

Florence-Carlton Community Church



VOLUME 127 ISSUE 12 FLORENCE, MONTANA DECEMBER 2011

Merry Christmas

December 24
7:00pm
Christmas Eve
Carol and
Candle Lighting
Service

*A Christmas Worship Experience
Sing and Shout for Joy!
DECEMBER 18, 7:00pm*

The Florence-Carlton Community Church Praise Band/Cowboy Band will open in Praise for our King! Followed by a Children's Program, ending the evening with the Christmas Cantata "Sing and Shout for Joy! Refreshments will follow in the Fellowship

**MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE
FULL OF SONG,
FULL OF JOY...
AND FULL OF GOD'S BLESSINGS**



A WORD FROM DAVID

If your question is “Can you believe it?”, the answer is “Yes, I can.”

These quick clips from the news help us to understand why they call the shopping frenzy on the day after Thanksgiving “Black Friday,” and provide a view of how a Christ-less Christmas appears. Note these incidents reported from ONE retail chain:

1. At a Walmart near Little Rock, Ark., a screaming mob of shoppers tussled over \$2 waffle makers.

2. Twenty people, including children, were injured when a woman at a San Fernando Valley Walmart store used mace against other customers in what authorities referred to as a "competitive shopping" incident.

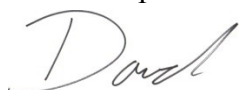
3. In San Leandro, Calif., a man and his family were crossing a store parking lot between 1 and 2 a.m. when a group approached and demanded they fork over their purchases. A fight ensued when the family refused and, according to police, one of the suspects pulled out a gun and shot the man, critically injuring him.

What a ‘wonderful’ holiday it has become now that our culture has removed Christ as the focus of Christmas and replaced ‘Merry Christmas’ with ‘Happy Holidays.’ (You can’t hear the heavy sarcasm laced in this statement as it is transferred from mind to paper, but trust me, it’s there!) And, yes, I can believe that this is happening. It was predictable and inevitable that when we as a society cease to honor Jesus Christ and reject Him as the Lord who has a claim on us, that we would degenerate as a culture into this kind of chaos. In our society we have made it acceptable to become shallow people that reject the Lord and value a video game more than our neighbor.

Let us as Christians this year seek to reverse this trend. We cannot change everyone else, but we can for ourselves embrace the truth. We can proclaim that the central theme of Christmas is that God sends salvation to us. It is more than a time of doing good deeds and taking care of our fellow man and giving and receiving gifts. It is that the God who owns us and judges us has chosen to love us and redeem us. Christmas is not about gifts, and it’s not even about family and friends. Christmas is about God, and about His Son Jesus Christ. Let’s focus there this holiday season, and we will begin to make a dent in this madness that has swept over our culture.

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:9-11 (ESV)

Grace and peace – and Merry Christmas, Christ is born!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friendship Club will meet on Tuesdays at 11:30am. If you can help on Tuesday please contact Karen Hill 251-2249. The 2nd Tuesday monthly will be potluck.

- If you would like a ride to Friendship Club on Tuesdays give Larry Stolle a call 370-3853 he'll come and get you.

Sunday morning Greeters are needed for both services—see the sign-up sheet posted in the Narthex.

Please give Susan Inman a call with your updates to our Military wall 273-3416.

If you have any request for our library please let Susan Inman know of them 273-3416.

Special Meeting - 2012 Budget
Your council will be having a special meeting on **Sunday, December 4th at 12:15 pm, following the 11:00 Service.** The proposed 2012 budget will be available for your viewing and some time will be available for questions and answers. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall and all are invited.

December council meeting will be held on the 15th at 6pm. If you have agenda items, please get them to Lois Horsens by December 12th. Council meetings are open meetings and Church members and non-members alike are welcome to attend the meeting.

Prayer Ministry

We encourage small groups to choose a topic for prayer to add to the prayers of group members. A word of comfort to you: we are not telling you to form new groups etc. We are beginning to find out how the Holy Spirit wants FCCC to go about this. No guilt trips or cornering are planned, just responding to the Spirit of Christ within us as we learn how.

Sandy Anderson's exercise classes have hearts for children and will focus on prayer for these precious young people. Have you/your group been given a special burden of prayer? Call Lois Horsens or Karen Hill so we can develop a sense of how the Lord is moving in our prayer effort. We want to ask you and the Lord how to support you. We know that we would like to offer some classes on prayer...but this is not going to happen until the new year. We will let you know what is coming. We are excited to see God's leading and how we grow in our bold walk with Him.

PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS: Asking for individual prayer often seems daunting. However, it is scriptural. James 5:13-18 and many more. Because Lois and Karen are comfortable with this kind of prayer (and the confidentiality required) and want to be "doers of the Word," we are inviting any with individual prayer needs to meet with Lois and/or Karen from 11 -12:30 on Sunday mornings (as we progress others may take turns). Wednesday evenings 6-7 are also open prayer times when one or both of us will be available. David has graciously offered his office so that we can close the door for private prayer. We hope that having set times will be comfortable for those wanting prayer. This in no way takes the place of our wonderful prayer chain. Individual prayer with hands being laid upon one etc. requires a step of faith for all parties. Bess Brownlee told me this week that having the church lay hands on her and pray for her was such a powerful experience. It seems to us that we should use this for people staying in the area too. We are just stay at home missionaries. Remember that Peter told beggars that he had neither silver nor gold but what he had he would give....and that was prayer. Check on the "Upwords" section on our FCCC home page. Perhaps some essays on prayer will appear.

FELLOWSHIP

We have been busy! The Thanksgiving dinner went well, with some new faces as well as our old ones. We have individuals outside the church, who came to help, are also interested in expanding what we do and next year we hope to share with even more than the 25 + we had this year. We have much to be thankful for.

Please note that Friendship Club will have the Florence Jazz Band performing for us the 6th of December. This is always excellent and you are invited. Let us know if you are coming (those who are not regulars) so there will be plenty of food. We feed the band, which is always fun but we surely want to have enough food.

Enjoy the Salt Shakers the 4th.

MARY/MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

- **There are a few Apple Dumplings left from the bazaar.** Just \$3.50 each, they are located in the freezer in the kitchen. Help yourself and leave your payment in the church office.
- **Next meeting of Mary/Martha Fellowship will be Monday, Dec. 5. It will be the annual Christmas party.** All ladies are invited. It will be at 6:00 at LLOYDA Krout's home. (273-6926) Bring a \$5.00 or homemade gift to exchange and a finger food to share.
- **Mary/Martha will be packaging cookies to share with the community on Sunday Dec. 11 after the 9:00 service.** Please bring 2-3 dozen cookies to the kitchen. If you have names of cookie plate recipients, please bring those also. Awana kids will deliver the cookies.



Jr. High Sunday School—11:00 Sundays
Sr. High Sunday School—9:45 Sundays
Youth Group "ZION"
Jr. High Youth Group—Sunday 6-8pm
Senior High Group—Tuesday 7-9pm

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

It is that time of year when the church council begins to prepare for the end of the year administration events which means mainly drafting the new budget and seeking candidates that are interested in serving on the council.

A quick look back at the history and importance of these council members. Our church is associated with the American Baptist Conference for administration and pastoral purposes. We do not receive any monies from them. We are totally self supporting and what we call, free will giving instead of asking our congregation to commit to some kind of pledge. This has worked very well for us since we formed as a church body in 1957.

The governing arm of the church is the council, made up of 6 positions. It is their duty to draft the budget each year, oversee the various committee's such as worship, Christian education, music, missions, fellowship, and communications and staff positions. This group is the vision and administration of our congregation. They are volunteers and each serve a 3 year term, with terms being staggered so that 2 positions are open each year. The election to fill these 2 positions takes place at the annual meeting held in early January of each year.

Calling All Carolers!

It is time for our annual Christmas Caroling event. All are invited for a fun evening of singing, socializing, and perhaps some serious snowball pelting. We will be meeting at the church at 6 PM on Wednesday, December 21. We will carol for a couple of hours, then meet at Tim and Mary Nielsen's house for the annual Carolers Party. Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and a beverage of your choice for the party. Also, if you have jingle bells or other rhythm instruments, bring them as well. See you then!

The Florence-Carlton Community Church newsletter is published monthly by the Florence-Carlton Community Church, P.O. Box 219, Florence, MT 59833
Phebe Applegate, editor
papplgat@florencecarltonchurch.com
Newsletter Deadline December 27



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NATIVITY



Fall is here and the holidays are on the way. I am still hoping to have a nativity display in front of Florence Carlton Community Church! Bob Simms has offered to help with construction. We still need some artistic talent to help design and paint. Please call Lois 239-7698 if you can help in anyway!

FREE CHILDCARE FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SUNDAY- DECEMBER 11 NOON—4:00PM

The Youth group will be providing free childcare for those parents who would like to get out and do some Christmas shopping. If interested please sign up on the bulletin board outside Johnny's (Youth pastors) office. Please be sure to put down each child's name, age, parent, phone #, any food allergies, and the times your child will be at the church. Along with fun and games, lunch will be provided.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

**COMBINED SERVICES WILL BE HELD
AT 10:00AM, ON CHRISTMAS DAY
SUNDAY DECEMBER 25, AND NEW
YEARS DAY, JANUARY 1.**

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 8TH.

