

BROOKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Brookwood Echoes

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*Brookwood's Attendance for the Month of November*

October 29/30 32/82=114

November 5/6 39/87=126

November 12/13 62/95=157

November 19/20 27/86=113

November 26/27 see next issue



**HIGHLIGHTS**

The beginning of Advent is a time for Hanging of the Greens and this year the Worship Ministry Unit supervised this festive occasion on two different dates. The Sanctuary, where the 7pm Christmas Eve service will be held, was decorated after a Saturday Casual worship service in late November and the Chapel and the rest of the building decorated on December 4<sup>th</sup> after 10:30 worship.

Hanging of the Greens has been part of Brookwood's tradition for many years and brings a beautiful and special awareness to worship as we celebrate the joy of this special season. Symbolically, however, there is much more than beauty involved.

Long before the birth of Christ, evergreens were used as an emblem of eternal life. Now as a Christian symbol, the evergreen represents Jesus Christ who is our eternal life. Of all the Christian symbols, none is more familiar than the evergreen and its use is common throughout the world. The wreath, being round, represents eternal life because there is no end to the circle and no beginning. It shows that God was and always is. And the Christmas tree is often considered a symbol of our Lord inside the church and it has been suggested that the lights on the tree represent each person who is in the body of Christ within our church and around the world. Although the source is unknown, this beautiful thought can bring a special meaning to the tree that will sparkle with lights in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

It's the Advent wreath, however, that plays a central role in all that decorates the church during the Christmas season. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God himself, his eternity and endless mercy which has no beginning or end.

The candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus his Son. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent which is said to symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ. The first candle is traditionally the candle of Expectation or Hope and the others are traditionally Love, Joy and Peace. The flame of each candle as it is lit reminds us that something is happening and that more is yet to come. Finally, the central location of the white Christ Candle reminds us that Christ is the heart of the season, giving light to the world. The glow from its flame, when lighted on Christmas, signifies the fulfillment of God's promise of long ago.

As we enjoy the beauty and symbolism that Hanging of the Greens imparts to our building and to our worship, it is good to know that Brookwood is continuing a custom which began in ancient times. The symbols of the early church that served to transmit faith and belief are ones that continue to do the same for us today.

## THE SHEPHERD'S CROOKE

By Pastor John E. Birkner

Time has a way of picking up speed this time of year and believe it or not Advent begins this Sunday (Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>) which means we are only four weeks away from Christmas! As we prepare to welcome in the Christ Child, I would like to highlight three programs designed to help us do just that.

**First, beginning Wednesday, Nov. 23<sup>RD</sup>, at 6:30 pm in the Strickland Room and for the next three Wednesdays thereafter (ends Dec. 14<sup>TH</sup>), Pastoral Intern Amy House will be offering a special Advent Bible Study in lieu of the regular Wednesday Night Pastor's Bible Study.**

Amy has put a lot of time into preparing for this Study for the adults as well as seeing that what she is teaching is being coordinated with what the children in Sunday School will be receiving for instruction during Advent. I encourage as many of you as possible to attend this four week series—you won't be disappointed.

**Second, beginning Saturday, Nov. 26<sup>TH</sup>, at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall and every Saturday thereafter through Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve, Brookwood will again be holding Agape Feasts.**

The "Agape Feast" or "love feast" recalls meals which Jesus shared with his disciples and the community at large during his ministry and is an expression of the fellowship that Christians enjoy when we meet as "the household of God." In keeping with the mission traditions associated with the Agape Feast, bags of food will be available at the close of the meal for any and all who attend to share with the community at large. Each bag is designed to feed a person for three days. Members are encouraged to come and "break bread" with those who may have recently lost their jobs or know someone who has. The Agape Feasts have been very well attended in the past averaging between 30-50 participants. What better way to prepare our hearts for the "Child born in a manger" than by ministering to those who are in need now?

**Finally, we will have two services Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm The first will be in the Sanctuary while the latter one will be in the Chapel. On Sunday, Christmas Day, we will have only one service at 10:30 am in the Chapel.**

The 7:00 Christmas Eve Service will mark the first time in over a year that we have worshiped as a congregation in the Sanctuary. The service itself will be a traditional Service of Readings, Carols, Holy Communion and Candle Lighting. Music for this service will be provided by the Chancel Choir, Hand Bell Choir & Chamber Orchestra. As a result, all of the seating behind the Special Needs seating is being reserved for the acolytes, musicians and technicians. Seating for the congregation will be in the front two-thirds of the Sanctuary which I hope to have both denoted and lit by several sets of new pew candelabras. While we are not yet ready to return to the Sanctuary on a regular basis, holding one Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary is nevertheless a big step toward that goal as well as an affirmation of the direction Brookwood is heading.

