

LAMPSTAND  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

655 South Airport Road  
Decatur, IL 62521

Phone: 217-428-8839  
Fax: 217-428-5997

jack.pitzer@lampstandpc.org  
pam.haycraft@lampstandpc.org  
john.morthland@lampstandpc.org  
gail.rennert@lampstandpc.org  
jeanine.sneary@lampstandpc.org  
michele.slunder@lampstandpc.org  
dave.lillpop@lampstandpc.org  
shari.hanks@lampstandpc.org  
www.lampstandpc.org

TO KNOW JESUS AS SAVIOR AND  
LORD AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN.

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Decatur, IL 62521  
Permit No. 143

GREAT BANQUET  
SPRING 2019 DATES

*Taylorville Spring Correctional Center*  
March 1-3, 2019  
Stephen L Smith Lay Director

*Men's #113 Spring Great Banquet*  
March 28-31, 2019  
John MacIntosh Lay Director

*Decatur Spring Correctional Center*  
April 4-7, 2019  
Jodi Lockwood Lay Director

*Women's #1- #114 Spring Great Banquet*  
April 11-14, 2019  
Jenny Walker Lay Director

*Women's #2- #115 Spring Great Banquet*  
May 2-5, 2019  
Michelle Adkins Lay Director



**Sunday Morning Worship**

9:15 am

10:45 am

**Sunday School**

Classes for Children and Adults

at 9:15a & 10:45a

Fellowship 10:15-10:45am

Children's Church 11:00am

December 20, 2018



**MEETINGS!**

Dec 24

Christmas Eve Service

7p

Office Closed

Dec 25

Merry Christmas

Office Closed

Dec 27

Exercise Class

10:30a

Under His Wings

6p

January 1

Happy New Year

Office Closed

January 3

Exercise Class

10:30a

January 7

Intercessory Prayer

5p

January 8

Deacons

7p

January 9

Bible Study

6p

January 10

Exercise Class

10:30a

# The Chimes

Christmas is a time of stories. Since Berta and I can't send Christmas cards to all the people we know "across the earth," this newsletter will have to suffice. With these things in mind, we at the Pitzer household would like to submit this following Christmas story which I wrote 30 years ago when my son, John, was 7. We had a nativity scene that we set up each year of nice wooden people, but for a couple of years we had extra people who would gather at that nativity scene. They were superheroes. We would watch them gather - Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Spiderman, Skeletor, Iron Man, Wolverine and Storm, Green Lantern, Heman, and others of the Justice League, and Marvel Comics. There was even a little green alien with a light saber.

So this story is our greeting card. May God bless each of you and keep you safe in 2019.

Dada Da-da Da-da BATMAN!  
Da-da Da-da Da-da Da-da  
Da-da Da-da

**"A STAR OVER BAT-LEHEM!"**

It was a quiet night. There seemed to be a sense of Peace on Earth, and a universal goodwill towards people. The Dark Knight pondered star charts and other Biblical portents as he considered his next move. His mother worked in the kitchen preparing the evening meal. He realized that she was unaware of the great events about to occur around her. He knew that she only thought of him as her son. So what if he was "only seven". He was the CAPED CRUSADER, the Dark Knight who stood for justice in a crime-infested world, and tonight things were going to be different.

"John! Come in here and set the table and put the drinks around for everybody." Batman did as he was told, being a dutiful son, and also knowing that he stood for everything that was right with the world. He finished his meal with the other "bat children" and his "bat parents."

"Mom, can I go play now?" asked Batman disguised as young John.

"Yes, John. You have about an hour before bath time."

John nodded and slipped off to the Bat Cave. The Dark Knight donned his garb, slipped into his high-powered batwing, and braced himself for the sudden acceleration. It would be a quick flight, but a long distance in time as well as space. There was a sudden burst of power, and the silent black machine went forth like a bat from a cave looking for prey. The Caped Crusader sensed his rendezvous with history.

As he raced across the sky, electrons danced along the outside of the quick flying craft. Batman scanned his instruments, and looked around at the dark sky. There it was! The STAR! Just as had been predicted. He threw the accelerator to full power and raced towards the star and this moment in destiny.

He flew past the Kingdom of Adulthood, and over the Land of Older Siblings. He flew past the Land of Hope and Fear. He followed the Star. There it was up ahead, the small village with the inn and the stable. Bat like, the Knight Rider with a cape, circled the stable and brought the batwing to a perfect descent and landing fifty yards from the stable. He noticed as he landed that others had already gathered.

The top of the batwing opened with a swish, and out he stepped with a regal swirl of his cape.

He closed the distance and quietly fired his bat hook to the roof. He activated the lift and silently rose like a black god. His footing was expert as he worked his way across the roof to the front of the stable. Peering over the lip of the roof he saw, heard, and smelled the animals. Cattle, sheep, camels, and a donkey were present.

He rolled off the roof and swung down by another hook and descended in a slow levitating manner to the center of the large double door into the stable. He noticed immediately a strange glow about the place. It was an eerie sense of great times, great events, and great people all gathered for the same reason. The child was here. Born this very night. A gift to the world.

Batman scanned the building. They were all present, and even a few that surprised him. The shepherds and the kings, Joseph and Mary, along with the sheep, camels, a donkey, and even a couple of chickens clucking noisily around the barn-like structure, were all present. They were all there.

