

Altoona Christian Church

The Welcome News

The Rev. Kenneth Briggs Jr.
Sr. Pastor
The Rev. Natalie Ervin
Assoc. Pastor

"Touched by Christ to Care and Serve"

November 2009



On October 11th, Mallory Nelson and Sammy Rooney performed during the Prelude of the second service.

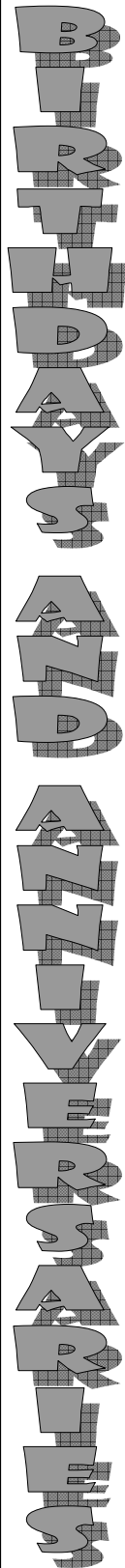
Later during Children's Time, Inga Brown talked to the children about how each pumpkin is different and let each child pick out a pumpkin.



Octoberfest

October 17th

There were quite a few vendors and a lot of items for the garage sale.



November Birthdays

- 2 Angela Cecchi
- 5 Tammy Peebler
- 6 Maddie Allen
- 8 Sue Renaud
- 8 Kristina Steffes-Clayton
- 9 Matt Shaw
- 10 Georgia Woodward
- 10 Jennifer Sampers
- 10 Chad Hulen
- 11 Florence Hill
- 11 Len Shaw
- 11 Barb Hulen
- 11 Matthew Paul Eckert
- 15 Annette Barr
- 15 Ben Hitchcock
- 15 Jeanielle Sachs
- 16 Stephanie Hosier
- 17 Carl Barr
- 18 Sheila Pinegar Weidner
- 19 Jeffrey Zaugg
- 19 Nicholas Hood
- 21 Doug Casey
- 22 Roger Mahnke
- 22 Amy Eckert
- 25 Julie Cronk
- 26 Juanita Sheets
- 27 Aspen Winey
- 29 Jolene Eriksen

November Anniversaries

- 4 Chris and Mike Williams
- 8 Judi and Larry DeMoss
- 14 Bob and Ann Kirby
- 18 Tony and Megan Neff
- 23 Larry and Connie Ramseyer
- 24 Brad and Diane Ashby
- 24 Russ and Chris Wilkins
- 29 Bob and Ruby Thompson

In our Thoughts and Prayers

Eleanor Miller, Becky & Jay Rosenberger's grandson, Nickolas Cecchi, Larry DeMoss' sister, Dee Deitrick, Carol Genovese's sister, Georgia Kost, the Barron family, Irv Barron's sister, Betty Darst, Joe Procyk Sr., Marvin & Juanita Sheets, Alex Champion, Maddie Landwehr, Keaton Pratt, Charlie Mayfield, Wendy Todd's aunt, Mrs. Bristow, Wendy Miles' father & her brother, Randy Rawson, her godmother, Ruth Carpenter, Doris Wolf, Michele Taylor's niece, Amanda Miles, Les Hill, Sheila Santos' sister, Renita Lewis, Linda Lighthall, Carol Sutton, Lonita McLean's cousin's daughter, Karli Bruxboort, Connie Miers' father, Leroy Iverson, Carol Nieter's brother, Harvey Taylor, the Shaw family, Barb Geissinger's nephew, Adam, Davier Jones, Carrolyn Stroud's son's mother-in-law, Janice Beller, Vee Rehor, and we continue to pray for Lonita McLean and her family in relation to the passing of her grandma.

We welcome home Joe Scheib, family friend of Karen Mark after his 2nd tour of duty in Iraq, he returned home on Wed. Oct. 28th, Rich Webb, Judi Webb's husband, who has been called to active duty, and we continue to remember all others serving our country.



