

## Women's Bible Study UPDATE

following Wednesday. If you are a returning member you do not need to sign up, however if you are new to the group please notify Linda Johanson (432-8042) that you would like to join so that we order enough books.

The Ladies Wednesday night Bible study will be starting a new study on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 pm. in the room across from Pastor Smith's Sunday school room. All ladies in the church are welcome to join us. The new study is "The miracles of Jesus". We will pass out the books on January 7<sup>th</sup> and introduce the topic that night. We will then begin with lesson one on the

Thanks, Linda

## Reminder About Church Surveys!

Please fill out your survey and drop it in the box in the Narthex if you haven't filled it out already! If you need a survey ~ there are extra surveys located in the Narthex. Please pick one up.

## Missions Post Office News...

Please be sure to check your mailbox in the back hallway for Christmas cards. There are some cards that still have not been picked up. We appreciate your participation in this fundraiser.

## About The Good Samaritan Clinic...

The Good Samaritan Clinic is currently involved in its annual fund raising campaign, and needs help. They are extremely short of funds and are in grave danger of being forced to cut some programs in order to survive; programs that are desperately needed by the uninsured residents of Burke County. In the past year they have performed 23,566 patient assists helping them with their medical and pharmaceutical needs. That is an increase of 240% from the previous year. Probably even more people will be seeking help in 2009. And also, through this ministry people are being won to Jesus Christ. Will you prayerfully consider making a donation to allow the Good Samaritan Clinic to continue the mission for which it was created, "Bringing hope, help, healing and health to Burke County both physically and spiritually?" If you would like to help, please mail your much needed donations to: Good Samaritan Clinic, 305 West Union St., Morganton, NC 28655.

## Thank You Again & Again!

Dear Church Family,

*Thank you for your prayers, cards and visits while I was in the hospital. Your kindness has such a special touch.*

*My love & prayers,  
Charlene Ramsey*

Dear Morganton First Church of God,

*We shall always remember with deep gratitude your comforting expression of sympathy in the passing of my father, Rob Fredell.*

*Sincerely,  
Robin Horton & Family*

To the Precious Saints of Morganton First COG,

*Have a glorious 2009! Please accept the love and gratitude of our hearts for all your love and goodness to us. May the Lord continue to bless and prosper you greatly.*

*We love you!  
Sister Phyllis & your Haitian Brethren  
St. Arde, Haiti*

Dear Morganton First Church of God,

*We shall always remember with deep gratitude your comforting expression of sympathy towards us in the passing of my mother, Winnie Mangum.*

*Sincerely,  
Richard & Jo Ann Mangum*

## ◆ About this Proclaimer ◆

This issue of The Proclaimer is new in layout and begins a new frequency. Economic and other considerations have led to a decision to reformat the Proclaimer. It will be published and mailed once per month, rather than bi-weekly. The new format offers space for each of the pastoral staff and others to provide information in the Proclaimer. The article, formerly known as *Ruth's Reflections* will be changed to *Soli Deo Gloria*; the articles will be about Missions work supported by this church, or biographical information on church families. Thanks to Ruth Smith for years of reflections, and for willingness to continue with this new format.

If you readers have suggestions for improvements, please contact us. Also, we would appreciate knowing if this newsletter is sufficiently informing you of church activities.

Thanks and God bless you. Pastor Don



**St. Charles Catholic Church**  
**~ Homeless Shelter ~**  
**Needs of volunteers to help assist with**  
**the homeless shelter.**  
**If you can help, please call**  
**Toni Whitefell at 433-9686**

## Philippines Mission Trip Meeting

### Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>

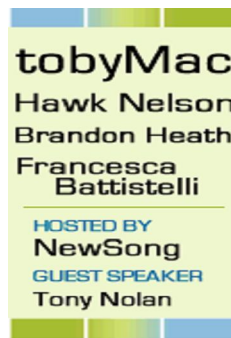
Following our morning worship service.

**This is a mandatory meeting if you are planning on**  
**Participating in this mission trip.**

**For more info please contact Dr. Bill Johanson at 432-8042**



**Youth Trip**  
**To Charlotte For**  
**"Winter Jam '09"**  
**Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**We'll leave after church!**  
**\$10 at the door.**



## Musical Musings ... *from Pastor Kris*

As I write this article the week before Christmas, I am still busy with the preparations of the Christmas season at church. I know you will not read it, however, until the vast majority of decorations have been taken down and stored away – and some of the Christmas toys have already broken from extended use! Forgive me, then, as I 'reflect' a bit on this most beautiful of seasons in our church.



I need to give a heartfelt thanks to the many talented musicians in our congregation. The music they bring to you each week has been prayerfully selected and then carefully rehearsed. Kathy Ramsey and Frances Horton have given many hours in the sanctuary throughout this season, putting together the beautiful preludes and offertories you listen to each week. Joe Hammock and Randy Powell come in with smiles on their faces every Sunday morning to add a level of depth to our music with guitar and drums. And there is nothing more beautiful to me than when our high school and young adult musicians blast their trumpets and trombones and give sweet breath to their flutes.

Our Praise Choir is *a most faithful* group, and I cannot compliment them enough on their dedicated hours of practice. It is PURE JOY to stand in front of them each week and wave my arms as if I'm bringing the music to life – no, I'm just dancing in praise as they lead *me* in worship! And the singers who give us such wonderful special music – again they select and prepare and bring us an offering not just of 'joyful noise,' but one of excellence in worship to our King – it just amazes me!

And then there are those behind-the-scenes 'closet musicians' who sit back in the sound booth each week and make our music more pleasant to your ears – Sam Turner and Trae Price. Without them, we'd be in a heap of trouble – just trust me on that! They're faithful to come early and stay late, and put up with a lot of instructions from this faulty director!

So to all of you who take part in our Music Ministry here at Morganton First Church of God, I send a great big ... truly sincere ... "THANK YOU!" And to all of you in the congregation, I do hope you have experienced Christ in this Christmas season and have let the music carry you to a high place of praise! May the name of Jesus forever be exalted!