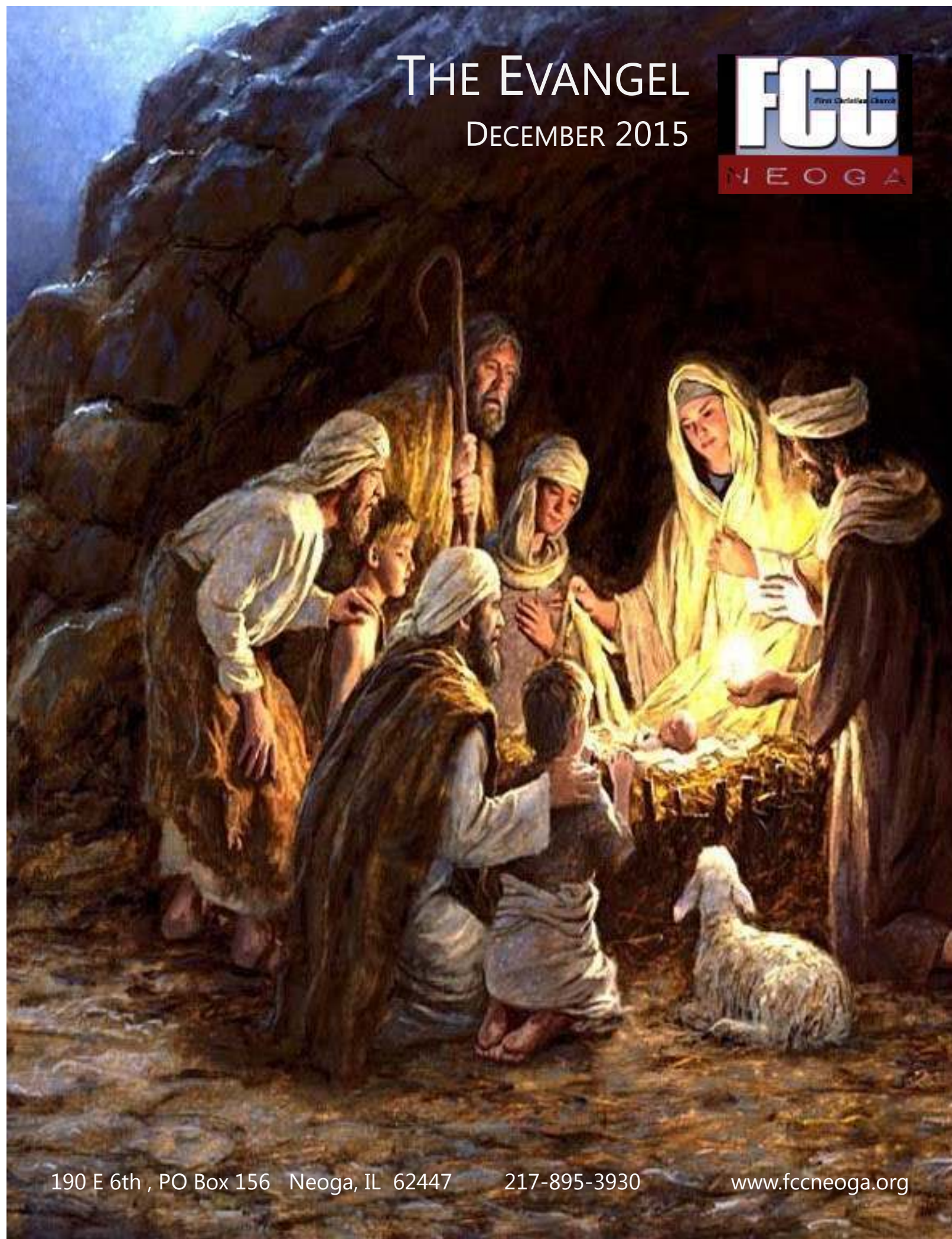


# THE EVANGEL

DECEMBER 2015



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[www.fccneoga.org](http://www.fccneoga.org)





## ***Personal Revival, excerpt from "When God Shows Up" by David Butts.***

Like a mighty wave rolling across the church around the world comes the cry from millions of believers: "Oh God, send a revival!" Like no time in recent history, the church is becoming aware of its own desperate condition and the even more critical need of our culture. It is reassuring to know that for once, the church is not looking to another program or strategy to try to change the world. We're recognizing that it is going to take heaven-sent revival. Taking our cue from past revivals, Christians are praying for God to move in significant new ways in the church. It is these praying Christians who will experience in their own lives the first fruit of revival.

