



The Branch

Volume 23 Issue 12

December 2010

A TIME TO...

Sunday, November 14, 2010, Bishop Nate Yoder visited LBIC and read Pastor Jim's retirement letter at both worship services. The letter stressed that the Pastor notes that is the "right time" for him to retire and to move on to the next season of life. The letter also stated that Pastor Jim would complete his tenure in late June 2011.

November 2010 has been a memorable month for LBIC with the announcement of retirement by our two longest serving leaders. In his message, Bishop Nate stressed the importance of "Discovering What Jesus Knows" using the text from John 6:1-15. He encouraged LBIC, as we go through the pastoral transition, to demonstrate the faith of Andrew and the little boy who presented 2 fish and 4 loaves of bread to Jesus to feed 5000 people. Bishop Nate also encouraged us to hold on to the memories of how God has worked among us for the past 22 years and trust that God wants to act with His agenda. *Bill Ziegler*

A TIME TO TRANSITION

Martha Starr has served God through LBIC for 24 years, and the void that Martha leaves will be difficult to fill. As a result, the Church Board of Directors requested that available Christian Education Commission members and Children's Leadership Team members meet and determine how to proceed with Christian Education ministries following Martha's departure in late December. As a result of that meeting, and a subsequent CEC meeting, plans are being made whereby current ministries will continue. Those ministries that Martha personally led will continue with volunteers from those specific ministries who will assume leadership.

Bill Ziegler

CELEBRATING GOD'S GRACE CAMPAIGN

Pledges are in and the amount pledged is \$290,000 for the next three-year period. Many who pledged are giving sacrificially in addition to their regular 10% tithing each week to the regular operating budget!

The Finance Commission wants to thank each donor who completed a pledge card. To God be the glory for this outstanding gift to God!

RECOGNITION / RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP FOR MARTHA STARR

After 22 years of Christian Education ministry at LBIC, Martha Starr is retiring. The freedom of retirement will allow Martha to pursue many of the activities that the steady demands of her position have prevented. LBIC is grateful for Martha's continued dedication and effort. A drop-in reception for Martha will be held on Sunday, December 19 from 4 to 6 pm. at the church. Light refreshments will be served. Cash contributions will be accepted and a money tree will be displayed with all donations presented to Martha and Charlie at the 5 pm ceremony. Forward your cash donations to Shandi Tosten Santos by Sunday, December 12.

Bill Ziegler



In This Issue

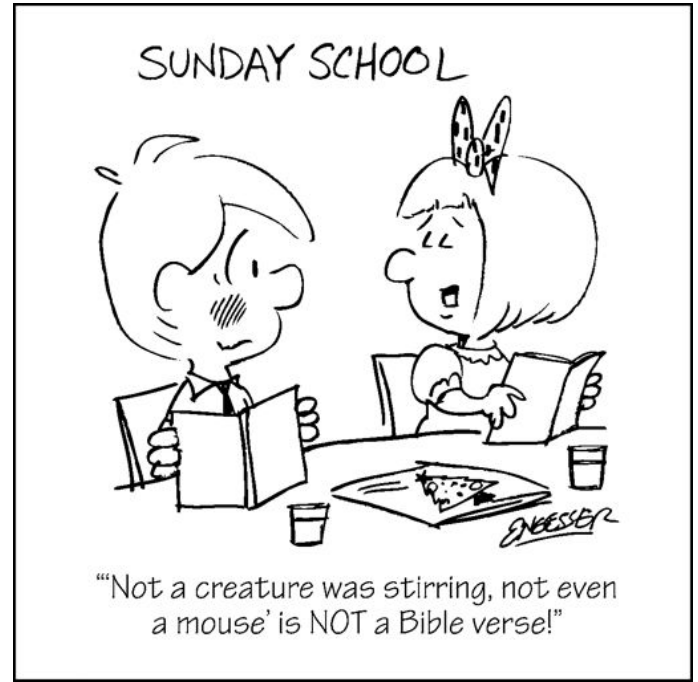
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PASTOR'S CORNER

“We ought always to pray,” Jesus says (Luke 18:1). Would I say too much if I said the Church is the world’s priest? Creation is dumb, should we not cry out for it? Human beings who do not know, or care that they do not know, need someone to intercede. Our children need lifting. Will you lift? The weak need strength, the suffering, peace and hope. Will you bring them before your Heavenly Father? The world is in critical care and life support isn’t working, can you help? There is never a shortage of people and events that need prayer, maybe that’s why Jesus said, “We ought always to pray.”