See you in Church,

Pastor John

# **DEACONS CHRISTMAS PROJECTS**

*Every year the Deacons, with the help and support of the Congregation, provide Christmas gifts to people that might otherwise not have a gift on Christmas. The Deacons give gifts to families in the Parents Plus Program through the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, to Seniors through the North Central Mental Health Services and BCLC students. We make donations to the Franklin County Children's Wish program, Life Care Alliance and the Brookwood Harvest Table. We don't do this on our own. It is through generosity of the Congregation that this ministry happens. You can keep the Deacons' Christmas Project going by making a donation. There are green Deacons Christmas Project envelopes in the pews and sent out with the Echoes. Please consider a gift to the Deacons' Christmas Project this holiday season.*

## **Mitten Tree**

Winter will be upon us soon!! Having warm mittens and a nice warm hat are essential when the cold wind blows and the snow starts piling up outside the door. Please bring in a hat or mittens for the Brookwood Mitten Tree. The gift of warm hands will warm your heart!!!



## **Silent Auction**



Join us for a spaghetti dinner and silent auction on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> after the service. The Deacons are having a fund raising dinner and silent auction to raise money for the Deacons' Service projects. We will have spaghetti & meatballs, lasagna, salad, bread & desserts for dinner. During the dinner, take the opportunity to bid on some wonderful items. There will be art work by some of Brookwood's best artists, Ellen Bennett, Gordon Ley, Richard Bauer, Chelsea Tanksley and Aaron Wristen. There are cards with the Church picture, drawn by Richard Bauer that are suitable for framing. There will also be a quilt done by the Brookwood Quilting group, Vera Bradley purses, Helen's pecan pies and a gift certificate for Kelly's wonderful cookies. Join us for a wonderful meal and be prepared to bid and buy some one of a kind, special items. It will be a great afternoon.

*If you want to get a preview of the items that will be available to bid on during the auction, they will be on display in the lobby on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.*

*For those singing with the Village Singers concert on the 11<sup>th</sup>, there will be plenty of time to do both events.*

# ***HARVEST TABLE***

## ***A SUCCESS STORY for BROOKWOOD***

*Thanks to the generosity of the Brookwood congregation, friends of Brookwood, and food suppliers, the 2011 Harvest Table project was able to provide 150 food baskets to central Ohio families in need.*

*These baskets were provided to the following organizations: Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (40); Old First Church (20); Native American Indian Center (21); First Link (17) and Brookwood Friends and Families (53).*

*Meijer, Kroger, Aldi, & Wal-Mart were the grocers used this year to purchase the meat gift cards and additional canned food items needed beyond what is donated by our Brookwood members. The potatoes were again donated by Schacht Family Farm market. The apples were supplied at cost by Smith's Farm Market with 20 additional bags for our Food Pantry. Schweibel's Bread and Blue Box were also generous in their pricing.*

*We are grateful for the leadership taken by Susan Howard and Kim Relle in contacting grocers and agencies as well as buying and counting food.*

*There are so many others who gave of their time and effort.*

*Those youth and adults who repacked over 800 pounds of potatoes and those who assembled the boxes to hold the food. Those who made trips to pick up boxes and food and those who carried everything to the gym. On Saturday, it was a beautiful sight of abundant help of all ages filling the 150 boxes with food items, a Thanksgiving message from our clergy. Then on Sunday there were those who made sure each box with its gift card was properly distributed.*

*Every recipient was grateful for the generosity of all involved.*

*Blessings to each of you,*

*Judy & Tony Montjoy*

*Co-Chairs Mission Outreach*



# *Special Feature....*

*A special treat was in store for all those who walked through the back lobby on Sunday, October 16. On display were finished quilts and quilt tops completed by Brookwood's Quilting, Etc, Susan Howard (Gooslin) decided to share some of the beautiful work created by the group that has been meeting for almost a year now. It was obvious that creativity has flourished under her capable guidance.*

*Susan says she became interested in quilting as a young girl. When she would visit her grandmother in Fremont, Michigan often a quilting bee would be taking place in the parlor. She enjoyed going through her grandmother's quilt drawers and found herself fascinated by the variety of patterns and colors and fabrics. When she was a teenager she began taking patterns from magazines, purchasing the fabrics and then made her first top. In her early 30's, after attending a special quilting class, she completed her first real quilt.*