Reminder!!!!!!!
Please bring your donations of non-perishable food items for the **Food Pantry**
On or before
November 15th

God's Coffee House

Needs volunteers to set up for each Sunday in the month of Nov. & Dec. If you'd like to set-up either on a Sat afternoon or Sunday morning, please call the church office at 967-4382.



The Deadline for The Welcome News is the 20th of the month. Please put articles in the Newsletter box at church or email to Kristina@dsmrepair.com

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. –Isaiah 55:10-11



Dear Faith Family:

The first four weeks of November we will be centering on this year's stewardship campaign. The first three Sundays will be times of reflection. The fourth Sunday will be "Mission Sunday." I am asking you to spend time reading messages, listening in worship, sharing with your friends and lighting a candle for moments of meditation throughout these days. At the heart of stewardship is discernment—paying attention to the Spirit of God moving in the world and in the midst of the congregation. In quiet moments take deep breaths and meditate on "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and love kindness and to walk humbly with God?" –Micah 6:8

Jesus came and gave us bread. That bread is a great symbol for our basic human need and Jesus understands this. To our deepest longings Jesus responds, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry." With just a handful of the ordinary things of life, Jesus changes everything.

Stewardship recognizes that life is a cycle where faith leads naturally and urgently to the receiving and sharing of the abundant bread Jesus offers. The bread Jesus gives nurtures us and helps us to grow in faith. The bread Jesus gives helps us to recognize our gifts, make life-giving choices, and build community. The bread Jesus gives challenges us to open our hands to receive and to share the bread of life. In the communion meal Jesus prepares, all are welcome, all are fed, and all are sent back into the world to love and serve.

Worship each Sunday will explore the spiritual dimensions of growing, making and sharing bread in the context of worship. I pray each of you will make a special effort to be in church each Sunday. If you cannot, please pray throughout the week for our church family to be discerning about our mission for the coming year. Seek that the spirit will move us as we prioritize the mission of Jesus Christ here at Altoona Christian Church.

Keep Dancing in the Spirit,

Pastor Ken



FOOD PANTRY TURKEYS Our church is accepting monetary donations for turkeys to be given to the Food Pantry for Thanksgiving, or if you have a turkey you would like to donate please place it in the church freezer and it will be given to the Pantry.

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY Nov. 15th - Donations of the following items are also needed for their Thanksgiving Boxes. Canned Sweet Potatoes, instant potatoes, boxed stuffing, canned pumpkin, evaporated milk and bags of marshmallows. Sharing some extra groceries with hungry people is ever so easy. Please make it a habit!

THE SEASON OF SHARING CHRISTMAS TREE-Please watch for The Season of Sharing Christmas Tree to go up.

HUNGER HIKE- Over 400 people from Area congregations who took part in this year's hike. Thank you to all who participated in walking and giving. Hunger Hike raised over \$41,000.

What an exciting few weeks we have had. All of our fall programs are in full swing and our Sunday school classrooms will be full with laughter and learning again beginning November 1st. Each week brings new energy and enthusiasm to the ministries of Altoona Christian Church. On October 25th, eleven youth and four sponsors set out to "Trick of Treat, So Others Can Eat!" The kids ran from house to house in their creative costumes collecting bag after bag of non-perishable food items. The pure joy that radiated from the kids was contagious. It was a delight to see the smiles on the homeowners' faces as they were greeted by our kids whose hearts are dedicated to serving others.



With such giving hearts, it is my goal to expand on the church-wide stewardship focus for November with the youth who gather for SNL. We will spend time learning and discussing their role in carrying out the mission of the church and how they can become better stewards of the gifts God has given them. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they discern and discover God's movement in their lives.

Spread that word that the children and youth ministry programs at ACC are growing. God is doing a great work through the volunteers and young people who participate, but we are always looking for more children and youth that can make our programs stronger. Invite your neighbors, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and friends! Everyone is welcome!

Scatter Kindness...

Natalie

MM's Halloween Party

The MM Puppet Troop and Youth Chime Choir had their Halloween party on Wed. October 28th. The children got to dress in their costumes, participate in games and eat treats.



