueff</b>	<b>Sue Bertenshaw</b>
<b>Dec. 11th</b>	<b>Help Needed</b>	<b>Nurture Committee</b>	<b>Rhonda Brown</b>
<b>Dec. 18th</b>	<b>Help Needed</b>	<b>Help Needed</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Dec. 25th</b>	<b>Help Needed</b>	<b>Help Needed</b>	<b>TBA</b>

**December Mission Project: Martin Keagy Fund**

**Bring Mission Offerings on the 4th Sunday ( December 25th )**

**Christmas Offering: Hope of Ogle County**

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## SAFE SANCTUARY

Rhonda Brown, Chair

**S** - Stop

**A** - Abuse

**F** - For

**E** - Everyone

**SAFE - a safe sanctuary forum at  
Reynolds United Methodist Church  
2496 Reynolds Road  
Ashton, IL 61006**

**Pastor Tim Filkins will speak about how the church can apply simple, biblical discipleship principles to empower survivors, transform abusers, and restore families.**

**JANUARY 21ST, 2012 - 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  
8:30 AM Check in. ( \$10.00 fee to help cover the cost of the meal and the material. For anyone needing a background check, they can pay an additional \$5.00 to UMCNIC to have it completed. )**

**Registration is due by January 6th, 2012.**

**Seating is limited, so please contact Reynolds UMC for a Registration form.**

Tim Filkins is the lead pastor for Risen Savior Bible Chapel, a non-denominational church in Frankfort, IL. He has served as both - a deacon and an elder - for over 17 years. Tim also has over 13 years of law enforcement experience. He has developed two Domestic Violence intervention training programs and regularly trains ministry leaders and police officers on domestic violence crisis intervention. Tim is chairman of the 12th Judicial Circuit Court's Family Violence Coordinating Council Faith Committee. For more information, please visit Tim's web-site: [www.Timfilkins.com](http://www.Timfilkins.com) or call (815) 823-6602.

## NURTURE COMMITTEE

Kathy Clark, Chair

The Nurture Committee met November 14th. Many positive comments have been shared about Cathy J. Reynolds and the Harvest Festival Program. We discussed a possible change for the time of Harvest Festival or changing to a different format.

The Nurture and Education committees are planning for the Children's Christmas program on December 11th and will coordinate refreshments. The committee will also be assisting with the Cluster Advent program on that day.

Goals for the coming year were prepared, and the committee is excited about these. One of the goals is to hopefully have more people involved in the social events. If anyone is interested in chairing or helping on a committee with some of the events, they would be very welcomed ! Please contact Kathy Clark or any of the other committee members. It is very rewarding and an opportunity to share in special time together.

## STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Frances Cappel, Chair

Meeting: November 14th, 2011 - 6:30 pm

Discussion was held on short and long term goals. One of the short term goals would be for the *Homebuilders, Free to Be & B.O.B.s* meet on a regular basis. The long term goals are listed in our Church Profile (Annual Church Conference form).

## TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

Met on Monday, November 7th.

Jeff Gray from Sterling Business Machines presented several options on different copier contracts. It was decided to stay with the current contract.

The committee accepted a bid from Boss Carpet to tile the East entryway.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 5th at 7:00 pm.

**REYNOLDSWOOD CAMP  
BRUNCH IN THE WOODS  
Second Sunday of Each month  
through May 2012.  
11:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Adults (11 & up) \$10.00  
Youth (4 - 10) \$5.00  
Three & Under - Free.**

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU:**

**NAME:** Peyton Michelle Bertenshaw  
**NICK NAME:** T.T.  
**BIRTHDAY:** 7/19/03  
**HOME TOWN:** Creston  
**PARENTS NAMES:** Bob & Sue Bertenshaw  
**SIBLINGS NAMES AND AGES:** Morgan-12, Lauren -5,  
& Mason-3.  
**SCHOOL AND GRADE:** Creston Elementary - 3rd Grade  
**FAVORITE SCHOL SUBJECT:** Math, SS  
**HOBBIES:** Drawing  
**FAVORITE FOOD:** Banana Bread w/nuts  
**FAVORITE PLACE TO 'EAT OUT':** Culvers  
**PETS:** Mya (dog) and Cup cake (cat)  
**FAVORITE TIME OF DAY:** 8:30 am  
**WHY:** School Starts  
**FAVORITE MOVIE:** Cars 2 and Flicka 2  
**FAVORITE ADULT IN YOUR LIFE:** Grandma Leila  
**WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO DO IN YOUR ADULT LIFE?**  
Be an inventor!

