



Judson Journal

December 2011

Special points of interest:

- "It's not how you start its how you finish the counts!"
- Judson has new leadership.
- News from the Book Club
- Judson's TO DO List

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Finishing Strong - By Pastor Matt Rappley

Dr. James Sewell was my Bible history professor in college. He was known for repeating the statement "it's not how you start its how you finish that counts". For Judson, there is much truth in that statement.

Judson is finishing 2011 strong!

As we began the year, we were facing budget deficits, maintenance issues, and operational challenges.

However, throughout the year we saw God work miraculously! No, we did not see a mass of people come and join the church.

Nevertheless, we did see God's people at work in the church.

One of the main contributing factors to seeing God's people at work was prayer. It is not mere coincidence that we started a Sunday morning prayer group to pray for the finances of the church and there was an improvement. It was not mere circumstance that our weekly Bible study group prayed for the church and our spirit grew. To put it in context one of our Deacons said, "This was the easiest year in many years to find people to volunteer". I believe we are finishing strong because many are praying.

Therefore, since we are finishing this year strong let us begin next year strong. If you are praying for the finances and the spirit of the church, continue. If you are not a in a study or prayer group, please come the door is always open. If you have not had a chance to become involved, come- join in we can use the help. Let us do everything we can to keep the excitement going in 2012 as "We Expect a Miracle"! Help Judson to finish strong.



Christmas at Judson

"The Littlest Star"

December 18, 2011

Come and see that no matter how small you are, God has a plan for you. The program will be held during the Sunday morning Worship Service.



We will be celebrating the birth of Jesus our Deliverer by lighting an advent candle every week. The last candle will be lit at our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service which will begin at 6:00 pm.

Book Club Notes

The Judson Book Club meets every other month. Each member chooses a book to read and discuss when her name comes up alphabetically.

One of the books we read and discussed was **Sarah's Key** by Tatiana de Rosnay. You can check it out in our library. Great book with a story beginning in Paris in 1942 and ending 60 years later in America.

For those of you who were unable to attend our Judson Fall Business Meeting we thought you might like to know the Ministry Leadership (Deacons) for Judson Baptist Church for 2012. This committee will assume their duties in January.

Vision Formation Deacon - Gary Peterson
 Church Clerk - Joan Peterson
 Worship & Celebration - Mary Ann Anderson
 Community & World Missions - Kathy Koppenhaver
 Care & Nurture - Leanna Carrick
 Administration & Development - Don Zak
 Education - Lou Riggs
 Facility Manager - Vacant

Members at Large - Greg Nohr and Phyllis Meyer

Each Deacon has a committee that he or she works with throughout the year. If you are interested in working on any of these committees let that Deacon know. Your Deacons need support and it can be fun serving on these committees and not all work. Think about it - get involved.
 Leanna Carrick - Vision Formation Deacon for one more month!



Bits and Pieces from the November Deacons Meeting



- We received \$512.23 for the World Missions Offering. Thanks to all who contributed.
- We are within \$156 of paying for the tree removal. Great job to all!
- Our 'to do' list for the parsonage and church total approx. \$28,000 to complete.
- A letter will go out to past and present members concerning the events of our 125th anniversary in 2012. The ladies book club have agreed to work on the activities for the celebration.
- The offering for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries is coming in December.
- Tami Allman has agreed to handle Project Angel Tree this year.
- November 12th is Fall with the Merrills at Camp Merrill.
- Tami and Dan Allman's membership was never moved from Judson, we are so happy to welcome them back!
- Our mortgage payment will go down dramatically in June of 2012 due to a reduced interest rate that takes place after 5 years.
- Trudy and Lou are working on getting the church history up to date again. We need from 2003 to present.
- The winter quarter Sunday School materials have been ordered.
- The children's Christmas program will be during the church hour on December 18th.
- Both Thanksgiving and Christmas special offerings will go toward reducing the debt on the new building.
- We will have an all church meeting on November 13th to vote on a budget and leadership positions for 2012.

Judson's To Do List:

- ☑ Till up the garden
- ☑ Set up a welcome table
- ☑ Clean out gutters on the church & parsonage
- ☑ Garage door repaired
- ☑ Tree roots cleaned out of parsonage sewer
- ☑ Burned out light bulbs replaced
- ☑ New Fellowship Hall floor stripped & waxed
- ☑ Parking lot lights repaired
- ☑ Building security lights repaired
- ☑ Toilets Repaired
- ☑ Construct splash blocks for rainwater downspouts
- ☑ Contract snow removal for this winter.

Thank you George for all your hard work. It hasn't gone unnoticed.

Freshening Up Judson

Several of our Judson members took on the Old Fellowship Hall as a fall project this year. It started with the carpet getting a thorough cleaning, leaving the old Fellowship Hall smelling cheerfully fresh. The window blinds were taken down to let plenty of sunlight in. A large group of volunteers came to the church on a Saturday to paint the walls of the old Fellowship Hall. The base color selected is a light sea foam. A band of teal covers the bottom portion of the walls. Stop by the bulletin boards in the entry way of the new building to see the work in action.



Parsonage Trees

If you have not yet had a chance to drive by the parsonage you must! It looks like a different place, especially in the backyard. A couple of weeks ago the work began to take out all of the diseased trees around the parsonage. To our surprise the work only took an afternoon to bring down 11 large trees. The arborist said the trees were about 30 years

old. It was nerve racking to see the trees come down but praise the Lord no damage was done to the parsonage of the Church. Judson's members have raised almost the entire amount for the project! Thank you to all who contributed. There are pictures of the tree cutting on the bulletin boards in the entry way of the new building.