Trick or Treat
"So Others Can Eat"

October 25th
See Natalie's notes on page 4

ALTOONA CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOARD MINUTES
September 21st, 2009

Board Members Present: Stephanie Hosier, Anna Hines, Inga Brown, David Peebler, Norma Teuber, Georgia Woodward, Scott Hamilton, Doug Teuber, and Tim McLean.

Other Members Present: Pastor Ken Briggs and Pastor Natalie Ervin.

The Board Meeting was called to order by Stephanie Hosier at 7:10 PM.

Stephanie highlighted the night's agenda and allowed time for members to review the Board Meeting Minutes from August 14th.

Pastor Ken Briggs shared a devotional and opening prayer.

Pastor Ken Briggs shared the Pastor's Report. He shared his appreciation of the time he got to spend celebrating his 35th anniversary of his ordination. He was able to spend time with family and friends at his home church in Kansas. Also, Ken indicated that he is now doing 3 to 4 nursing home services each month.

Pastor Natalie Ervin shared that she has been in the process of planning how she wants to change the space in her office. Also, Natalie plans on starting with Christian Education and Worship as ways to get to know the Congregation better. Natalie also shared that she will be gone on October 17th to perform a wedding ceremony that she had previously committed to.

Tim McLean shared the Treasurer's report. We celebrated that we finished August with an extra \$731 in giving when compared to actual expenses.

Worship: Georgia Woodward brought to the Board that a concern has been brought up with how Communion is shared during the 1st Worship services. The concern is with the congregation all touching the same loaf to break off a piece, thus raising the possibility of spreading illness—specifically the flu virus. Discussion took place on how to address the concern. Pastor Ken shared that a device could be purchased which dispenses a wafer one at a time. We also discussed how we could have individual servings already available as the Congregation comes forward. For now, we have decided to go with the individual servings as already available. Georgia also shared that Kate West will be celebrating an Ordination Service at the Capital Hill Christian Church.

Fellowship: Anna Hines shared that there will be a reception following the special October 4th Worship services where we are celebrating long time members of our congregation. Fellowship is also planning a Thanksgiving dinner for November 22nd, a Hanging of the Greens service reception on November 29th, and a flu clinic on October 31st from 10:30 until 12:30. Participants are encouraged to bring their insurance cards, as the cost may be covered by some plans. Otherwise, the expense is expected to be \$20.00.

Old Business:

Dishwasher: Electric service to the dishwasher is still an issue. Pastor Ken indicated that he would follow-up with the Property Committee.

Handicapped parking: Russ Wilkins was not present for an update.

New Business:

By-Laws Committee: Stephanie indicated that they would be meeting for the first time next week.

Technology Committee: Stephanie formed a new ad-hoc committee—the Technology Committee. They will be assigned the task of looking at our technology including our sound system. Pastor Ken shared that Denny Hulen suspects that the clicking noise we hear on occasion, might be a symptom of the system trying to protect itself. This would indicate aging to the system.

Norma Teuber shared with the Board, a letter to the editor that appeared in the Altoona Herald that was submitted by the Mitchellville Christian Church. We celebrated the well written letter and discussed the possibility of doing something similar.

Stephanie Hosier performed a calendar review.

October 4th—Day of Celebration

October 17th—Oktoberfest

October 18th—Soup potluck

October 19th—Next Board meeting

October 31st—Flu shot clinic

Conclusion:

Prayer joys and concerns were shared. Pastor Ken closed with prayer at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David Peebler
Board Secretary

ALTOONA CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOARD MINUTES
October 19th, 2009

Board Members Present: Stephanie Hosier, Anna Hines, Inga Brown, David Peebler, Norma Teuber, Georgia Woodward, Scott Hamilton, Russ Wilkins, Kristina Steffes-Clayton, Doug Teuber, and Tim McLean.

Other Members Present: Pastor Ken Briggs and Pastor Natalie Ervin.

The Board Meeting was called to order by Stephanie Hosier at 7:02 PM.

Stephanie highlighted the night's agenda and allowed time for members to review the Board Meeting Minutes from September 21st.

