

December 2011



Annual Ladies Tea

**Saturday
February 18
2 pm**

**COLOR Church
1922 LaSalle Rd
Monroe, MI**

**Guest Speaker—
Geneva Begeman**

CAMP 2012

**WATER'S EDGE
CAMP AND
CONFERENCE
CENTER
HOWELL, MI**

JUNE 17-22

**Check out the
website
Colornet.org**

LIVING IN 2012

Elder Charles Moore

The New Year brings with it a sense of hope and newness. Many of us take this time to look at ourselves and make commitments or resolutions for what we consider a better life. We want to get rid of the old and put on the new. New Year's resolutions are much like the molting process that the lobster goes through once a year after they are adults. "In order to grow, lobsters have to rid themselves of their old, hard, protective shell and grow a new, larger one. This process of shedding an old shell is called molting. They do this about twenty-five times in the first five years of life and once a year after they become adults. It is an ugly, messy process. Under the pressure, the old, hard, protective shell cracks. Then the lobster lies on its side, flexes its muscles, and pulls itself from the cracked shell. For a short time—between the leaving of the old shell and the hardening of a new one—the lobster is naked, feeling very vulnerable to the elements. In a sense we are all lobsters. ... Our growth into Christ likeness requires we get rid of our old, hard, protective shells and allow

God to take us to a new place in him."

New Years is as good a time as any to follow the example of the adult lobster—to molt at least once a year, leaving our old, hard, protective selves behind and allowing ourselves a new sense of vulnerability and room to grow. The Apostle Paul writing to the church in Ephesus gives us some direction on how a Christian should live their lives. **Ephesians 5:15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,**

We see here is that we are called to live wisely. You know, sometimes we find wisdom in strange places. I'm sure you have heard the phrase "out of the mouths of babes". Listen to the wisdom of some of these children. • Patrick, age 10, said, "Never trust a dog to watch your food." • Michael, 14, said, "When your dad is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?" don't answer him." • Michael, wise man that he is also said, "Never tell

your mom her diet's not working." • Kyoyo, age 9, said, "Never hold a dust buster and a cat at the same time." •

Naomi, 15 said, "If you want a kitten, start out by asking for a horse." • Lauren, age 9 said, "Felt markers are not good to use as lipstick." • Joel, 10 years old, said, "Don't pick on your sister when she's holding a baseball bat." And • Eileen, age 8 said, "Never try to baptize a cat." True wisdom if I ever heard it, but if you read between the lines you see that this is wisdom acquired through experience. Living wisely would mean that you learn from your mistakes but that you can also learn from the mistakes of others. This is where the Word of God comes in. In the Bible you see people's lives played out, the good, the bad and the ugly and you see the consequences of each life lived and the wise person learns from the examples and grows from it.

The world will tell you that there is no truth. That everything is up to the individual and that what is true for one person is not necessarily true for another. This is called relativism. Relativism is the concept that points of view have no

(Continued on page 2)

absolute truth or validity, having only relative, subjective value according to differences in perception and consideration. The relativist's conclusion is that there is no absolute truth.

True wisdom knows that there are absolute truths in our world. If we are to live wisely in 2012 we need to realize that **Proverbs 9:9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. 10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**

This fear is not the trembling paralyzing feeling that we think of when we picture fear. This fear that the writer is talking about is an awe and respect for who God is. We can't have knowledge and therefore wisdom until we recognize the most fundamental truth about our world. This world is God's creation. Only fools say there is no God and that we are here just by chance. If we are to live wisely in this New Year, the first thing that we must do is realize that there is truth and that the ultimate truth is that Jesus Christ, **John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.** God Himself came to earth to become the payment for our sin. Live like those who are wise. Live in the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and follow His teachings.

Let me share with you this New Year greeting I read: "May you have.... enough happiness to keep you sweet; enough trials to keep you strong; enough sorrow to keep you human; enough hope to keep you happy; enough failure to keep you humble; enough success to keep you eager; enough friends to give you comfort; enough wealth to meet your needs; enough enthusiasm to make you look forward to tomorrow; and enough determination to make each day better than the day before." I would add, may you have enough truth to teach you and enough grace to save you.

2012
WINTER RETREAT
FEBRUARY 3,4,5
Water's Edge Camp & Conference Center
Howell, Michigan
For information call Charlie Moore
734-652-3964

Cyberspace News

genevabegeman@charter.net



December is always a busy month, but it ends in the celebration of our Savior being born in a stable with Mary and Joseph and the animals celebrating His birth. We are thankful this time of year that people are more open to giving to the poor and having a few thoughts of Christ in their life.

