

# The Sugar Beat

## SUGAR GROVE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### From the Pastor

“Slow as Christmas” I remember when that phrase had a lot of significance. Now that I have experience a few decades, Christmas is not all that slow! Didn’t we just take down the decorations? I am reminded of a song I used to sing from “Fiddler on the Roof”, entitled, *Sunrise Sunset*. Time does march on, at double time it seems.

Advent is a time when we look in the rear view mirror and look out the windshield at the same time. In the rearview mirror we see God coming to dwell among us. He didn’t come as God per se, but as one of us to show us how to live in His kingdom as we dwell here on this planet. He also showed us what He is like and told us to watch for His coming again.

When we look out our windshield, we look with expectation to see His coming. Is it just over the horizon or the next or the next? Sometimes we are like our children on what seems to them an endless ride when they ask the proverbial question, “Are we there yet.” Usually our response is quite polite, “no dear not yet.” at least that is true for the first few times the question is asked. After that, we become a little less polite and say “don’t ask me again, we will get there when we get there.” To a mature adult this seems to be the correct response. After all, we know when we will get there, we are heading in the direction but it takes time. We are aware of that but sometimes we have little patience with the little ones that do not understand time and space.

So when we look at the days, the months, the years, the hundreds of years, the 2 millennia that have passed since our older, more mature, more intelligent brother told us to watch, and we ask the question, “Are we there yet?”, remember there is an adult in the front seat who knows all about time and space. He gently says to us, “not yet but keep your eyes open for we will be there soon.”

**Bro. Gary**

“At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. (Mark 13:26 NIV)

## Merry Christmas!

Debbie and I wish you a Merry Christmas. We thank you for your prayers and kindness during this year.

May the Lord bless you and your family as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Carltons

The simple shepherds heard the voice of an angel and found their Lamb; the wise men saw the light of a star and found their Wisdom. Fulton Sheen

## 2009 TIME & TALENT COMMITMENT SURVEY

Have you filled yours out yet? It is not too late.

The survey is located at Information Station.

A list of ministries (not all inclusive) have been assembled so that you may choose a ministry in which you believe God is calling you to participate. After hearing messages on stewardship and thanksgiving, this is a way in which you may commit yourself to fulfill your calling from God. It will be exciting to God's disciples answering His call upon their lives. We will have a dedication of our commitments on Sunday, January 4, 2009. I do not know of a better way to start a new year than by giving a commitment to the Lord for all of His blessings.

The magic of Christmas is that God gave us so much more than we can possibly give back.

Norman Vincent Peale

## Christmas Eve

The door is on the latch tonight,  
The hearth fire is aglow;  
I seem to hear soft passing feet-  
The Christ Child in the snow.  
My heart is open wide tonight,  
For stranger, kith, or kin;  
I would not bar a single door  
Where love might enter in.

Anonymous

## Angel Food Ministry

Order must be given to James or Darl Henley by December 8th. The food will be delivered on December 20th. Additional information is on the bulletin board in the hall off of the narthex.

## CPWM News

On Monday, December 1, we will leave the Farmer's Bank parking lot at 4:45 pm. We will have supper at the Majestic House and then shop for the three children. Everyone is welcome to go with us, just let Darl know.

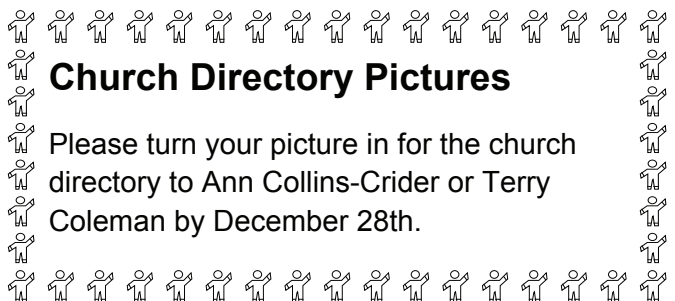
We will not meet for our regular meeting this month.