Pastor Ken Briggs shared a devotional and opening prayer.

Pastor Ken Briggs shared the Pastor's Report. Ken was approached by Ted dyer with Chestnut Signs regarding our sign out front. Ted recommended some cleaning maintenance be performed and left an estimate of \$1594.21 to perform the service. Ken pointed out that the plexiglass was deteriorating and that several of the lights had burned out. Georgia Woodward pointed out that the Property Committee needs to look at the proposal. Ken also shared that snow removal arrangements had been made and will be the same price as last year. Also, Ken received information regarding advertising in a new phone book that is being published. The cost would be \$405 for 1/8 of a page. Discussion took place and concerns were raised that the cost was too high in addition to the finances of the Church.

Pastor Natalie Ervin shared that she will be seeking volunteers for Children's Church and Sunday School teachers.

Tim McLean shared the Treasurer's report. It was pointed out that we had \$9101 more in expenses than giving to the Church for the month of September.

Property: Russ Wilkins shared an estimate of \$300 to order a new sash for a window in Pastor Ken's office. Russ also shared that the electrical work has now been completed in the kitchen for the new dishwasher.

Worship: Inga Brown shared that the Sound Booth Task Force has met and plan to have a proposal in the next couple of months for the Board.

Outreach: Norma Teuber requested to get their account balance from Tim so they can plan for the remainder of the year.

Diaconate: Kristina Steffes-Clayton shared that Sigrid Bills has resigned her position on the Diaconate so that she can work at her new job.

Christian Education: David Peebler shared that the Children's Christmas Program will be December 2nd. Also, we will be switching to age based curriculums on November 1st.

Old Business:

By-Laws Committee: Stephanie Hosier shared that the By-Laws Committee has met 3 times and Scott Hamilton shared highlights of what some of the topics of change have been. Also talked about how the changes will affect what the Nominating Committee will need to do to fill positions.

New Business:

Executive Committee update: Stephanie Hosier shared action that the Executive Committee performed since the last meeting. A land sale offer was presented to Altoona Christian Church by Hansbrough that was declined.

Stephanie Hosier performed a calendar review.

October 31st—Flu shot clinic

November 22nd—Thanksgiving Dinner and Auction

November 29th—Hanging of the Greens Service

December 13th—Congregational Meeting

It was also shared that the Women's Retreat that was scheduled for October 24th is now cancelled due to low attendance. Pastor Ken will be on vacation November 4th through November 10th.

Conclusion:

Prayer joys and concerns were shared. Pastor Ken closed with prayer at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David Peebler
Board Secretary

Get to Know Your Leadership

THE WORSHIP TEAM OF ALTOONA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

There are 8 members of this team who meet with Pastor Ken and Pastor Natalie once a month. A lot of the meeting involves coordinating the worship services with the musicians and pastors. Preparation of special services such as Advent, Thanksgiving, World Wide Communion Sunday, Mother's and Father's days, Christmas Week, Holy Week, and Laity Sunday are designed with the decorating of the sanctuary, special music, and participation opportunities for the congregation.

All of the worship supplies have been moved to the storage area under the choir loft, There is always room for more "stuff" that folks might have, such as fabric, crosses, statuary, greenery, silk flowers, candles (especially battery operated ones), candle holders, and artificial fruits and vegetables.

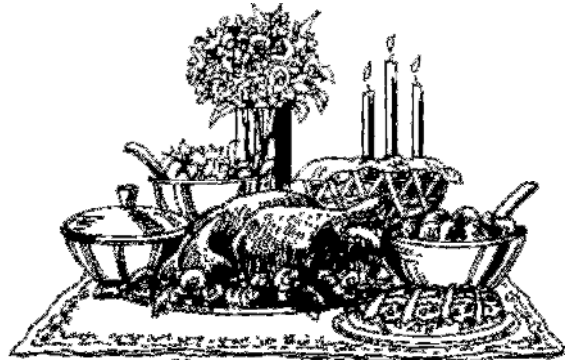
This Fall the Worship Team has called together a task force to determine the possibility for building a sound booth for our sanctuary. They will draw up plans and put together a budget and timeline for the booth. The information will go to the Board for final input.