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU:**

**NAME:** Colton Craig Headon  
**NICK NAME:** ---  
**BIRTHDAY:** 8/13/02  
**HOME TOWN:** Shabbona  
**PARENTS:** Steve and Lisa Headon  
**SIBLINGS:** Alexandra 14 & Majastina 11  
**SCHOOL:** Shabbona Elementary School Third grade  
**FAVORITE SCHOOL SUBJECT:** Math  
**HOBBIES:** Soccer, basketball, football, baseball, skate-  
board  
**FAVORITE FOOD:** Corn dogs  
**FAVORITE PLACE TO 'EAT OUT':** China House  
**PETS:** 3 dogs: Cammie is the mom to Peach & Cubbie  
& 2 cats - Isabell and Oreos.  
**FAVORITE TIME OF DAY:** 4:00 pm  
**WHY:** I'm at home and play outside w/my sister or  
watch cartoons.  
**FAVORITE MOVIE:** Spiderman and Norbit  
**FAVORITE ADULT IN YOUR LIFE:** Daddy & Mommy  
**WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO DO IN YOUR ADULT LIFE?**  
Get married, have kids, be a professional soccer player.

Unity Hospice of Western Illinois is seeking volunteers who are willing to provide support and compassion to our patients and families. You can change the life of a patient by visiting, listening and being a friend. In doing so, you just might change your life too!

Join the many volunteers who already know the rewards of volunteering in hospice care.

If you are interested in being part of our Volunteer Staff, please contact Cheryl Johnson at: (815) 561-8866 or (866) 568-6489 (Toll free)

**FUZZY LOGIC**

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops . ON my desk, I have a work station . . . .

I don't have a solution, but I admire your problem.

OK., who stopped the payment on my reality check?

I believe the only time the world beats a path to my door is when I'm in the bathroom.

What WAS the best thing before sliced bread?

If it's zero degrees outside today and it's supposed to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold is it going to be?

Why do they call it the Department of interior when they are in charge of everything outdoors?

Why do we put suits in a garment bag and put garments in a suitcase?

(Adapted from 'Linking Hands')

There are no 'unimportant' people in the body of Christ!  
'Our Daily Bread' 10/16/2011

## SAFE SANCTUARY By Rhonda Brown

Some studies show that there is an increase of calls for domestic violence, child abuse, and elderly abuse during the holiday season. Part of those studies state it is due to the added stress because more family are around this time of year, and another part states it is because the victims feel safer to call because they have more family around during the holidays. However there are other studies which state that there is no difference in the number of calls or the severity of the calls. In any case I thought this would be a good time to give the warning signs and list the types of abuse.

### RED FLAGS OF ABUSE:

- Do you...
- Feel afraid of your partner most of the time?
- Feel that you can't do anything right?
- Get embarrassed by your partner's behavior toward you?
- Believe that you deserve to be hurt or mistreated?
- Avoid topics or situations out of fear of angering your partner?
  
- Does your partner...
- Humiliate, criticize, or yell at you?
- Blame you for his behavior?
- Threaten to hurt you?
- Threaten to take your kids away?
- Threaten to harm your kids or pets?
- Force you to have sex?
- Acts jealous and possessive?
- Keep you from seeing friends and family?
- Limit your access to money or necessities?
- Keep you from getting a job or going to school?
- Constantly check up on you?
- Threatens to kill himself or hurt himself if you leave?

### Does your friend or loved one...

- Have frequent injuries resulting from "accidents"?
- Frequently and suddenly miss work, school, or cancel plans?
- Receive frequent calls from a partner?
- Fear their partner, or refer to a partner's rages or behavior?
- Lack assertiveness or have submissive behavior?
- Isolate from friends and families?
- Have insufficient resources to live (money, credit cards, car)?

