Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all thy heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.”

Let us allow Him to show us the Star of Bethlehem in our lives daily. You are loved and Merry Christmas!

*To Be Announced*
Also, we will gather on Christmas Eve to hear again the stories and the songs that we have heard so many times before now. It is an opportunity to step out of time and focus ourselves on the receiving of Jesus’ grace. Plan to be with us on this evening also.

May you spend this time of Advent, preparing your heart for the promised coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, so that on that great Day when He returns, you may stand before the Son of Man through the strength of God’s grace and love. Don’t let the busyness of the world and the pressure of other people’s expectations take away your blessing.

Shalom,

Pastor Tony

Come one Come all to THE NEXT NOEL Christmas Musical joyfully presented to you by the children and youth of SCUMC on Sunday, December 13, at 5 PM in the Family Life Center. OPTIONAL Admission is the request of a canned protein source for Our Daily Bread. We hope to see you there!

THE NEXT MEXICO MEDICAL MISSION TRIP is scheduled for Saturday, April 2 - Sunday, April 10, 2016. The opportunity to serve the Mexican people is a rewarding experience. A team will form to travel to two villages - Ixtepec and Tatoxoc. The team has gone to the area for many years and feel very safe there. Doctors, nurses, interpreters, and people who are willing to serve are needed. Team leaders are Frank Snyder (pharmacist), Rev. Ramon Torres, Dr. Paul Brown (physician), Angela Bowker (treasurer), and Anna Kapoor (data management). Contact Frank or Vickie Snyder (423-365-7502) or stop by the church office for an application.

Due to limited space, names are removed the first of each month if the church office (365-6324) is not notified.

THE LAMPLIGHTER
Newsletter of the
SPRING CITY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
December 2015

Tony’s Tales

Dear Friends,

Well, the time for Advent and Christmas is here again. Once again, we hear the familiar story of God’s Amazing grace. Added to this is the longed-for return of our Messiah to bring reconciliation to the entire world. What a promise this is! And what a time to remember it. It seems that the world has rarely had a better time for divine intervention than right now.

In the midst of this time of the year, the world is surrounding us with the seductive messages of a secular Christmas theme. Sometimes this message is soothing and comfortable. Sometimes it shouts at us about what could change our way of life if we purchase a particular project or service.

In the church, we have planned times of study and worship. The scripture texts for this time of year in the church are not sweet or comforting. Luke 21:36 says, "Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Jesus challenges us to live as a witness to the world that God’s grace is more powerful than the darkness that is found in the souls of the people of this world. His grace can transform our lives and make us strong.

I hope you will participate in the Advent study which we are having on Wednesday nights. The dates are December 2, 9, and 16 from 6 pm to 7:30. We have a meal together, watch a message on video from Adam Hamilton and meet in small groups to discuss what we have learned about the significance of the birth of our Lord, Jesus. If you have not come to the first two Advent studies, it is fine. You can join a group and be welcomed and blessed.
MONTHLY REPORT GIVING & MONEY DISBURSED

OCTOBER 2015

INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT PERIOD</th>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
<th>ANNUAL BUDGET</th>
<th>ANNUAL BUDGET PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>25,426.40</td>
<td>261,053.94</td>
<td>354,021.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s Day Out</td>
<td>2,595.00</td>
<td>21,450.00</td>
<td>24,330.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>182.86</td>
<td>1,203.01</td>
<td>1,100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME/GROSS PROFIT</strong></td>
<td><strong>28,204.26</strong></td>
<td><strong>283,706.95</strong></td>
<td><strong>379,451.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXPENSES

| Salaries & Benefits | 17,366.74 | 181,194.86 | 234,552.00 | 77.3% |
| Property Maintenance| 1,048.98  | 42,345.81  | 47,030.00  | 90.0% |
| Office Administration | 464.03   | 9,185.67   | 10,800.00  | 85.1% |
| Nurture & Music    | 299.02    | 2,051.25   | 2,800.00   | 73.3% |
| Witness            | 152.63    | 747.53     | 2,650.00   | 28.2% |
| Outreach - Missions| 140.49    | 910.73     | 1,950.00   | 46.7% |
| Conference/District| 2,560.93  | 32,782.70  | 42,069.00  | 77.9% |
| Church Support     | 313.28    | 5,189.96   | 7,200.00   | 72.1% |
| Children’s Ministries| 1,490.80  | 3,929.59   | 2,800.00   | 136.9% |
| Adult Ministries   | 486.61    | 797.21     | 1,800.00   | 44.3% |
| Youth Ministries   | 1,400.00  | 1,400.00   | 100.0%     |
| MDO Expenses       | 2,637.14  | 21,991.12  | 24,330.00  | 90.4% |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES**  | **26,960.65** | **302,526.43** | **379,451.00** | **79.7%** |