There is always room for anyone who wants to help with decorating the sanctuary, making banners, providing special music, etc. We welcome constructive comments and questions.

The Worship Team tries very hard to make an environment in the sanctuary that will allow everyone in the congregation to have a meaningful worship experience.

It is a special opportunity for each of the team members to provide this ministry for our church family.

Inga Brown and Georgia Woodward, co-chairs



Annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Auction Sunday, November 22nd 12pm (after second service)

The annual catered Thanksgiving Dinner cost is \$8.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for Children 10 & under and free for children 2 and under. Registration will begin on October 31st. Contact Anna Hines with questions or to purchase tickets for the dinner at 967-4232.



Holiday Poinsettias

available to order now till Nov. 22nd for \$10. Please fill out a form and return it to the church office or call the office to place an order 967-4382.

Thanks to all the volunteers and donations received for this year's Octoberfest! It wouldn't have been a success without each and everyone one of you!



NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Event
Nov. 1st	8:15& 10:15am	Sunday morning worship services
	9:15am	Sunday School Classes
	11:30am 5-7pm	Elder meeting SNL
Nov. 2nd	6pm	Cub Scouts
Nov. 3rd	8:30- 11:30am	T.O.P.S.
Nov. 4th	2:15- 4:30pm	MM's Puppets and Youth Chime Choir
	7pm	Bell Choir
Nov. 5th	6:30pm	Mixed Blessing Quartet
	7pm	Choir
Nov. 8th	8:15, 9:15, 10:15am	Sunday morning worship services & Sunday School Classes
	5-7pm	SNL
Nov. 9th	4:30- 5pm	Cub Scouts
	7pm	Worship Committee meeting
Nov. 10th	8:30- 11am	T.O.P.S.
Nov. 11th	2:15- 4:30pm	MM's Puppets and Youth Chime Choir
	7pm	Bell Choir
Nov. 12th	6:30pm	Mixed Blessing Quartet
	7pm	Choir
Nov. 13th	5:30pm	Scott/Meling Wedding Rehearsal
Nov. 14th	3pm	Scott/Meling Wedding
Nov. 15th	8:15, 9:15, & 10:15am	Food Pantry Sunday Sunday morning worship services & Sunday School
	5-7pm	SNL

Date	Time	Event
Nov. 16th	6pm	Christian Education mtg. & Outreach Comm. Mtg.
	6pm	Cub Scouts
	7pm	Board meeting
Nov. 17th	8:30- 11am	T.O.P.S.
Nov. 18th	2:15- 4:30pm	MM's Puppets and Youth Chime Choir
	7pm	Bell Choir
Nov. 19th	6:30pm	Mixed Blessing Quartet
	7pm	Choir
Nov. 22nd	8:15, 9:15,& 10:15am	Sunday morning worship services & Sunday School Classes
	11:30am	Catered Thanksgiving Dinner & Auction
	5-7pm	SNL
Nov. 23rd	4-5:30pm	Cub Scouts
Nov. 24th	8:30- 11am	T.O.P.S.
	12pm	Christian Women's Fellowship meeting
Nov. 25th	2:15- 4:30pm	MM's Puppets and Youth Chime Choir
	7pm	Bell Choir
Nov. 26th		Happy Thanksgiving!!!
Nov. 29th	8:15, 9:15 & 10:15am	Sunday morning worship services and Sunday School Classes
	4-5:30pm	SNL- Prepare for Hanging of the Greens service and Pizza
	6pm	Hanging of the Greens Service
Nov. 30th	6pm	Cub Scouts
	7pm	Boy Scouts

SE Polk Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Wed. Nov. 25th
7pm

at Altoona United Methodist Church
with Father Fitzgerald officiating.

Everyone's welcome! Come and worship
together in the spirit of thanksgiving.

Answer to last month's Question of
the Month.

What is the World's LARGEST living organism?