What is it we are praying for when we ask God to send revival? To fully answer that question would require a book, and even then perhaps it would be inadequate. Christian scholars are continuously debating the nature of revival. But, praise God, though we disagree on its nature, there is near unanimity on our desperate need for it. Yet Sunday after Sunday in the majority of churches, we go through the motions without a real awareness of Jesus actually being there with us. In revival, there is an awakening to His presence. Biblical truths that had perhaps grown stale are suddenly infused with new life. The love and life of Jesus are lived out in fresh new ways as the church gathers.

This same experience ought to mark the life of the individual Christian as we begin to experience revival personally. Colossians 1:27 says, "Christ in us, the hope of glory." Is there a more astonishing verse in Scripture - that the Son of God has actually come to take up residence within the individual Christian? Yet we often view such a verse as dry biblical truth. It somehow fails to excite or thrill the soul. Even more telling, it fails to change the way we live.

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### **CURRENT (3 WEEKS):**

Family of Lester Burton  
Josh Kiest— going to Kuwait  
Shania—(*friend of Kellee B*)  
health issues  
Connie (David) Carpenter—  
heart surgery recovery  
Nicole & Christian McDonald—  
have conjoined twins  
Alicia Myers—life struggles  
Rita Stewart—  
knee surgery recovery  
Bob Thomas—surgery recovery &  
kidney issue  
Char Wasson—broken back  
(Wilma Kingery's daughter)

### **ONGOING CONCERNS:**

Harold & Marge Hall  
Joann Hood— knee recovery  
Marilyn Walk— shoulder recovery  
Mexico trip  
4/14

### **FIGHTING CANCER:**

Sam Bean  
Ann Conn  
Mel Hood  
Dan Letizia  
Denny Mefford  
Brad Odum  
Dave Sudkamp  
Bob Thomas

### **IN CARE FACILITIES:**

Ivan Cooper—Heartland  
Carolyn Gast—Cumberland Co  
Elsie Phillips—Heartland

### **IN THE MILITARY:**

Tyler Briggerman—Navy  
Shane Gephardt  
Wes Letizia—Air Force  
Alicia & Steve Tordoff—  
Army Reserve

### **FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH:**

#### Ministries:

Elders & Deacons  
Children's  
Youth  
College / Young Adult  
Seniors  
Praise / Tech Team  
Community Clothesline  
Small Groups  
Sunday School  
Benevolence  
Outreach

#### Missions Team & Missions:

Neoga Community Food Pantry  
Heartland Christian Village  
Oblong Christian Children's Home  
Christian Campus House,  
Oil Belt Christian Service Camp  
International Missions:  
Ryan & Melinda Hicks  
December: Convoy of Hope

## mission spotlight

# CONVOY OF HOPE



*"If you can't feed a hundred, then just feed one." – Mother Teresa*

Convoy of Hope was founded by Hal Donaldson and his siblings in response to a question from Mother Teresa. When she asked him, "What are you doing to help the poor?", he had nothing to say. From a truckload donation of food in the Watts district of Los Angeles, Convoy of Hope has grown to a worldwide mission organization specializing in international disaster relief, assisting rural communities in the United States, and providing food to children through their Feed One Initiative. Currently children in Tanzania, South Africa, Philippines, Nicaragua, Honduras, Kenya, Haiti, Guatemala, Ethiopia, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic participate in this program. Food is the doorway to providing a child with an education, a healthier living environment, clean water and an opportunity for a better life. While more than 126,000 children in 11 countries are being fed and cared for, tens of thousands more children are on the waiting list. Just \$10 per month, the cost of a pizza, a movie ticket or a quick lunch, feeds one child for 30 days. This means that 10 children will be fed for a month because of the gift given by First Christian Church. To learn more about this mission or donate online, visit their website at [www.convoyofhope.org](http://www.convoyofhope.org).