There were others there too, standing around the edges. Important people. This truly was an historic event. Batman gently and humbly bowed to some of them, and looked with a stern, but astonished eye at others. He knew most of them by name. There was Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, Superman, Spiderman, Aquaman, Heman, and Iron Man. There was David Banner who Batman knew more often as the Hulk. They were all there.

Batman scanned the crowd and saw others. Truly, this was a night for Peace on Earth. He saw the Joker and Bob the Goon. There was the Riddler, and Penguin. Two others present that he had heard about, but had not crossed his path yet, were Darkside and Skeletor. There was even Lex Luthor, the nemesis of his good friend, Superman. There was one he did not recognize, but in whom he sensed a great haunting kind of power. He felt that this one stood between good and evil, as one stands on a fence.

Batman spoke with authority and asked, "These others I know, but who are you?"

The man spoke with humility, but with a strange strength. My name is Lawrence Talbot. There was a haunting about him that Batman was unable to penetrate. The man spoke again, "I have come to give a gift in hopes that some day one who is pure in heart will be able to free me from my curse." The man walked over to a table filled with items of incredible worth and placed several silver bullets on the table and returned to a dark shadow that seemed to be just for him.

A man stood up near the mother and child and spoke to the dark knight, "Welcome, stranger. Why is it, that you have come here this night?"

Batman cleared his throat and stepped forward to the man, "I have come to pay my respects to this child of promise, and to leave a gift." He snapped off a small bat wing from his utility belt and handed it to the father of the child. "This is one of my most important tools of upholding justice. It is my custom made 'batarang'. As the child grows he may need it. If you throw it just right, it will hit the mark, but if you miss, it will come back to you. In this way, justice always has a chance."

The father of the child bowed and said, "Thank you."

Batman bowed and swirled around. He heard a voice in his head. "John! It's time for your bath." He nodded at Superman and spoke with a staccato quickness, "I must go now. Other responsibilities are calling. May God bless each of you, and Merry Christmas," as he turned and grinned at the Joker, "even you . . . Jack Napier."

Batman strode from the stable with the nobility of a superhero and looked up into the heavens. A grin creased his face. There was a star, and right beside it was the "Bat Signal". What a glorious night to be alive. He walked around the corner heading for his batwing to go home for the night.

Merry Christmas to all my good . . . bat friends, Jack and Berta Pitzer.

P.S. As Batman came around the backside of the stable he ran into a man whose head was not held high. Batman asked, "Who are You?"

"Iron Mike Ditka", the man said.

"What are you doing here?"

Iron Mike looked at him and said, "I just had a heart attack and I am looking for a miracle. God surely knows we need one in Chicago these days. There hasn't been a star over Chicago in the last few years, so I am out looking for a Savior."

Batman grinned and said, "Well, you've come to the right place!"

God so loved the world that He did not send a committee.

ATTENDANCE			
	2016	2017	2018
January	240	250	226
February	268	250	228
March	300	255	254
April	297	302	302
May	247	229	241
June	281	256	242
July	225	210	227
August	262	286	286
September	259	240	233
October	243	243	226
November	285	276	252
December	265	278	

Loan Balance as of end of  
Nov 2018  
\$696,340.25

Capital Fund Contribution  
Through Nov, 2018  
\$93,661.23  
Expenses through Nov, 2018  
\$101,967.86  
\$27,055.40 Interest  
\$74,912.16 Principal

Capital Fund Checking  
Account End of Nov 2018  
\$1,787.23

Giving thru Nov, 2018  
\$445,959.19  
Expenses through Nov, 2018  
\$516,758.60

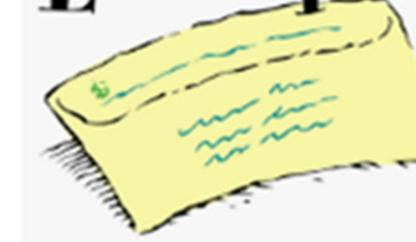
**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Derrick Schnitger	01
Chris Vaughn	01
Mary Cardascio	03
Janet Oldweiler	04
Jeannine Hazlet	05
Gina Fitzgerald	06
Alice Lambrick	06
Imogene Swanson	07
Brandy Robinson	09
Angie Corrigan	10
Grant MacAtee	10
Gavin Nickerson	10
Jason Pitzer	10
Karly Jones	11
Kylie Reynolds	11
Nick Yuhas	11
Joel Cothorn	12
Mark Holmer	12
Stacia Martin	13
Theo Renfro	13
Amy Brown	14
Marshall Brown	14
Dawn Followell	14
Ray Cholewa	16
Pam Burkhart	19
Pam Erwin	20
Marjean Yagen	20
Chuck LeMons	21
Laura Jean Patterson	23
Andrew Niebrugge	24
Jeff Shively	27
Tara Nickerson	28
Sara Doering	31
Rozilyn Welke	31

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARYS**

John & Leslie Wolpert	10
Bruce & Melissa Nielsen	14
Ben & Rachael Austin	16
Dave & Rita Rupert	20
Greg & Missy Eskue	22
Mike & Vickie Reynolds	24
Johnny & Liz Holmgren	26
Jim & Heidi Kane	26
Bob & Sara Kileen	30

**Offering Envelopes**



**OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE!**

**Please pick yours up in the atrium**

**We wish you a Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year!**

The trouble with self-made man is that they tend to worship the creator.