Sun Schedule: Worship Service 9:00am and 11:00
Wednesday: Cowboy Church 6:59pm—Carlton Chapel
Nursery care is provided downstairs during worship for 3yrs and under for your worshipping enjoyment.
Children's Church meets downstairs during the sermon for ages 3 through Kindergarten during the 9:00 service.
Coffee is served in the New Fellowship Hall every Sunday at 10:30.

Sunday School meets downstairs on Sundays:
Preschool—5th grade 11:00 – 12:00
Jr High—6,7,8 grade 11:00-12:00 Youth room
High School—9:45-10:30 Youth room
Adult—11:00-12:00 Conference Room

Opportunities for Involvement:

Small Group: contact Kathy McCaughey
smallgroups@florencecarltonchurch.com

Weekday Bible Studies:

Monday 9:30am; contact: **Dace Hawkinson 273-0209**
Monday 1:30pm; contact: **Connie Dierking 273-4229**
Jo Walton 273-2487

Tuesday 6:45-7:45am; Hayloft Cafe (Lolo)
contact: **Steve Arno 273-6271**

Weekly Activities:

Afterschool Program — Mon, Tues, Thurs. 3:30-4:30pm
contact: **Joyce Schroeder 360-5322**

***Friendship Club** - Tues. 11:30am,
contact: **Karen Hill 251-2249**

***Youth Group - www.f-ccc-zion.com**
Jr. High Sunday 6-8pm—Sr. High Tuesday 7-9pm

***AWANA Program**— Wednesday 6:30—8:00 (Oct.—Apr.)

***Choir Practice** - Wednesday 7:00pm (Sept.—May)

***Worship Band Practice** – Thursday 6:00pm

***Grief Share** - contact **Lois Horsens 239-7698**

***Mary/Martha Fellowship**
1st Monday monthly at 6:00pm, at the church.
contact: **Dace Hawkinson 273-6601**

***Men's Outreach Movement**
Contact: **Russ Copeland 273-2599**

If you have a **Prayer Concern** for the FCCC Prayer Chain,
contact: **Wilma Marchinek at 273-4907 or**
fcccpc@gmail.com.

***For use of the church facilities**
contact: **Phebe Applegate 273-6811**

(Please remember to stack all tables and chairs after each activity. The facility is in use most evenings during the week and should be ready for the next group coming in.)

The Church Council
December 15, 2011
6:00pm

Lois Horsens — Moderator/ 239-7698

Dean Heitzmann — Treasurer/Secretary 370-8847

Gary Brownlee — Christian Education / 273-2359

Karen Hill — Fellowship / 251-2249

Guy Sharp — Buildings and Ground / 273-2461

Ward McCaughey —Worship/Communication / 273-6759

Pastor—Rev. David Blackwell,
dblackwell@florencecarltonchurch.com

Office: 273-6811 Home: 273-9127

WISDOM FROM THE JOHNNY LLAMA...

Hello everyone! I hope that last month was wonderful for all of you. We all have fears...

As Susan and I started our new hobby farm, we quickly realized that we had a lot of responsibility that was put on our shoulders. We had to deal with feeding, getting food for all the animals, making sure that we had plenty of water, and the biggest issue we were concerned



with was fencing. I can honestly say that one of my greatest fears as a hobby farmer is that one of our animals will get out on the highway. Can't you see the headlines in the newspaper now? "Local llama gets hit on hwy 93 by a semi traveling 80 miles per hour!" Ok I may over exaggerate just a little bit, but I am really fearful of an animal getting on the highway or even worse someone gets hurt by hitting one of our animals.

Now this is one of many fears that I constantly battle with in my life. I am sure that everyone has a legitimate fear that causes them to question "what will happen to my (or my family's) life if _____ occurs?" It is something that each and every one of us deal with every day of our lives. I am reminded of an encouragement that the Apostle Paul sent to a young pastor named Timothy. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

Often times we focus on the things in life that we do not have, and completely neglect the things that God has already given us. God has given us power. We have the greatest, most powerful tool that anyone could ever imagine! We have the Holy Spirit, which gives us power. It is amazing to think that God's spirit resides in us! God has also given us love. Often we take advantage of the fact that we have the ability to love, and we were shown the SO much love by God. His true love was demonstrated for all of us on the cross. John 15:13 says, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends." Jesus loved us SO much that He laid down his life for us, His friends.

God has also given us self-control. God has given us a choice. We can choose our own destiny. We can either choose to follow after Jesus or not. Ultimately it is up to us.

God has given each of us many things, but one of the things He has not given us is fear. Fear is not of the Lord. So I challenge you, with the legitimate concerns and fears of your life, to view them as things that are not from God. So I do not need to fear about my animals getting out on the highway. I must take every step to insure that they don't get on the highway, but ultimately the circumstances that surround my life and farm are in the hands of God.

Have a blessed month!

~~~~Johnny Llama~~~~