Monetary gifts can also be mailed to:

Convoy of Hope, PO Box 219368, Kansas City, MO 64121

## Wee Worship

At this holiday season, I just want to pause and thank everyone in the church who volunteers or fills a need inside or outside the church. When I took a lay speaking class years ago, I learned I had a heart for the children's ministry, but everyone in the class had a different calling: some to elderly ministries, some to cooking a meal for a new family in the community, some to leadership in the church, and some (eventually) to ministry.

Wee Worship will continue to have Bible stories each week in 2016. Please pray for all involved that we may lead some of our youngest to a deeper love with Jesus Christ. May they see that He is their very, very best friend. He is always there for them and loves them.

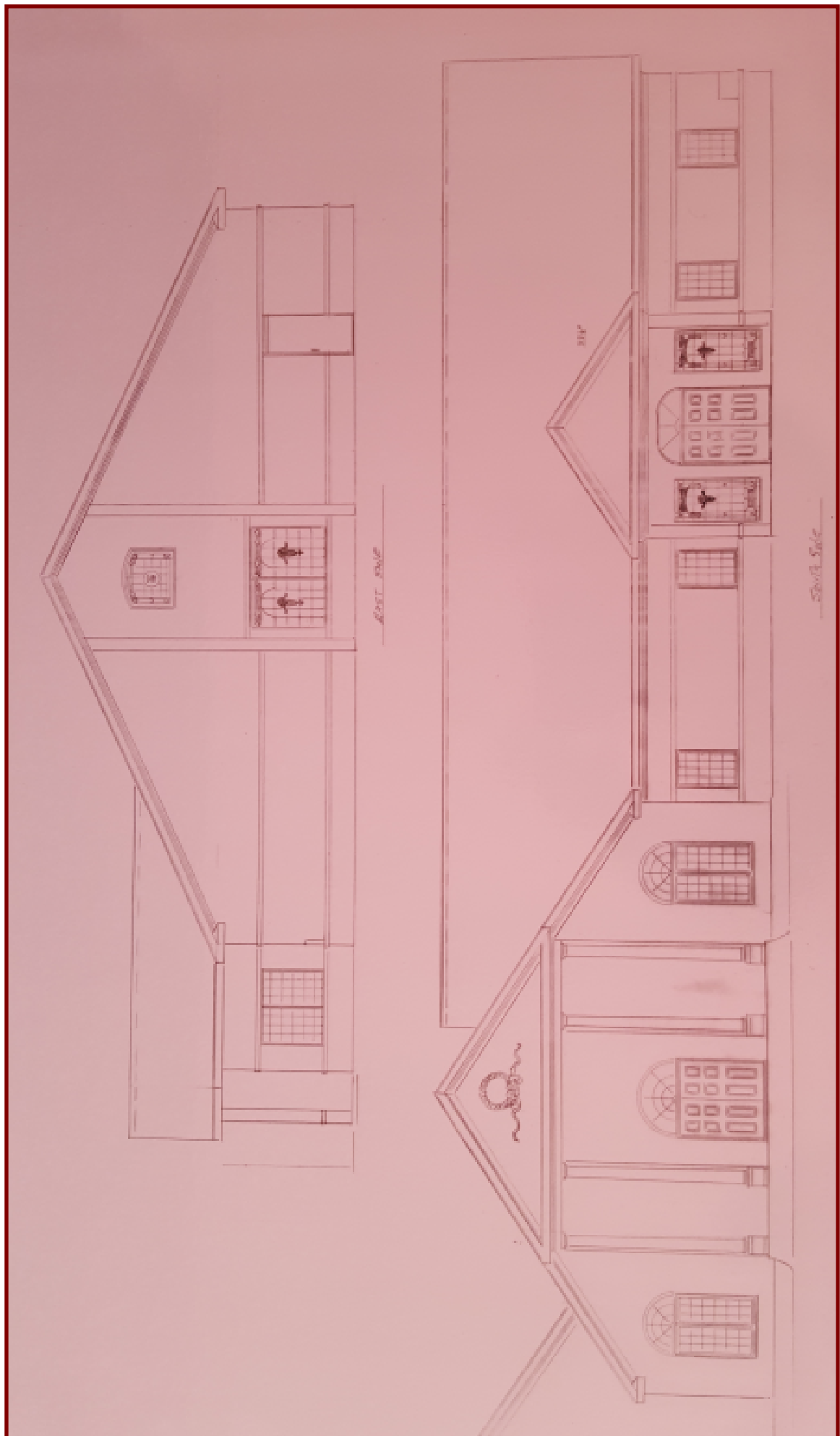
As we enter 2016, there are many areas to minister. Please pray about your possible contribution to Neoga FCC (time, energy, financial, or prayer). May God bless you in the new year.