Pastor Jim

CARTOON



DECEMBER SERMON SCHEDULE

- 5 What the World Forgets
Luke 17
- 12 Gospel Wonder
Luke 1
- 19 Christmas
- 26 Assessment



THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE - reflections

Thanksgiving Day began as many celebrated the day with their church family at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary. We praised God for his goodness to us, enjoying music led by Nicole Siegel, meditations by Kim Ernst and with participants sharing their gratitude for what God has done throughout the year.

Bill Ziegler

OUR MISSION

We strive to be:

- A community where people meet Christ;
- A family where people encourage one another in Christ;
- A school where people become Disciples of Christ.



MONTHLY PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray & offer praise for:

- **The Good News Club** at Bucher Elementary school. We began our club on October 21 with 17 children and last week we had 25! Regular invitations for children to accept Jesus as their Savior are provided.
- **Pray that our Church Budget** will end the year with a positive balance.
- **Continue to pray for the items of church-wide concern:**
It is with heavy hearts that we grieve the loss of our dear brother, Lynn Myers, who went home to be with the Lord about noon on Thursday, November 11. Lynn fought a very courageous battle with ALS; his strong faith was evident daily in this long journey. While Lynn now is at peace and in freedom from disease, we stand with his dear wife, Amy, and their 5 children, Abby, Micah, Anna, Amoriah, and Josiah as they grieve the loss of Lynn's physical life here on earth.

Please pray for strength, comfort and peace. Lynn and Amy Myers and their 5 children are former BICWM missionaries to Thailand.



SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD AT LBIC



This Christmas, LBIC will go “green” again when members share their Christmas card with the entire church family by posting it on the narthex bulletin board. Simply bring your card and post it with your special greeting written inside. Everyone will enjoy looking through the various cards and greetings.

Oh, will you save \$ doing this? Opportunities to contribute to God's work are provided each Sunday!

Bill Ziegler

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

This is a reminder that each Christmas the church has two special offerings. The first is collected Christmas Eve, and the second is collected the Sunday following Christmas. The offerings have been used to advance our general budget obligations and to donate to non-profit organizations where LBIC members volunteer throughout the year.

The Mission Committee organizes and publishes the list of volunteer organizations so that members know where their donations will go.

Organizations receiving donations from LBIC this year are:

Water Street Ministries

Child Evangelism Fellowship

PATH

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FAMILY LIFE CENTER DEDICATION PLAQUE

The Church Board of Directors would like to place a dedication plaque on the wall of the FLC. The plaque will read:

**IN CELEBRATION OF
GOD’S GRACE
This Family Life Center is
Dedicated to the
Glory of God
On the 28th day of
February 2009**



Due to current budgetary constraints, the Board would like to invite members to participate in donating part or all of the cost toward the plaque. If interested, please contact Bill Ziegler, Administrator. We have received one donation since the last issue of BRANCH. ****

VISION UPDATE

The vision team members are: Jessica Gordon, Amanda Guito, Bill Rhinier, Phyllis Sauder, Sandy Stauffer, Bill and Patty Ziegler, and Jay Zimmerman.

The Vision has moved forward in the area of our sports community outreach. First, each guest who participates in weeknight Volleyball, Basketball or Over 30 Basketball will be asked to complete a “Sports Registration Card” asking for their address, phone, email, family status, & church affiliation. If they don’t have a home church, then we ask if they are seeking a church and would they like additional information.

Secondly, Bill Rhinier is tentatively planning a basketball tournament consisting of 3 on 3 teams from the Monday evening participants. The plan is for a Saturday tournament in January with a family meal and / or playoff following worship on Sunday and a noon meal! Stay tuned for this exciting way to incorporate these community athletes into our church family.