### Red Flags of Teen Dating Violence

#### For Friends...

- Their boyfriend calls them names or puts them down in front of others.
- Their boyfriend acts extremely jealous when they talk to friends of the opposite sex, even when it is completely innocent.
- Your friend often cancels plans at the last minute, for reasons that sound untrue.
- Your friend frequently apologizes for their boyfriend.
- Your friend's boyfriend is constantly checking up on them, calling or texting and demanding to know where they have been.
- You've seen the boyfriend lose his temper, maybe even get violent when they are mad.
- Your friend is giving up things that used to be important to them, such as spending time with friends or other activities, and is becoming more and more isolated.
- Your friend's weight, appearance, or grades have changed dramatically.
- Your friend has injuries they can't explain, or the explanations they give don't add up.

#### For Parents:

#### Does your child...

- Make changes in their daily rituals?
- Retreat from school or activities?
- Experience isolation from friends?
- Weight, appearance and grades have changed dramatically?
- Make changes in clothing?

- Wear clothing inappropriate for the weather in order to hide marks?
- Have visible marks or bruises?
- Spend excessive amounts of time with the person they're dating?
- Spend excessive amounts of time in contact with the person they are dating through cell phones and computers?

These are just some of the signs of an abusive relationship. If you are involved with a person and can answer yes to more than one of these red flags, then you are more than likely in an abusive relationship. If your partner is telling you what you can or can't do, what to wear, telling you who your friends can be, or constantly contacting you to check up on you, then you are in an abusive relationship. This behavior means the relationship is not a healthy and equal partnership. It is about your partner having power and control over you, and you having none of the power.

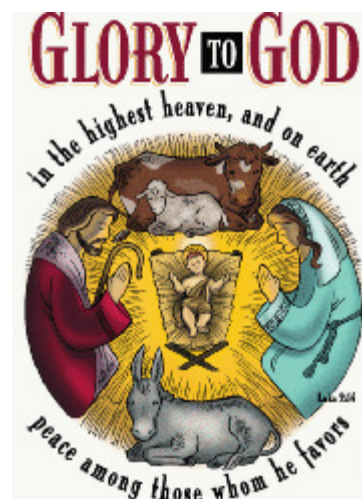
There are several types of abuse; 1) Emotional such as name calling, belittling, false accusations, and isolation; 2) Spiritual such as making fun of your faith or only allowing you to practice his faith; 3) Economic by not letting you work or taking all the money when you do work; 4) Legal by threatening to make false reports of abuse to the children or dragging the court case on to wear you down; 5) Psychological such as threatening to harm you, loved ones, children or pets. Or making you feel like you are going crazy; 6) Sexual abuse by refusing to take "no" for an answer or coerce you into unwanted sex; 7) Monitoring/Stalking by harassing you constantly or demands to know your whereabouts at all times; 8) Physical such as hitting, grabbing, shoving, kicking, spitting, restraining or strangling you. On a side note, it is not choking. Choking is when you get something, like food, stuck in your throat. Manual strangulation refers to strangling with the hands, fingers, or extremities. It is mostly done by men against women because it requires disparity in physical strength between the assailant and the victim. Strangulation can induce the loss of consciousness within 10 seconds and death within 4-5 minutes (taken from Ortnier-Unity website).

If you are someone using abusive behavior to have power and control over your partner, a child, or someone else in your life then it is time for you to stop. Take responsibility for your actions and stop blaming others for your behavior. There are programs designed to help abusers, and not an anger management class. It is about your wanting power and control not about you being angry. No one deserves to be abused. You know as well as I do, the other person could do everything perfect and you would still find an excuse to abuse them. Get right with God and get help before you hurt them again. You can change if you are willing to do whatever it takes to change.

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### Things to Ponder:

- Don't let the noise of the world keep you from hearing the voice of the Lord.
- Prayer is the best soil in which hope and healing grow best.
- No matter who your boss is, you are really working for GOD!
- The subjects of the Kingdom should display the manners of the Court.
- Where Jesus reigns, there is no fear,  
No restless doubt, No hopeless tears,  
No raging sea nor tempest dread,  
But quietness and calm instead.





Reynolds United Methodist Church  
2496 Reynolds Road  
Ashton, IL 61006  
(815) 453-2513

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 5th - Trustees Meeting**
- December 11th - Sunday School Children's Christmas Program**
- December 11 th - Hub Cluster Advent Service**
- December 12th - SPRC & Church Council**
- December 23rd - Christmas Eve Service**
- December 25th - Christmas Worship Service**