Paula

[illegible]


On **Sunday, December 6th**, after church services are dismissed, we are going to have a **congregational meeting** to discuss the status of the old church building and the proposed replacement addition being pursued. The drawing for the proposed new addition is included in the Evangel. We have a rough estimate from Stoltzfus on the cost for the new addition excluding the cost for demolition. The estimated cost that was given was too high to consider. Hopefully, by the time of the meeting we will have an idea on demolition costs as well.

In order to get a firm quote from Stoltzfus on the proposed addition we need to invest roughly \$16,000 in an architectural drawing. However, before making this investment, it is important that the congregation is unified in the plans and expressly agrees to support the removal of the old building and the new addition. The elders, financial board, and facilities planning team would like every person in the congregation working together in prayerfully, emotionally, and financially supporting the plan. During the congregational meeting it is hoped that any reservations or concerns will be expressed and addressed so that we can move forward with unanimous support. Prayerfully, we are able to communicate well and get to a position where everyone is in favor with moving forward.





# 4/14 News

- \* Thank you all who helped out with the Fall Festival Fundraiser, the kids had a great time smashing the Caddy, to be honest, so did the adults. All the money raised will go to help kids go to CIY next year.
  - \* December 16<sup>th</sup> is the 4/14 Birthday Party for Jesus
  - \* No 4/14 on December 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>
  - \* 4/14 will resume January 6th 2016
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To all who don't really know, I love Christmas. I love everything about it; I love the music, the cold, the snow, the music, the food, the joy on people's faces, the music, and let's be honest the gifts. But you know, the thing I enjoy the most (no it's not the music, but that is really close) is the chance to celebrate God's gift to us in the form of a humble baby born in a manger.

If I am really honest with you, I love all celebrations, but Christmas holds a special place for us. God created this world perfectly; there were no mistakes or flaws in his design. You will never find a recall or some minor defect with one of God's creations. This was described in Genesis. That He would come in the cool of the day to take a walk with His most favorite creation, us. Can you imagine what that would have been like? "Hey God, why did you make the giraffe so funny looking? Why do bees buzz? What makes a sunset so pretty? Why does broccoli taste so bad?" To be able to walk and talk with our God and Creator is something I am really looking forward to in Heaven, I have a lot of questions. Then sin happens. We question God and try to make ourselves His equal. (This thought is truly the worst idea EVER!!)

Out of this God tells us that there will be consequences for our actions, the penalty for sin is death. Another penalty is that we are now separated from God, along with those long walks in the cool of the day. God puts a flaming sword and cherubim to guard the Garden. (You know, I never really picture cherubim as security guards, they always look so nice in my Precious Moments Picture Bible.) What follows is a history of mankind being separated from God. When the temple is built, we have to put a curtain up to separate our section from God's section. God, in His holiness, can't tolerate to be around our sin, but thankfully that isn't the end of the story.