## Men's Fellowship

We have donated a \$100 shopping trip to a family in need. We appreciate Winona and Lynda for their time and shopping expertise.

We will meet Thursday, December 4th at 6:30pm. We will have chili and soups. Bring your favorite to share with everyone. Crackers will be provided.

Thanks to all who participated in Hanging the Green.  
We especially appreciate the British angels!  
It took a lot of work to get things decorated but it was truly a labor of love.

  
**Church Directory Pictures**  
Please turn your picture in for the church directory to Ann Collins-Crider or Terry Coleman by December 28th.

## Prayer List

<u>Pray For</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
Rev Dean Atchison	Eddie Rudolph
Gladys Brown	
Harold & Edwina Belt	Frankie Cook
Josh & Jill Folgles's baby	Michelle Orr
Deborah Ford	Heather Spitzer
J W Fulton	Evelyn Roberts
Trish Gage	BJ Crider's Daughter
Lisa Grubbs	Debbie Carlton
Scotty Hopkins	Becky McKinzie
Larry Hurst	Kelly Perryman
Marcie (Tina Jepsen's sister)	Beatrice Priest
Lindsay Levine	James Henley's grand-daughter
Jane McGill	Terry Coleman
Herman McMMain	
Judge Tommy Simpson	Madeline Henderson
Joanna Stone	Caitlyn Chandler
Dennis Tyner	
Bethany Yates	Christy Carter

## Christmas Vacation

After Christmas vacation, a teacher asked her small pupils to write an account of how they spent their holidays. One youngster wrote about a visit to his grandparents in a life-care community for retired folks:

"We always spend Christmas with Grandma and Grandpa," he said. They used to live here in a big red house, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida.

"They live in a place with a lot of retarded people. They live in tin huts. They ride big three wheel tricycles. They go to a big building they call a wrecked hall but it is fixed now. They play games there and do exercises, but they don't do them very good. There is a swimming pool and they go to it and just stand there in the water with their hats on. I guess they don't know how to swim.

"My grandma used to bake cookies and stuff. But I guess she forgot how. Nobody cooks—they all go out to fast food restaurants.

"As you come into the park, there is a doll house with a man sitting in it. He watches all day, so they can't get out without him seeing them. They wear badges with their names on them. I guess they don't know who they are.

"My Grandpa and Grandma worked hard all their lives and earned their retardment. I wish they would move back home but I guess the man in the doll house won't let them out."

Eric W. Johnson, *Humorous Stories About the Human Condition* (Prometheus Books), quoted in *Bits & Pieces*, January 5, 1995, pp. 5-6

## Members of the Military

Mark Boaz	Scott Hurley	Joey Shirey
Cody Brandon	Josh Jackson	Jonathon Taylor
Brandon Carlson	David Jones	Rodney Travis
Valerie Edwards	Skyler Powell	John Venable
Keith Finney	Rev. Curtis Pruitt	John Watson
Kevin Householder		Troy Woody

## Others

United States of America, President Bush and all elected officials, Elections, Session, Sunday School Teachers, Bro. Gary

## Card of Thanks

Thank you for all your prayers and cards that you sent us. God bless you all.

The Murray Family

### Calendar Notes:

December 14th—we will celebrate Christmas together. The church will provide Ham and you are invited to bring finger foods and desserts. Hopefully we will have a special visitor for the children. The fun begins at 5 pm.

December 21st—We will have a congregational meeting to nominate elders.

December 21st—You are invited to go caroling! We will meet at 4pm and share the joy of Christmas with others through song. Afterward, we will gather at the church for some hot chocolate, hot cider and goodies. Billy Joe Crider will be our leader.

December 21st— We will observe a special evening candlelight worship service celebrating communion.

December 28th— We will have a congregational meeting to elect elders/

December 28th—We will celebrate the New Year early.