I had some wonderful notes from faraway friends this month. Jeff and Evi Trueman sent a warm message of past good times spent together and greetings to each of you church folks out there that remember our times together. Roy and Bennie Gee sent a message with their new address and phone numbers. They have completed their move to a quiet wooded spot. They are looking forward to being with us in February at the retreat.

Kathy Smeltzer visited Mom and Dad Charles for a few hours one day in Howell recently. David took the opportunity to go out and Kathy reports a lovely day of decorating the apartment with Ruth. They all enjoyed it very much. Ruth and David are so blessed to live close to Lynn and Rob Vaughn and not so far from Larry and Peggy. Katy Nevil surprised everyone except her mother Kay by coming home from France for her Christmas break. She graduated from college and made out well with her final assignment of student teaching in France. She is firmly established now in France for mission work. It was wonderful to see her and I am sure Kay and Jim Nevil were very happy to have her home for a short time.

The Layton family gathering was at Karen and Mark Dorsey's this year on Christmas Eve. All were present except Christine Talley who had had some surgery on her foot. Grandma Deborah Stoner had Christine's Rebecca and Zach with her. Great Grandma Dorothy Layton had a great kid-watching day. She loves watching all the young ones and their busy-ness.

I have some late breaking news from Sonya Pease in New York. She spent a week in November in Moscow Russia. She went back a second time in December. She says the people were very friendly and she got to see some wonderful sites there. It was interesting to get acquainted with another culture.

We were saddened this month by the death of Dale's sister Violet Chapman. She had a wonderful long life though and had been ill for some time.

We were so happy to have some out of town folks for our Christmas Eve Service. Laurie Eckles with sons Alex and Michael. The next morning they were on a plane to Florida to have a week in the sun with the whole Eckles family. The Nevil family had traveled to be with us also as well as David and Ruth Charles from Howell. It is a wonderful evening of celebration about our Lord's birth and delightful food.

May the Lord bless and keep you.

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore



December 31, 1861, the annual world record for rainfall was awarded by Guinness Records to Cherrapunji Assam for its 22,990 millimeters of rainfall. That's about 906 inches of rain for the year. Monroe didn't come close to that, but we did have a memorable Flood of 2011. The Raisin River crested at 10.22-foot and closed eastern Monroe County from western Monroe County and created memorable sights.

K.D. Nasir, our most recent missionary to receive support from the United Church of the Lord Our Righteousness, has been prevented from going on the mission field to Kazakhstan but he is very happy - and will be needed in his assignment to Pakistan.

David Brugman, on an overnight layover in Monroe for his trucking job, joined us for church the second week of the month for breakfast. He enjoyed his visit with David Fasbender and the rest of the gang and it was really good to see him - and pictures of his new truck.

Nate Valentine and friends pulled off a surprise birthday party for Roy Joel. He kind of knew something was up when his friend Terry took him to the Eagles hall in Flat Rock - a frequent site of parties. But he was a happy 50+ year old camper and maybe his biggest surprise was seeing the church folks gathered to celebrate with him.

We got to ring the bell again for the Salvation Army, our annual occasion for great conversations with one another as we spell one another. Later in the month we had the privilege of sharing Christmas food baskets with friends in the area who we thought would appreciate the boost.

Our loved and treasured Violet Chapman died this month. Her memorial service was a celebration and a demonstration of her sweet life that consisted of a deep and true love for her family and her Lord. We are lifting her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in our prayers.

The Christmas season always seems to give us memorable visits and experiences with loved ones. Diane and Tim Begeman had a full month of visits with their grown children and grandchild, when Kane, Jennie and Ainsley came in from Arizona and Nick and Brittanie and Seth and Abby from Ohio. We also got to see Katy Nevil, back in the U.S. from student teaching in France. We also truly enjoyed Matt Smith's visit with his three growing children.

Katie Begeman was in a chamber choir for school this year and sang in various places. One of them was St. Patrick's where Jeff's high school friend, whom he recalls fishing with on Senior skip day", is now Father Bauer). Members of the Smeltzer clan and the Begeman clans found time to visit the Toledo Zoo for the Christmas light exhibit. Tim Begeman shared a reflection on a speech by Harry Reasoner about Christmas and those who may only consider Christ if only at Christmas. "So, if a Christian is touched only once a year, the touching is still worth it, and maybe on some given Christmas, some final quiet morning, the touch will take."