In Genesis 3 God gives us a glimpse of hope, a sneak peek into His plan to restore us. God tells Satan in verse 15 "He will strike your head and you will strike his heel." There it is right there Satan you think you are going to win. You are going to hurt him, you are going to strike him on the heel, thinking that you have dealt him a death blow, but he will strike your head. Which would you rather have a strike on, the head or the heel? For the next 4000 years mankind waited, prophets spoke, kings reined, nations fought, and they all waited. Then a star appears.

Why do I love Christmas so much? After 4000 years God sent the "Head Striker" to restore us to Him. After 4000 years of waiting God came to live among us. Why wouldn't you want to celebrate that? The only thing better than Christmas day is the day Jesus rose from the dead and conquered death once and for all, tearing the curtain that separated us from God.

So the next time you sing "Joy to the World," think about the words you are singing. Sing from the heart and exalt our Lord and Savior.

-Matt Davis





# December 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Volunteers at Heartland 6:30pm Men's Group	<b>2</b> 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:15pm 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14 8:30pm College Small Group Winter Huffman	<b>3</b> 1-7:30pm Community Clothesline 5-6:30pm Community Meal 6-7pm Neoga Food Pantry	<b>4</b> Paci McClure	<b>5</b> Gustin Bauguss Paul Lake
<b>6</b> <b>CONGREGATIONAL MTG</b> 6pm Ladies' Bible Study  Wilma Kingery	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Men's Group  Brianna Dow	<b>9</b> 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:15pm 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14 8:30pm College Small Group	<b>10</b> 9:45 am— about 1:30pm Seniors To Cross & Ryan's Effingham Jim Baker Randy Rennels Barb Wier	<b>11</b> George Brazelton	<b>12</b> 8am-Noon Bell Ringing  7pm Neoga Community Cantata
<b>13</b> After Worship: Prayer mtg Financial Board  4pm Neoga Community Cantata	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Men's Fellowship at Bartlett's  Tom Tomlinson	<b>16</b> 5:15pm 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14— Birthday Party 8:30pm College Small Group	<b>17</b> 1-5pm Community Clothesline	<b>18</b> 2-7pm: Fleece and Thank You workshop @ Outreach Center	<b>19</b> Mel & Andrea Workman
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (Children's Special) Terry Miller	<b>25</b> <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>26</b> Leota Figgins Bill & Leota Figgins Harry & Judy Starwalt
<b>27</b> <b>BUILDING FUND SUNDAY</b> 5pm Prayer	<b>28</b> Mike & Doris Goodson	<b>29</b> 8am Seniors' Breakfast at Depot Betty Kenworthy	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> John & Dayla Gentry		



## Neoga Community Food Pantry

48 Families, 152 People served  
4 Deliveries  
14 Volunteers, 32 1/4 Volunteer hours

More volunteers are needed the first Tuesday of each Month at FCC day at Heartland Christian Village.  
Contact person: Sheri Coen.

## Fleece and Thank you Event

**Fleece & Thank You** believes every child deserves a light in a dark time. Our mission is to ensure a colorful fleece blanket is waiting on the hospital bed for every child beginning their extended stay treatments.

**FCC will host a “fleece fundraising” workshop event on 12/18.** At the event, everyone brings 2 yards each of 2 different fleeces, usually one solid and one with a pattern. Blankets are made at the event and short video clips of encouragement are recorded for the child receiving the blanket. Please make plans to attend and enjoy a time of fellowship and fun. See their website for more details. <http://fleeceandthankyou.org>

## Bell ringing to support the Community Resource Group (community benevolence)

This December the ministerial alliance is supporting the bell ringing fund raiser again. We will have a bell ringer on the corner of the 6th and 45 outside of the pharmacy on Friday and Saturday (12/11-12/12 and 12/18-12/19). Friday will be from 5pm to 8pm and Saturday will be from 8am to noon. **FCC will do the bell ringing on Saturday 12/12.** A sign up sheet will be at the welcome center.