Bill Ziegler

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

OUR VISION

“Fulfill the Great Commission in Manheim Twp. & be a visible spiritual force in the community.”

If you have mornings or afternoons free, you can become a volunteer driver for the Lancaster Unit of the American Cancer Society, driving cancer patients to treatment. You could use your own vehicle, or share one of the vehicles that the American Cancer Society has solely for this program’s use. Please contact Kelly Edwards at the Lancaster Unit of the American Cancer Society at: 717-397-3745, or email at: Kelly.edwards@cancer.org. If you or a loved one has or had cancer please call 1-800-227-2345 for more information and services.

JUST DO IT Church/Community Sports

Pilates

Pilates is open to anyone each Monday evening at 7:30 pm. The group meets in the gym and is led by Kristy Snyder. Stop in and get fit! Those winter doldrums are about to set in!

Basketball

Weekly basketball began Monday, November 29th and will meet each Monday evening at 7:30 pm. David Snyder organizes this sport.

Volleyball

Weekly Volleyball meets each Tuesday evening at 7 pm. Matt Warfel, Jack Wolgemuth and John Kreider organize this sport.

Over 30 Basketball (Play at your own pace)

Over 30 Basketball meets each Thursday evening at 7 pm. Pastor Jim and John Snyder organize this sport.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Reggie Eggerstadt
2	Paige Eastep
6	Jim Yoder
6	Psuche Hoffman
7	Kameron Hardaker
9	Lloyd Melhorn
10	DeAnne Thrush
17	Mary Steffy
18	Anne Dissinger
19	Matt Warfel
20	Regina Smith
20	Ashley Seiger
21	Wyatt Weaver
22	Robert Reitzel
26	Sandi Baker
28	Shelley Crider
29	Gary Groff
29	Patience Hardaker
29	Rebecca Parsons
29	Dan Snyder
30	Sandra Stauffer
30	Luther Wagner

ANGEL TREE

Money is tight this year for many families while the burden of Christmas is even greater for families with a member in prison. But you can add some hope to the lives of these families. CRAVE is sponsoring **Angel Tree** children again this year! Please consider helping a family by taking an Angel tag off the Angel Tree. Each Angel represents a child and the card contains their personal clothing or toy wish for the season. Once you have chosen an Angel, sign the tag out on the sheet of paper. Then purchase the gift (PLEASE DO NOT spend more than \$25 on each tag), wrap it and return the gift(s) to Shandi by December 12.

If you are unable to participate in Angel Tree this year, you may want to consider helping CRAVE deliver the gifts on December 19 after church. Also, please consider praying about how God wants you to get involved in this service to the community. If you have any questions please see Shandi.

Shandi Santos





Music Notes



THE FIRST NOEL... CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The music ministry at LBIC is very excited to present an evening of choral and instrumental performances filled with the Christmas spirit on Friday, December 24, 2010 at 7:00PM. The Chancel choir, along with the assistance of various instrumentalists, will transport the congregation back to "The First Noel" to rediscover the Christmas Story through song and scripture.

The **Christmas Eve Service and Celebration** will feature instrumentalists during the Prelude, which will begin at 6:30pm. During the service, a traditional candle lighting portion will warm the hearts of each and every one in attendance. This is truly a wonderful opportunity for the young and old alike to escape the usual hustle and bustle of the season and remind ourselves of the true reason for the celebration of Christmas.

This is a time-honored tradition at Lancaster Brethren in Christ Church and we hope you and your families are able to join us. "We are delighted to have this opportunity to remind our friends and neighbors about the one small child responsible for "The First Noel" and who is the true reason for our celebration this season."

Friday, December 24th: Prelude begins at 6:30pm, followed by the service, which will begin at 7:00pm.