Our Christmas Eve gathering was a blessing. The weekend brought Carrie, Joel and Caleb DeHaan with Carrie being the flutist for the Christmas Eve program, accompanying her mother Kathy who played the preparatory music for the program, as well as singing a solo for the program itself. The program highlight was the poem, 'Twas the Week Before Christmas', narrated by Tim Begeman. Diane Begeman was featured as Mrs. Amplegurth, and Sydney Begeman, Dave Fedor, and Melinda and Jeff Begeman played unexpected, and initially unwelcome, visitors to her home as she awaited a visit from a king, prophet, and a priest. Our guests blessed each other and the local community. We collected one of our largest ever charitable offering for the God's Work soup kitchen and the Salvation Army.

The big, big news at month's end is that Erin and Pat Gill are expecting twins sometime this spring. This is amazing, wonderful, and welcome news.

I close this year's final news report by thanking all those who bore with my omissions, incorrect reports and trivia that I included for my own amusement. My husband Charlie and I are now parenting an active 6 year old and finding it a bit more consuming than parenting was when we were in our 30's. I am greatly looking forward, however, to seeing the workmanship of Tim Begeman who will be taking over as the Michigan Reporter. So, like you, I'll be waiting until next month's issue. May you continue to travel only with God as you go through this life.

**CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**1922 LaSalle Road
Monroe, MI 48162
Church 734-242-9511**

Editor - Jamie Carothers
Jamie.Carothers@utoledo.edu

Publisher - Diane Begeman
734-417-2392
veggie@charter.net

website
colornet.org

The tendency on New Years is to make resolutions to do this or that to change our lives.

A boy told his father, "Dad, if three frogs were sitting on a limb that hung over a pool, and one frog decided to jump off into the pool, how many frogs would be left on the limb?" The dad replied, "Two." "No," the son replied.



"There are three frogs and one decides to jump, how many are left?" The dad said, "Oh, I get it, if one decides to jump, the others would too. So there are none left." The boy said, "No dad, the answer is three. The frog only DECIDED to jump."

You see the problem with New Years resolutions, you only decide to do something, what you need is to actually do it again and again until you form a new habit.



Violet D. Chapman passed away on December 18, 2011 after many years of struggling with dementia and other physical problems. She was born June 17, 1917 so she had reached the wonderful age of 94 and 6 months. Judy Chuhran, Carol Moss, Dr. Janet Chapman and John and wife MaryAnn Chapman spent many days at her bedside these last couple months saying good-bye to Mom

or Maude as John's pet name for her was. I was privileged to get to spend a little time there with them and we had fun remembering the "good old days".

Violet was the second child of Albert and Clara Begeman and she met and married John S.H. (Hob) Chapman who was the oldest son of Arthur and Gladys Chapman. The two families were members of the same church and had that background in common. Violet and Hob were married on Violet's 21st birthday. They were both founding members of our Michigan church and Hob served on the building committee. Hob was always such a fun person and that is why we had such a good time reminiscing. We spent our young married years camping together with other family members. Laughter was always the order of the day. Hob passed away in 1978 leaving Violet 33 years to be alone.

Violet was a wonderful soprano singer and our church was so appreciative of her voice and her playing the piano. I remember Violet telling me that one time when she was young she hummed the Wedding March for a couple being married in a church that did not have instruments. She was a beautiful seamstress and in addition to sewing many clothes for Janet particularly, she made her drapes and even made Hob a suit. She was also a wonderful cook and home-maker. At the funeral one of her 8 grandchildren told sweet stories about Grandma. She also leaves 8 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by siblings Elton and Don Begeman and Ila (Estel) Baker and also her dear son-in-law Thomas Chuhran. She leaves sisters, Ethel Johnson and Ruth (David) Charles and brother Dale (Geneva) and sister-in-law Judith Begeman to mourn her. She will be sorely missed by her family and all who knew her. Her wonderful long life was celebrated in a beautiful service in Trenton on December 22. Memorials may be sent to Church of the Lord Our Righteousness, 1922 LaSalle Road, Monroe, MI 48162



Surviving siblings—Dale Begeman, Ethel Johnson,
Ruth Charles



Violet's Children—Judy Chuhran, John Chapman,
Carol Moss, Janet Chapman