*During the intervening years Susan graduated from Michigan State in Elementary Education and taught in public schools in Michigan, Los Angeles and then came to Ohio. She taught at St. Joseph Montessori and then Columbus Public Schools, retiring after 15 years. Along the way she raised two sons and there are now 9 grandchildren; 5 in Pickerington and 4 in Pittsburgh. She and Ron, who met at Brookwood and have been married 28 years, enjoy spending as much time with them as possible especially at their summer place in Michigan.*

*Thank you Susan for sharing your love of quilting with members of Brookwood and the community.*



## **Bible 101**

*The Saturday Casual worship and Supper gatherings continue to grow not only in numbers but also in content. Following Supper and Worship, we have begun a Bible study for those who are wanting to learn more about the Scripture. Our attendance is 12 persons. Literally, we started the study from scratch! We are learning how to use the references in the Bible and how to use those resources that assist us in our interpretation of what we read. Pastor Irv is teaching the seven-week experience. The class began on November 5<sup>th</sup> and will conclude on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Our focus is the Old Testament's story of God's mighty acts in the redemption of humanity. We are hearing anew and discovering God's intervention in the lives of individual characters and in the history of Israel. We are also discovering the New Testament use of Hebrew Scripture. We are having a 'great time!' The Hand of God is shaping us and we trust the outcome of the prayerful study to the Spirit.*

## ~ Hymn of the month ~

### Mary, Did You Know?

Mary, did you know, that your  
baby boy  
Would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know, that your  
baby boy  
Would save our sons and  
daughters?

Did you know, that your baby  
boy  
Has come to make you new?  
This Child that you delivered,  
will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know, that your  
baby boy  
Will give sight to the blind man?  
Mary, did you know, that your  
baby boy  
Would calm a storm with His  
hand?

Did you know, that your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod  
And when you kiss your little

baby, you've kissed the face  
of God?  
Oh, Mary, did you know?  
Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will  
hear.  
The dead will live again  
The lame will leap, the dumb  
will speak  
Praises of the Lamb?

Mary, did you know, that your  
baby boy  
Is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know, that your  
baby boy  
Will one day rule the nations?

Did you know, that your baby  
boy  
Was Heaven's perfect Lamb  
And this sleeping Child you're  
holding  
Is the Great I Am  
Oh, Mary.



No Christmas song written in the past three decades has provoked the kind of response that "Mary, Did You Know?" has. Buddy Green's simple and touching melody certainly deserves some of the credit for the song's popularity and acceptance, but most people who hear the song are really drawn by the unique perspective found in Mark Lowry's dynamic lyrics. Yet this song's gift to the world might have been lost forever if a set of loving parents had not chosen to believe in the promise and potential God placed in their child.



### ***Birthdays***

12/2 Trudi Relle  
 12/2 Ron Gooslin  
 12/3 Mary Virginia Horn  
 12/3 Trenton Vennon  
 12/4 Diane Rood  
 12/5 Steven Wristen  
 12/8 Kevin Banks  
 12/10 Christopher Eifert  
 12/11 Caroline Sams  
 12/13 David Fick  
 12/15 Adam French  
 12/18 Bonnie Nicosia  
 12/18 Marcey Markoff  
 12/21 Marjorie Kropp  
 12/21 Ann Awe  
 12/21 Rob Rine  
 12/22 Edna Harbold  
 12/22 Tara Figurski  
 12/23 Becky Rose  
 12/23 Thomas Stubbs  
 12/24 Greg Myers  
 12/24 Lisa Medlar  
 12/25 Joe Davis  
 12/27 Ellen Bennett  
 12/28 Fran Son  
 12/28 Ada Walz

### ***Anniversaries***

12/8 Gene & Cheryl Wolford – 21 years

### ***Lay Readers***

12/4 Tony Montjoy  
 12/11 Bonnie Nicosia  
 12/18 Marcella Marr  
 12/25 Nancy Hartmann

### ***Acolyte Schedule***

12/4 Maya Figurski  
 12/11 Dakota Santiago  
 12/18 Abigail Figurski  
 12/24 All Acolytes ~ 7pm Service  
 12/25 Jeffrey Nicosia

### ***Communion Date***

12/3-4 Second Sunday in Advent - Intinction  
 12/24 Christmas Eve – Intinction  
 12/25 Christmas Day - Intinction

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

Prayer requests from today's service are shared with prayer groups of the church. We have listed below the names from last week. Please use the pew notes to share requests with us.