I Loving Memory



Several weeks ago a pallet was delivered to the church. After signing for the delivery we realized that pallet was holding the memorial tiles for our memorial wall! Judson hired a tile layer and he went to right to work. The wall is almost completed and it looks wonderful! It catches your eye when you walk into the new building. You will have to take some time to come see the wall and remember some of dear friends and family.

Judson's Thanksgiving Dinner

Wonderful fellowship and food was shared at Judson's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a blessing to have more people come to the meal than originally expected. The food was delicious. Praise the Lord for His faithful provisions to us!



Angel Tree Project

When a mom or dad is in prison, their children are often the silent sufferers. You can let them know they aren't forgotten. You can give the child of a prisoner the joy of Christmas this year.

Stop by the Judson's Angel Tree in the vestibule and select a child or two to bless this Christmas. The wrapped gift for your child is do back under the Christmas tree no later than December 18th. If you would like to help deliver the gifts please let Sherry Warrick know as soon as you can.



The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

From its beginning, the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) has been described as a "People Offering"—given by people for people, rather than for denominational programs, resources, budgets, benefits and buildings.

The RMMO provides you with a tangible way by which to honor, say "thank you" and provide financial assistance to the retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who supported you in times of need, guided you on your spiritual journey and

provided inspiration.

Recipients of "Thank You" checks and emergency and other financial assistance express gratitude not only for the gift but for less tangible benefits, such as evidence of God's providential care, encouragement, hope and assurance that they have not been forgotten by their ABC family. Judson will be collecting this offering during the month of December. Special offering envelopes will be included in the weekly bulletins. If you are unable to come on Sunday's feel free to send your donation to the Church.

A Crime Prevention Forum will be held on December 1st at 7:00 pm at the La Vista Police Station. The La Vista Police Department will offer a brief overview of its operations and crime tactics and it will introduce a revamped crime prevention/neighborhood watch program, which will include the recruitment of neighborhood leaders. For more information, contact Sgt Jeremy Kinsey, 402-331-1582.

Omahaland Pastors Dinner



Church directory pictures will be taken December 4th & 11th after the service. Please call the church office to reserve your time slot.

Hi Kids:


Boy, do I like turkey, but even more I like corn. No I love corn. Any way you fix it, I love it. The Thanksgiving dinner you served a few Sunday's ago was f antastic. I ate until I thought I would pop! Ms. Mary Ann made me a little plate just for me. Oh forget I said that. She told me not to tell anybody.

I can hardly wait for December 18th. That's the day of the Christmas Program, "The Littlest Star." I've been watching rehearsals and the morale of the story is you are never too little to fulfill God's wishes. That makes me feel really good because I'm pretty small. I'm going to watch the program from one of the window sills so I can see every-thing.

Even though I am small, my mom says there are lots of things I can do like make my bed, pick up my toys and help her dust. Ewww! Those aren't fun things or God things. But then I learned in Ms. Lou's Sunday School class that one of the Ten Commandments is to "Honor your Mother and Father." I'm pretty sure mom would say dusting comes under that commandment.

I've made out my Christmas list and it's pretty short this year. All I want is a drum set. Dad said my chances of getting a set are slim and zilch – whatever that means. Maybe I could play on Sunday mornings with Mr. Mike and Ms. Jenny. Oh that would be so much fun.

Merry Christmas to all of you and a very Happy New Year too since I probably won't talk to you again until it's 2012. Always remember it makes you feel good










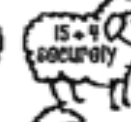




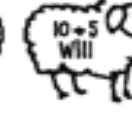



PUZZLE

A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

 $7+6$ strength	 $9+1$ shepherd	 $30-5$ the	 $7+5$ ends	 $50-26$ live	
 $21-10$ will	 $27-24$ reach	 $10+7$ flock	 $40-20$ stand	 $15+4$ security	 $8+8$ his
 $35-31$ low	 $17-3$ greatness	 $10-3$ earth	 $10+5$ will	 $5+1$ will	

"He _____ and _____ his _____
 15 20 10 17
 in the _____ of the _____ ... And they _____
 13 4 11 24
 _____, for then _____
 18 16 14 8
 _____ to the _____ of _____."
 3 12 25 7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

to help others so remember those who don't have all the stuff you have and give them something for Christmas like God gave us Jesus. WOW!
What an amazing gift.

Judd the Mouse



Dear God:

Do dogs and cats go to heaven?
Buffy's been a very good dog, but Sissy Cat scratched my arm.

Lucile, Age 7

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- 12/1 La Vista Crime Prevention Forum at 7:00 pm at the La Vista Police Station.
- 12/4 Communion Service
Nursery:
- 12/7 Birthday - Joe Pelnar
- 12/10 Birthday - Nancy Balkovic
- 12/11 Birthday - Darlene Welch
Cookies, Coffee, and Conversation following the service.
- 12/13 Birthday - Eric Meyer
- 12/14 Birthday - Frank Balkovic
- 12/15 Birthday - Pastor Matt Rappley
- 12/18 Birthday - Austin Meyer
Christmas Program during the service.
- 12/23 Birthday - Greg Nohr
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm

December 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 12/25 Christmas Service. No Sunday School.
- 12/27 Birthday - Roberta Williston
- 12/28 Birthday - Ben Byers
- 12/29 Birthday - Scott Prusia
- 12/31 Birthday - Sharon Neiderheiser



MERRY CHRISTMAS