ADULT CHOIR – DECEMBER 2010 SCHEDULE

Sunday-5th – 10:00am Rehearsal (sing during 10:30am service)
Wednesday-8th – 6:30-8:15pm Rehearsal
Sunday-12th – 10:00am Rehearsal (sing during 10:30am service)
Wednesday-15th - 6:30-8:15pm Rehearsal
Sunday-19th – 10:00am Rehearsal (sing during 10:30am service)
Wednesday-22nd – *TENTATIVE* 6:30-8:15pm Rehearsal
Thursday-23rd - 6:15-8:30pm DRESS REHEARSAL
Sunday-26th – No choir
Wednesday-29th - 6:30-8:00pm Rehearsal

Nicole J. Siegel
 LBIC - Director of Music Ministries
 717.799.2946 – cell
 njsiegel@comcast.net – e-mail

CHRISTMAS CAROLING – MONDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

Grab your jacket, instrument, reading glasses (if necessary), your family and head to LBIC on Monday, December 13th for an exciting evening of Christmas Caroling! You'll notice that I didn't mention to grab your gloves, hat, scarf, flashlight, underarmour, etc. That's because this year, we will be caroling INDOORS!

How does one go Christmas caroling indoors? Easy, grab a group of people and head to the Woodcrest Villa/Mennonite Home for about 15 minutes of caroling, then pack up and drive to Berean Bookstore for another 15 minutes of caroling. Finally, the carolers will visit the Manheim Township Public Library (in the new building!) and sing while children and their families finish Christmas crafts and visit with Santa.

The evening will include some quick travel time, but we'll be warm and toasty, as well as have the opportunity to sing for a different group of folks. Plus, all instruments are welcome, so strap on your guitar, get ready to plug in your keyboard...we hope you and your family are able to make it!

Please plan to meet at the church by 6:00pm. We will load up the Church Van (feel free to drive separately if you'd prefer) and head out for our first stop at 6:05pm. We will arrive back at LBIC by 8:00pm.

If you are able to attend, please sign up on the Caroling Sign-Up Sheet that's posted on the bulletin board. The more the merrier! And, don't forget to bring your instruments! Caroling sheets will be provided.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR – DECEMBER 2010 SCHEDULE

Sunday-5th – 11:40am-12:00pm Rehearsal in RMC
Wednesday-8th – Christmas Program Rehearsal in Sanctuary
Sunday-12th - 11:40am-12:00pm Rehearsal in RMC & Children's Christmas Program (the choir is singing during the program)
Sunday-19th – 10:00am Rehearsal in the Sanctuary (sing during 10:30am service).
Sunday-26th - 11:40am-12:00pm Rehearsal in RMC

SCRAPBOOKING AND CRAFTS

There will be no Scrapbooking & Crafts for the month of December due to other church activities going on the same night.

We will resume Scrapbooking & Crafts the second Friday in January. Please join us for fellowship and crafting. It is a relaxing time to enjoy your hobby and the company of some really great women.

Come with your craft and a small snack to share. The time is from 7-9pm, but we have been known to continue past that.

Hope to see you there!

Diane Wagner

ROLLER SKATING

Time again for our LBIC roller skate! Come to Overlook Rink on Lititz Pike on Wednesday evening, December 1, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Admission is free; skate rental is \$2.00 (in-line skates \$3.00) . Don't miss this evening of fun with friends!



FAMILY LIFE WEEKEND – A PHOTO REFLECTION



LIBRARY NEWS

More New Books

The following books have been donated to our library. Check out the "new book" section near the window for some good reading.

Through Every Storm by Sharlene MaClaren
The Seduction of Christianity, by Hunt & McMahon
Active Parenting Now, by Michael H. Popkin
 (This was the resource book for the COBYS workshops here this fall.)
High Calling by Evelyn Husband
A Home on Paxton Street, by E. Morris Sider
Forgiveness by Gary Inrig

Attention parents of young children – the following books give wonderful details and trivia on each subject – wish I had a child to read them to.

Farmyard Friends by Camillo de la Bédoyér

Books on: Chickens, Sheep, Pigs, Horses & Ponies, and Cows.

Other special books for children:

Dogs Don't Wear Sneakers by Laura Numeroff
 (the author of *If you give a Mouse a Cookie*)

Mrs. Wishy-Washy's Farm – Joy Cowley

Thank you to each one who has shared from their book collection with a donation to the library. Our church library has a wealth of good reading. If you've never been there we invite you to spend some time looking at what is available, making a selection, and enjoying a good book. (The library is at the end of the church offices hall.) – C. Groff



TAKE NOTE...