Please pray for:

|                   |                   |                |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Joyce Davis       | Ron Gooslin       | Mary Funtjar   |
| Debbie Eifert     | Bob Shaw          | Madlyn Evans   |
| Rhonda Erwin      | Eugene Erwin      | Cheryl Wolford |
| Gene Wolford      | David Hoy         | Bert George    |
| Gordon Ley        | Melanie Rine      | J.T.           |
| Sher'rie Ann Rine | Kelley Phillhower | Donna          |
| Donald Pierce     | Keith Deardurff   | Debi Glenn     |
| Dharl Dever       | Mark Wolford      | Susan Cook     |
| Dwight Secrest    | Marylee Woods     |                |

Bill Swearingen (Marlene Deardurff's brother in CA)

Ouma, Chuck, Reyleen, Renee, Colleen, Kimberly, Teri Simon, Charles, Jackie, Alan Froman, Angel, Dwan (all for cancer & healing)

# Brookwood News

## Finance Update

Thanks to the continuing generosity of the congregation and the careful stewardship of the various Ministry Units, we are on track to end 2011 with a balanced budget. As you reflect on the many positive happenings at Brookwood this year, including new staff, small group activities and community outreach efforts, please prayerfully consider how to best share your time, talent and treasure in 2012.

One end-of-the year reminder – **the final date for gifts to be credited to 2011 will be Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.**



## Food Pantry Update

*Thanks to the generous support of the congregation and recent donations from Columbus Academy, the Brookwood food pantry is ending 2011 on a very positive note. Columbus Academy donated over 2,300 basic food items in November which, along with the 1,300 apples donated in September, have provided much needed resources to serve our food pantry clients during the holiday season. We have expressed our gratitude to the students, their families and the Academy administrators who have made donations such as these possible for many years.*

*The Brookwood food pantry is open each Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 A.M. and usually serves ten client families with a combined total of approximately forty adults and children. Each client family is referred to Brookwood by HandsOn Central Ohio, part of the HandsOn Network – the largest volunteer network in the nation with more than 250 action centers in 16 countries. Approximately 500 food items are distributed to our client families each week, which is intended to provide a three-day supply of basic food items for each family member.*

*Once again, we thank the congregation for their financial support and for the dedication of members who staff the food pantry operation each week. As we are all well aware, the need of many families in our community will continue into 2012, so we ask for your continuing support in the future.*

Thank you for all that you do!

### ***It doesn't seem possible but we have been meeting for almost a year.***

Our 1st meeting was in January 2010. A lot has been accomplished this past year and we have several quilts completed and are for sale. All proceeds go to Brookwood Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in more information about quilt sizes, patterns/colors and prices you can connect Susan Howard or Bertha Whitmore through the church office: 614-235-3451.

Everyone is welcome to come quilt/knit/etc with us. You can bring your own project or work on a group quilt. We meet in the BPC library the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Thank you for all the interest and support this past year. We are looking forward to another year of fellowship and making more quilts!

Susan Howard



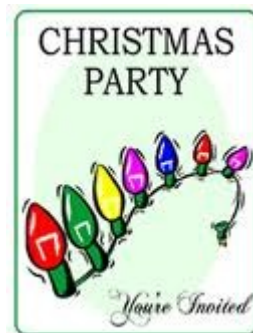
*Were you wondering what the 'Cherry Picker' was doing in front of the church several weeks ago? Probably not. But here is the explanation. The steeple was in a state of deterioration with boards falling. Luckily no person was injured nor any damage done. To repair the steeple, the pickers was needed to reach the damaged area.*

*In regards to the replacement of the chapel area boilers, work has begun!!!! This was a much needed replacement. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation during last year's capital improvement drive, money was available to perform this important project. Hopefully, the chapel will now be warm in the winter & cool in the summer.*

### All Church Christmas Party

On Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm, the Education Ministry Unit will be having a Christmas Party for our church family and friends.

There will be food, crafts, games & volleyball. You are welcome to invite your friends and family. Everyone is welcome!! Hope you can join us for some holiday fun!!



***Come One!! Come All!!  
To our brand new website!!!***

Visit [www.brookwoodpresbyterian.org](http://www.brookwoodpresbyterian.org) to see our new website. It is a work in progress with some areas still to be completed!