## Heart Christian Village Auxiliary

October Bakeless Sale update:

Total raised: \$2,688.00

FCC: \$320.00

The funds from the Bakeless Sale and Circle of Friends campaign were used to purchase::

- Bed vanities with drawers for each room
- New lamps for entire nursing home
- Added to nativity scene in court yard
- Financed Christmas party
- Large Christmas sign that will be displayed in the front entry at Heartland





## Ladies' Bible Study

"Control" is the focus for our last session of the SEED study with Priscilla Shirer. We will conclude our fall study the week of Dec. 6.

**Breathe**--Making Room for Sabbath with Priscilla Shirer begins the week of January 10. With a jam-packed life, what's missing is space--space for God to speak, room for you to hear. It's time for us to breathe and build margin into our lives for God. Join us in this study and discover Sabbath margin--the boundary God enables us to put around things we enjoy so that we never become slaves again.

## Seniors' Ministry: A Visit at The Cross

Thursday December 10, 2015 seniors will meet at FCC at 9:45 a.m., board the Van, and journey to Effingham, to visit the Cross. While at the Cross we will see the video, view many Nativity Sets that will be on display and participate in a worship service in the Chapel. While there is no entry fee, a donation of \$4.00 or more would be appreciated. Following the visit at the Cross, we will treat ourselves to lunch at Ryan's. We anticipate returning to Neoga by 1:30pm.

Do you remember the story of Jesus and the feeding of the 5,000? That is what the November Community meal was like. What an awesome testimony to the work that God is doing on the first Thursday of each month. We prepared for about 130 people for the November meal and guessed that our numbers could be higher. Up until this point we have been averaging about 100 people per meal. At one point during the meal we looked out into the cafeteria and there was not an empty seat. We realized by the end of the evening that we had served about 175 people. God provided through it all. Like the story of the feeding of the 5,000, we even had extra that we froze and will use in December for our next meal.

The Presbyterian, Free Methodist, and Grace United Methodist churches joined in the efforts of this meal. Volunteers from all churches came to help prepare and serve the meal. The cafeteria was beautifully decorated. Once the meal was being served, Madison Dailey from the Eastern Illinois Foodbank had made a surprise visit that night. She sent an email that she stated, "Wow! I just left the pantry. It looks great. The community atmosphere is perfect. Very impressive. Thanks for everything you all do! I wish I could tell the world what a great community collaboration you all have going on." Preparing, serving and eating the meals together has brought unity among Christ's followers in Neoga.

On December 3rd, we will be serving ham and noodles. Please consider joining us in a time of food and fellowship. If you cannot make it for the meal, please pray that this community will continue to work together in glorifying God.

*"I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;  
I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done.  
I will be filled with joy because of you.  
I will sing praises to your name, O Most High."  
Psalm 9:1,2*

# Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

6:30 pm

Thursday, December 24

## December Volunteers...

	Video	Audio	Greeters	Children's Ministry	Communion	Servers
6	Zach	Aubrey	Marian Lindley	<u>Nursery</u> : Cathy & Mahayla Oakley <u>Wee Worship</u> : Sheri Coen, Andrea Workman <u>K-5th</u> : Joni McClure	Paul Lake Doug Moore Monte Page Tom Tomlinson	Harry Starwalt Noah Workman Art Walk Chad Walk
13	Zach	Aubrey	Fontella Waddell	<u>Nursery</u> : Joann Miller, Pam Storm <u>Wee Worship</u> : Louella Drum, Katie Hakman <u>K-5th</u> : Joni McClure	Alan Baker Doug Baker Barry Conn Don Coen	Dave Coen Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy Noah Workman
20	Matt	Tom	Tom & Cathy Tomlinson	<u>Nursery</u> : John & Reeni Letizia <u>Wee Worship</u> : Cheryll Gilbert, Penny Hess <u>K-5th</u> : Joni McClure	Paul Lake Zach Letizia Doug Moore Monte Page	Harry Starwalt Tom Tomlinson Art Walk Chad Walk
27	Matt	Tom	Wilma Burton	<u>Nursery</u> : Judy Starwalt, Linda Baker <u>Wee Worship</u> : Rory & Paula Gentry <u>K-5</u> : Joni McClure	Alan Baker Doug Baker Barry Conn Don Coen	Dave Coen Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy Zach Letizia