**NET INCOME** | 1,243.61 | -18,819.48 | 0.00 | 100.0%

FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>11/1</th>
<th>11/8</th>
<th>11/15</th>
<th>11/22</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Budget</td>
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<td>5,876.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial</td>
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<td>183.00</td>
<td>4,201.96</td>
<td>1,305.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>10,617.23</td>
<td>8,279.00</td>
<td>9,149.00</td>
<td>5,624.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| SS ATTENDANCE | 66 | 57 | 48 | 52 |
| WORSHIP ATTENDANCE | 163 | 147 | 145 | 153 |

Bill & Caren Ruffner gave to the Memorial Fund in memory of Don Herhold and Veronica Barger Greene.
Don & Gwen Reeves gave to the Memorial Fund in memory of Don Herhold.
Joe & Theresa Lisa gave to the Trustees’ Renovation Fund in memory of Carolyn Hesselbach, Don Herhold, and Edna McCuistion.
Virginia Bond gave to the Trustees’ Renovation Fund in memory of Veronica Barger Greene.
Jesse & Nina Gibbs gave to the Trustees’ Renovation Fund in memory of Edna McCuistion.
Joel & Betty Barnes gave to the Trustees’ Renovation Fund in memory of all church members & friends who passed away in 2015.
Silas & Linda Booker gave to the Music Memorial Fund in memory of Don Herhold and Carolyn Hesselbach.
Jim & Karen Bible and Gary & Belinda McCampbell gave to the Trustees’ Renovation Fund in memory of Veronica Barger Greene.
Ralph & Beth Rood gave to the Air Conditioning Fund in memory of Carolyn Hesselbach.

I have the most wonderful church family. Thanks for all the concerns and well wishes that I received. My living room is covered in beautiful cards. Thanks Pastor Tony for the phone prayers and others that called every day to lift my spirits.

My U.M.W. angels arrived just in time with a big food tray. They know I had not been to the store in a week. My prayer shawl gives me comfort because of the skill and love that went into every stitch. I even let Fred and Donna boss me around (just a little bit). Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to recover. - With Love, Linda Mullins

THANK YOU: Many thanks for your prayers and words of encouragement. It was a long spring and summer, but with the exception of a couple of stroke related issues. I’m about back to normal, whatever normal is for an eighty-one year-old tired soldier.

- Chuck McIlwain

Patty Crowder opened the November meeting of Let’s Do Lunch (LDL) with devotions. She also asked the blessing on the delicious meal prepared by Cookie Smith. After the meal, the guest speaker, Denise Lavender, gave an inspiring talk on her life and service in the mission field. Other welcomed guests were Gigi, Sylvia Capps, and Robbie Higginbotham.

A big THANK YOU to Caren Ruffner for the lovely fall decorations. We are so appreciative of Caren’s creative talent.

The next LDL for ladies, 60 and up, is Tuesday, December 15th, at noon, in the Family Life Center, with the quartet, In One Accord, making the season bright with their festive Christmas music.

Denise Lavender Speaks at Let’s Do Lunch
PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY
November 18th

THANK YOU to everyone who donated peanut butter this year for Our Daily Bread to help those in need in our community. You gave a total of 257 jars, plus a cash donation. May God bless each of you who gave so generously!

YOUTH FLEA MARKET on Saturday, November 14th, was a huge success. A total of over three thousand dollars was garnered from the sale and will be added to the Youth Fund. Thank you to everyone who donated items to be sold, helped with the setup and clean up, and volunteered your time to help in any area as needed. Susan and the Youth are very grateful for such a successful sale.

The children at Mother’s Day Out (MDO) dressed in costumes ranging from Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz to Spiderman and others for their Harvest Party on Thursday, October 29, in the Fellowship Hall. Parents, grandparents, and teachers also shared in the fun, and everyone enjoyed the delicious refreshments that were served by the teachers.