New Address:

Stephen and Shandi Santos
 7 Welsh Dr., Apt A
 Lancaster, PA 17601

GOOD NEWS CLUB



We are just over half way through our first session with the Good News Club at Bucher Elementary School. Our numbers have steadily increased each week and we are now at 23. Leaders are getting more comfortable in their roles and the time flies by. The leader's husband had his surgery and the cancer was successfully removed! Praise God for this! Please watch the prayer chain for other prayer requests and praises.

The children did a great job completing their daily devotional books and their dedication is a blessing to those of us involved. A favorite comment this month comes from a child who obviously knew a simple childhood song. The story was of Zaccheaus and the question was, "Why did Zaccheaus climb the tall tree?" I'm sure this child did not refer to the Bible with their answer of, "because he was a wee little man!" Try not to smile at the innocence of that one! God is in this club and we are so thankful for each child in attendance.

Jessica Gordon



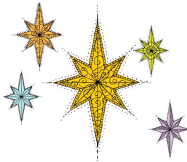

Submissions to the Branch should be emailed to brancheditor@gmail.com or placed in the designated mailbox at LBIC.



December



2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 Roller Skate at Overlook	2	3 8:20 Walk & Wellness 9:15 Gym Time Plus 10:00 Gym Time Plus	4 7:00 Men's Bible Study
5 8:00 Worship 9:00 Bible Learning classes 10:30 Worship 10:30 Friendship class 10:50 Children's Worship 6:30 Budget hearing	6	7 8:15 Ladies Bible study	8 9:30 Moms of Movers brunch 6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas program dress rehearsal	9	10 7:00 Ladies Christmas Party (Eaststeps)	11 7:00 Men's Bible Study
12 8:00 Worship 9:00 Bible Learning classes 10:30 Worship 10:50 Children's Worship 6:30 Children's Christmas program	13 6pm – Christmas Caroling	14 8:15 Ladies Bible study	15	16	17	18 7:00 Men's Bible Study BRANCH DEADLINE
19 8:00 Worship 9:00 Bible Learning Classes 10:30 Worship 10:30 Friendship class 10:50 Children's Worship 4-6pm Retirement/Recognition Fellowship for Martha Starr	20	21 8:15 Ladies Bible study	22	23	24 Christmas Candle lighting service	25 
26 8:00 Worship 9:00 Bible Learning classes 10:30 Worship 10:50 Children's Worship Communion	27	28 8:15 Ladies Bible study	29	30 	31 CHRISTMAS <i>Joy</i> 	

CRAVE CALENDAR

December

- 1 Roller Skating (NO CRAVE)
- 5 Combined
Girls/Combined
Boys
Small Groups
- 8 Gym Night
11 6th to 8th
Grade Laser
Tag
- 15 CRAVE Christmas
Party
- 19 Angel Tree
Deliveries
- 22 NO CRAVE
- 27-30 Youth Quest
- 29 NO CRAVE

January

- 5 Volunteer's Meeting
(NO CRAVE)
- 19 Gym Night
- 28 Fire/Kick the Can

February

- 2 Paxton St. Game
Night
- 16 Gym Night
- 18-21 Senior High Retreat

**6TH TO 8TH GRADE
LASER TAGGING**

What kind of plans do you have for Saturday afternoons?!? Join other Middle School students for an afternoon of laser tag. Please sign up on Shandi's office door.

December 11

Drop-off: 12:30 am at the church

Pick-up: 3:30 pm at the church

Cost: \$10 per person



**JUNIOR CHURCH TRIP
TO THE CORN MAZE**

The Junior Church had their quarterly outing. This time they went to the Country Barn. Kyle and Julie enjoyed an afternoon of walking through the corn maze, riding ponies, and visiting with farm animals. They ended the day with ice cream. What a yummy trip!