A mushroom. You just can't see it. Most of the mushroom plant is underground. The edible part sticks up. (Some are poisonous. Never pick and eat a mushroom.) One of the world's largest, called a honey or shoestring fungus, covers 1,500 acres in a Washington State forest. Scientists believe it's 500 to 1,000 years old!

Taken from "The Big Book of Questions & Answers".

What is probably the largest living organism on earth has been discovered in the Malheur National Forest in eastern Oregon. A fungus living three feet underground is estimated to cover 2,200 acres. Known as the honey mushroom, this fungus is 3.5 miles across and takes up 1,665 football fields. Experts estimate that the giant mushroom is at least 2,400 years old, but could be as ancient as 8,650 years, which would earn it a place among the oldest living organisms as well.

Taken from <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=strange-but-true-largest-organism-is-fungus>

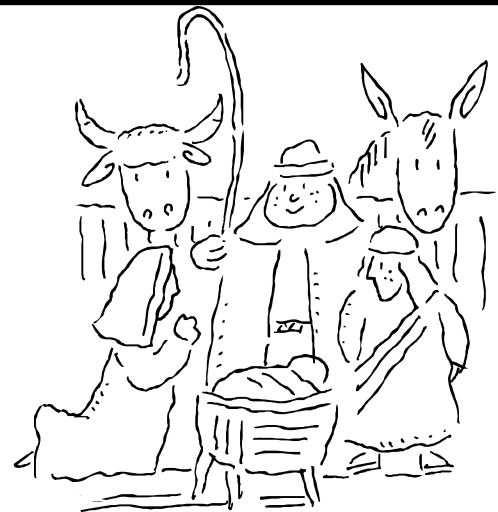
And
<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/fungus1.html>



Classes for All Ages

Sunday School starts November 1st.

Classes are available for
pre-school,
K thru 2nd grade,
3rd thru 5th grade,
6th thru 12th grade
and adults.



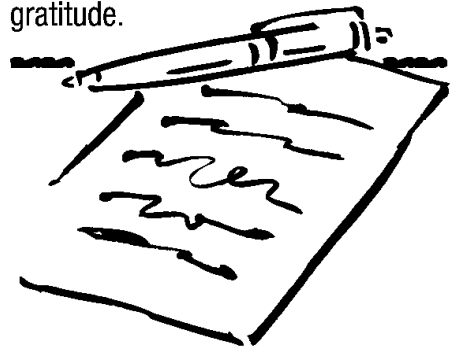
Children's Christmas Music Program

Sun. Dec. 20th.

All ACC youth are invited to practice
the Children's Christmas Musical
each Sunday morning at 9 am.

Attitude of GRATITUDE

The Thanksgiving holiday reminds us that we should always be grateful for the many blessings God provides. Keep a special gratitude journal, and write in it often to keep an attitude of gratitude.

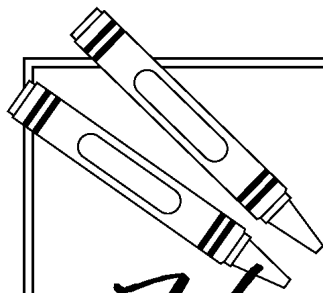


What you need:

- Paper (8½" x 11" sheets, plain or lined)
- Stapler
- Stickers
- Crayons or markers

What you do:

1. Fold several sheets of paper in half.
2. Staple the pages together on the folded crease.
3. Write "Attitude of Gratitude" on the cover.
4. Decorate your journal with stickers and drawings.
5. On the inside cover, write "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).
6. Use your journal daily as a reminder of your blessings and as a guide for when you say prayers.



Just for **KIDS**

He gave thanks

This Thanksgiving, you may share a special meal with family and friends. Do you remember the time when Jesus shared a meal with thousands of people and gave thanks?