So, if you see anything you would like to have added to the website, please let us know! It's a great way to stay connected with all the activities in our church. We are always looking for pictures of all the activities we have - Dine w/ 9, Harvest Table, Leaf Raking, Sociable Seniors, etc!! So, take some pictures and send them to [info@brookwoodpresbyterian.org](mailto:info@brookwoodpresbyterian.org). You will notice that there is also an online version of the newsletter!! If you would prefer to read your newsletter online instead of having it mailed to your house, please let Penny know at [info@brookwoodpresbyterian.org](mailto:info@brookwoodpresbyterian.org).



# Brookwood Family & Friends

It was a busy evening for the Windjammers who prepared and served supper at the Saturday worship service on November 12<sup>th</sup>. They thought it would be nice for members to experience the meal that our church takes to Faith Mission, so diners enjoyed Johnny Marzetti, green beans, fresh apples (substituted for applesauce) with cookies for dessert.



## ***ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE***

### *Agape Feast*

*Saturdays November 26 through December 17  
5:00 pm Fellowship Hall*

*Sunday Early Bird Worship, 8:30 am Chapel  
Sunday Traditional Worship, 10:30 am Chapel*

*Saturday December 24 Christmas Eve Services  
7:00 pm Sanctuary  
11:00 pm Chapel*

*Sunday December 25 Christmas Day Service  
10:30 am Chapel*



# ALL SAINTS DAY REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION

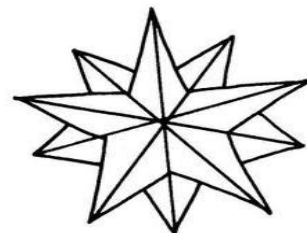
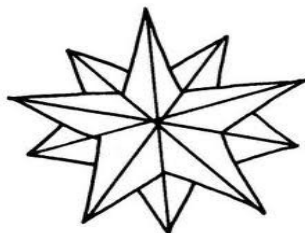
On Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup> Brookwood honored those who have gone before us. All Saints is a day for remembering and giving thanks as we remember the good people we have known and give thanks for the unending goodness of God.

All Saints' Day is the day that we as Christians give thanks for all the good people God has placed in our lives, especially those who have gone before us. It is also a day when we give thanks for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the lives of all people. It is not because people are special in and of themselves that we call them saints, but it is because they are ordinary, everyday people who allow the Holy Spirit to work through them, doing the mighty deeds of the Lord.

Following are the names of those of our congregation that have died since last All Saints' Day, Sunday November 7, 2010.

Our beloved Saints are:

- Ben Groves      Nov. 5, 2010
- Michael MacKay    Nov. 28, 2011
- James Asmus      Jan. 9, 2011
- Jean Chambers    March 19, 2011
- Ed Findley        April 8, 2011
- Jeanne Schmitt    April 17, 2011
- Robert Reed      May 7, 2011
- Martha Smith     Sept. 1, 2011
- George Busche    Sept. 24, 2011
- Thelma Wright    Oct. 21, 2011



\* \* \* \* \*

On Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> Brookwood held a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing officers. Please take a moment to welcome your new Elders & Deacons that were nominated.

### Elders for the Class of 2014

Ellen Bennett, Greg Figurski & Carol Ross

### Deacons for the Class of 2014

Susan Deardurff, Kim Hachet, Nancy Hartmann, Debbie Hale-Butler

### & Deacon for the Class of 2013

Becky Rose



LCPL Rine, Robert M  
(& Sherrie)  
120 Joe Powell Lane #19  
Jacksonville, NC 28540

SPC. 4 Vincent M. Krivda  
will have new  
address soon!!!

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Patrick Harrigan  
C Compony 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
SBCT Apache  
APO AE 09383  
(Rocky Krivda's husband  
\*\*new address\*\*)

PFC Krivda, Thurman  
will have new  
address soon!!

Otis Cuffee (will have an address soon)



**Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party from 6:00-8:00 pm**

➤ Come and join us for food, games, crafts & volleyball! This is an activity for our entire congregation! ☺

\*\*\* If you have any questions or ideas, just let me know. Thanks! ☺

Pam Nutter  
[prnutter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:prnutter@sbcglobal.net)  
367-9080

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## *“BROOKWOOD ECHOES”*



*December 2011*

*John Birkner, Pastor for Specialized Ministries*

*Irvin Moxley, Pastor for Membership & Community Outreach*

*Penny Truex, Editor*