Diane Wagner



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Children's Christmas program is coming! You won't want to miss it! Mark your calendar -- Sunday evening, December 12, 6:30 p.m.

Through singing, instrumental solos, drama, and recitations, you will be taken back to the miracle and mystery of the first Christmas.

The theme of the program is "Come and Worship." And that is what the evening is about - worship. Yes, the program will be delightful and enjoyable, but its real purpose is to bring everyone -- children and adults -- to once again feel the awe of that first Christmas night and to bow before the manger to adore Jesus, our Savior.

The children are excited and working diligently at learning their parts. Please come and support them as they share their talents and remind us all of the good news of Immanuel, God With Us.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

For the preschool class, November meant learning about feelings and the senses that make us aware of our surroundings. The children had fun learning about their senses and what it would be like not to have them! Conversations about feelings were great for learning about relating to others. The children also spent time each week focusing on letters and colors. We ended the month with a party celebrating all we had to be thankful for. In December, the focus will shift to Christmas and what it really is about. We will be hosting a program for families and doing a service project to remind us how important it is to give of ourselves.

The toddlers have been busy learning all kinds of things. They were visited by some busy little mice in the beginning of the month! The children were much more excited than the parents! Later, the children learned all kinds of games and did a great job playing together. We will talk a little bit about feelings the first week of December and then move on to Christmas after that. This group will also be doing a very simple service project.

Both classes spend time in the downstairs "playroom" during the week. I don't know if you are aware, but this space in the fellowship hall gets a makeover almost every day, thanks to Eileen Ostberg. We work together to make sure the children have a fun space to ride bikes and go down slides. Thanks Mrs. O, we appreciate you!!!

Jessica Gordon





The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.



1. knot - k



2. bee - (1) e



3. maid - m
afr +



4. hood - h
g +



5. paper



6. joy - b
j +



7. ball - b



8. town - d
t +



9. horn - h
b +

"Do _____ I bring you _____

1 2 3 4

_____ of great _____ that will be for _____ the people.

5 6 7

Today in the _____ of David a Savior has been _____

8 9

to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NV

Answers: 1. knot-k-nor; 2. bee-(1)e-be; 3. afr+maid-m-afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper-paper=news; 6. j+joy-b=joy; 7. ball-b-all; 8. t+down-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NV

The Branch

The Staff

Senior Pastor

James D. Ernst

Minister of Christian Education

Martha L. Starr

Director of Youth and Young Adults

Shandi E. Tosten

Director of Music Ministries

Nicole Siegel

Church Administrator

Bill Ziegler

Secretary

Carol Crawford

Branch Editor

Diane L. Wagner

Branch Mailer

Etta Hess

Did You Know...

- ✓ that WE MADE A MISTAKE? The **Vision Team** has **5** new members. They are, Jessica Gordon, Amanda Guito, Bill Rhinier, Sandy Stauffer and Jay Zimmerman. They join Phyllis Sauder and Bill and Patty Ziegler.
- ✓ that John Sauder assembled the new table cart obtained by Stephen Santos?
- ✓ that Trustees are seeking a volunteer to clean the sanctuary?
- ✓ that we have received one donation toward the Family Life Center dedication plaque since the last issue of BRANCH?
- ✓ that Audio Committee has purchased an amplifier for the Fellowship Hall Audio system to replace one that recently failed?
- ✓ that Scott and Nicole Siegel donated a sound mixer board for the sound system in the Fellowship Hall?
- ✓ that the Audio team is in need of Sunday Morning worship audio assistance? Can you push a button? You're hired! Please see Gary Groff or Bill Ziegler.
- ✓ that Shandi Tosten and Stephen Santos were married on November 25th? Congratulations!
- ✓ That Ronnie Gast Jr., nephew of Bob & Lisa Sanders, has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts, Lancaster Troop #4? His ceremony was held October 30, 2010

The Branch

is the monthly newsletter of the
Lancaster Brethren in Christ Church

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Sunday

8:00 Worship
9:00 Bible Learning Classes
10:30 Worship

Wednesday Lift

(to resume in February)

5:45 Evening Meal
6:30 Groups for All Ages
7:00 Prayer Team