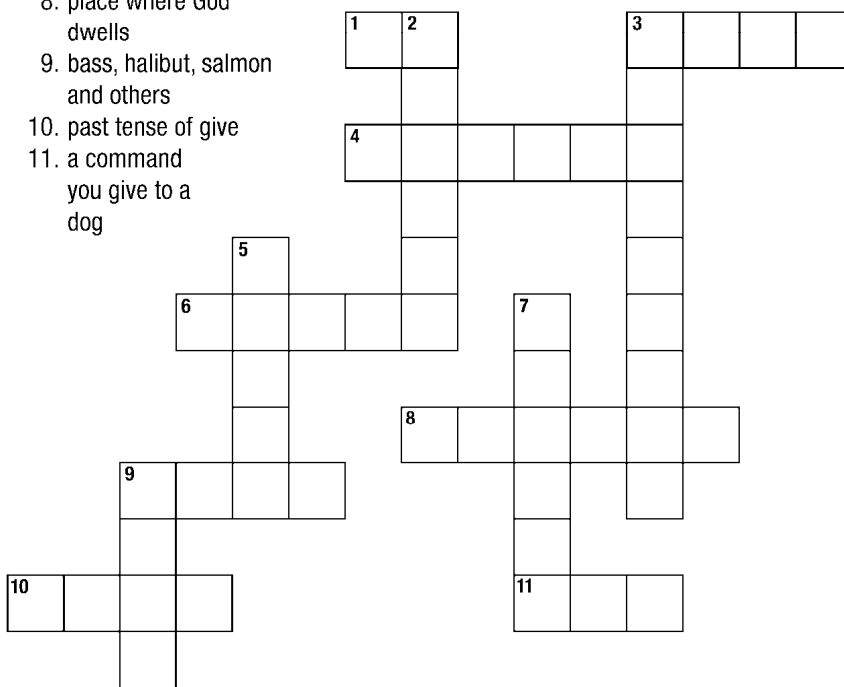
Use the clues to find important words from Matthew 14:19 (NIV).

Across

1. opposite of down
3. opposite of up
4. more than one loaf
6. penniless
8. place where God dwells
9. bass, halibut, salmon and others
10. past tense of give
11. a command you give to a dog

Down

2. another name for humans
7. _____ giving
3. twelve of Jesus' closest friends
9. odd number after 4
5. what a lawnmower cuts



Across: 1. up, 3. down, 4. loaves, 6. broke, 8. heaven, 9. fish, 10. gave, 11. sit
Down: 2. people, 3. disciples, 5. grass, 7. thanks, 9. five

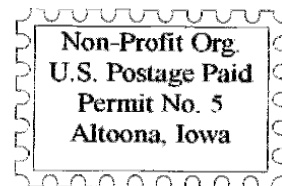
Question of the Month?

What happened at Silver Lake, Colorado, in 1921?

Email your answer to Kristina@dsmrepair.com. Look in next month's newsletter for the answer.

ALTOONA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Altoona, IA 50009



phone: 515-967-4382
fax: 515-967-5112
Ken's Cell: 515-314-6494
Ken's email: RevKBriggsACC@msn.com
Natalie's email : peace.weaver@live.com
Natalie's cell#: 515-991-2359
Church email: altoonadcc@msn.com


Church Staff and Volunteers

Pastor Kenneth Briggs Jr.
Associate Pastor Natalie Ervin
Office Coordinator Cheri Waddell
Choir Director Barb Hulen
*Bell & Chime Choir Director Paulette Craggs
Electronic Keyboardist/Organist .. Ron Rieckmann
*Children's Choir Director Tiffany Briggs
* Puppet Troop Leader Georgia Woodward
Wedding Coordinator Becky Rosenberger
Custodians Dave and Kristy Leinen
* Newsletter Editor Kristina Steffes-Clayton
Nursery Attendant.. Jennifer Beckett, Becca Kerr &
..... Melanie Bates
* Office Volunteer Linda Shaw
* Volunteer Position



6 pm
Sunday, November 29th
Special evening service

the Greens
Hanging of



Goal for Ministry:
The goal for ministry of the Altoona Christian Church through the year is:
To seek people for Christ, especially children, youth and older adults through encouraging belief and service.

Mission Statement:
We believe Christ has touched our hearts and spirits with God's love. Therefore, we seek to care for and love each other, serving in Christ's name that God's Spirit may touch others through us.

Altoona Christian Church