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one for the Season of Advent (Nov. 29 - Dec. 24), please purchase your poinsettia and place it in the sanctuary no later than December 20th. Please complete the form below and submit it to the church office no later than Monday, December 14. This form will be used for a special bulletin insert.

In Memory of __________________________________________
In Honor of ____________________________________________
Given by ______________________________________________

The Toys for Children Campaign for the North End of Rhea County is now underway with applications available at City Hall or Volunteer Energy Cooperative. Please take new unwrapped toys to Cash Express and cash donations to First Bank (ask for Starlyn Matthews). For more information, contact Helen Kincannon at 365-0197.

It’s that time of year again and the Kiwanis Club has begun to plan for another year of helping our community in their time of need. We began receiving requests for applications in July, and it appears this year will be another 200 basket delivery. Your donations will help to provide food to our needy and is greatly appreciated.

There are 5 Sessions for Advent Study of Not a Silent Night by Adam Hamilton on Wednesdays in the Family Life Center. A meal is served weekly at 6 p.m., prior to the study. Photos on the left are from the first Advent meal on Wed., Nov. 11th. The dates of the Advent study and meals are Nov. 11, 18; Dec. 2, 9, and 16. The cost of the meals is $8 per person with a family maximum of $25.
On Sunday, November 1, we celebrated All Saints’ Day and remembered the saints in our church who had gone to be with the Lord since November 2014: Lou Ellen Nixon, Elsie Robbins, Martha Snider, Betsy Henley, Jeanné DeCroce, Ed Logsdon, Becky Madans, Irene Henley, Lenny Winterberger, Earl Robbins, Ray Eldridge, Virginia Hale, Bill Lavender, Betty Ann Huling, Pete Weiss, and Don Herhold.

Featured below: Pastor Tony breaking bread for communion by intinction, guest organist, Lynn Hinkle, several young ladies listening to Pastor Tony’s children’s message, Rachel Heimel serving as acolyte, and Bob Larson collecting the morning offering.

You are cordially invited to a Bridal Tea honoring
Benjamin Wesley Ross and
Davinity Lynn Tallent
(Granddaughter of Ronnie & Judith Barger)

Sunday, December 20th
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Spring City United Methodist Family Life Center

Registered at
Bed Bath & Beyond and Target

New member, Janet Louise Lord, is featured with Pastor Tony when she united with Spring City United Methodist Church on Sunday, November 15, 2015, at the 11 a.m. worship service.

Janet joined on transfer from the church she belonged to in Canada.

We are happy and very blessed to have Janet join our church family!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
“One Silent Night”
A Christmas Ballad of Love and Joy
11:00 a.m., December 20, 2015
Sanctuary of Spring City United Methodist Church
presented by the
Chancel Choir
Judy Ezell, Director

ALL SAINTS’ DAY On Sunday, November 1, we celebrated All Saints’ Day and remembered the saints in our church who had gone to be with the Lord since November 2014: Lou Ellen Nixon, Elsie Robbins, Martha Snider, Betsy Henley, Jeanné DeCroce, Ed Logsdon, Becky Madans, Irene Henley, Lenny Winterberger, Earl Robbins, Ray Eldridge, Virginia Hale, Bill Lavender, Betty Ann Huling, Pete Weiss, and Don Herhold.

Featured below: Pastor Tony breaking bread for communion by intinction, guest organist, Lynn Hinkle, several young ladies listening to Pastor Tony’s children’s message, Rachel Heimel serving as acolyte, and Bob Larson collecting the morning offering.
A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way with this year’s Fall Festival. Five hundred and ninety-eight adults and children participated in this annual event, which began at 5:30 p.m., Sat., Oct. 31, in the Family Life Center. Trunk ‘n Treat followed in the parking lot at 7:30 p.m.

A large congregation gathered to hear Dr. Eddie Fox, the guest speaker at the Homecoming worship service on October 25th. His wife, Mary Nell, was also a welcomed guest. Rachel Miller and Kaitlyn Couch performed a liturgical dance, special music was provided by a friend of the Collins’ family, Tammy Cox, and a delicious covered dish lunch followed the service. In One Accord quartet sang several selections during the meal. Good fellowship was enjoyed by all. Our 2015 Homecoming Sunday was a memorable day in the life of our church!