

January  
2012



TRANSFORMING CULTURE BY BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST

# New Castle First Church of God

With the arrival of each New year come numerous opportunities to examine our past performance and start again with renewed purpose. We often make New Year's resolutions involving our finances, time management, or diet. But what about our heart?

If you want to reach your full potential, it is absolutely crucial that you have a clean heart. Only when we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Savior do we have the possibility of acting on that potential, because it is God's Holy Spirit who gives us power over our natural self. It is His indwelling Spirit who enables us in every single aspect of our life and who can make our potential a reality.



We must understand that the Holy Spirit works only in a believer whose heart is clean. So the question becomes, "How can I have a clean heart?"

First, let's think about how we keep our hands clean; we wash them. We don't necessarily wait until we see dirt all over them; sometimes we feel or know that our hands are not clean.

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## Pastor's Corner (continued)

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Spiritually, the Bible is God's cleaning agent! That is what cleans our hearts. (Ephesians 5:26) As we interact with people and ideas from the world, we naturally get dirty—saying things we shouldn't, developing attitudes not befitting a child of God, and thinking thoughts that are not right or pure. First Peter 2:8 says, "...They stumble because they are disobedient to the word." That is, dirt gets into our life when we disobey God's Word, so we frequently have to "wash." Being a Christian does not mean we have achieved sinless perfection once and for all—we are clean only as long as we are making godly decisions. The living Word of God exposes to us our wrongdoing or wrong thinking, and then "washing" can take place. As Scripture speaks to our heart, the result is our confession and repentance toward the Lord. So many people never reach their potential because they allow "dirt" to accumulate; wrong thinking, wrong attitudes, wrong motivations, and wrong ideas about God. Proverbs 4:23 teaches, "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life." As Matthew 5:8 says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." We don't have to wait until heaven—if our heart is clean, we will see God at work in our life every single day. Resolve in 2012 to start each day with a clean heart.



God's richest blessings in 2012

Pastor Bill & Carole

## Annual Business Meeting - Sunday, January 15th @ 6 PM

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Anyone who is interested in knowing what God's game plan is for the First Church of God is welcome to attend our annual business meeting. The church's mission, ministry's year end reports, proposed financial report for 2012, and more will be discussed and voted on. In order to vote you must be at least age 18 and have attended our church regularly for a period of at least 3 months. Even those who may not be eligible to vote are welcome to attend the meeting. Thank you for your interest and your willingness to attend.

# New Year's Eve

## Activities:



### Bowling @ Colonial Lanes

From 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Shoes cost \$1.75  
Per Game is \$3.25

We have several lanes reserved during this time, so come out and enjoy this annual time of fun and friendly competition.

### New Year's Eve Service @ Church: 7 PM

Celebrate the blessings and new opportunities that God will give us in 2011.



### Underground New Year's Party & Youth New Year's Party After Service

There will be a party in the Underground for anyone who wants to stay. Pizza will be provided, but each family please bring 2-liter and snack to share.

### Annual Reports Are Due



Thank you to the board/committee-heads that have turned in their annual reports to the office already. If you have not done so as of yet, please turn in your annual reports to the office A.S.A.P. Thank you.

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays and Anniversaries *(Please call the church office if we do not have your information!)*

### Birthdays:

- Jan. 2—Kayla Weigel
- Jan. 3—Amanda Saylor
- Jan. 4—Susan Horvath
- Jan. 7—Brenda Harlan
- Jan. 11—Sharon Ross
- Jan. 12—Mel White
- Jan. 13—Jennifer Palmer
- Jan. 14—Robin George
- Jan. 18—Kaylee George

- Jan. 20—Michelle Reiter
- Jan. 21—Tyler Boyer
- Jan. 22—Brian Panella
- Jan. 24—Mary Ann Freed
- Jan. 26—Stacy Gudyk
- Jan. 27—Abby Schaubroeck  
Matt Cwynar
- Jan. 30—Carole Hunley
- Jan. 31—Jack Shea

### Anniversaries:

- Jan. 19—Bill & Sue Yoho
- Jan. 23—Jerry & Mary Lou Garver
- Jan. 31—Ron & Alice Palmer



# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Ladies Bible Study 10 AM	<b>4</b> Prayer Mtg. 6:30 PM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Bible Explorers & Youth 5:30 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Ladies Bible Study 10 AM	<b>11</b> Prayer Mtg. 6:30 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Annual Business Mtg. 6 PM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Ladies Bible Study 10 AM	<b>18</b> Prayer Mtg. 6:30 PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Under-ground's WinterFest 6-10 PM
<b>22</b> Bible Explorers & Youth 5:30 PM	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Ladies Bible Study 10 AM	<b>25</b> Prayer Mtg. 6:30 PM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Baby Shower
<b>29</b> Bible Explorers & Youth 5:30 PM	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Ladies Bible Study 10 AM	★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ ★ Glory to God in highest heaven, ★ ★ Who unto man His Son hath given; ★ ★ While angels sing with tender mirth, ★ ★ A glad new year to all the earth. ~ <b>Martin Luther</b> ★ ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★			



## Underground Refuge Staff Meeting and Lunch—Jan. 8

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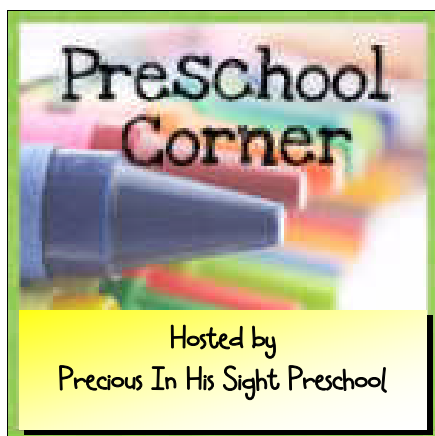
There will be a meeting for the staff of the Underground Refuge Sunday, January 8th. The meeting will start after morning service. Lunch will be provided, and we will also take down our Christmas decorations at this time.



## Become a member of the Underground Refuge Staff!!!

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We have the perfect opportunity for you! Become a **part-time** member of the Underground Refuge Staff, and have a blast! If you are age 16 or older, and would be able to commit one Saturday night every other month, then please see April Ross for more info.



## Preschool News

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It was a privilege to teach our precious children this December, especially introducing some of them to our Savior, Baby Jesus. We had many important lessons this month such as letters, numbers, and colors, but the most important lesson of all is “The Christmas Nativity Story”. We explained the Nativity from the Angel, talking to Mary to the birth of Jesus and the shepherds and wise men who came to visit Him. And it got into the children’s spirits.

The children learned letters I - I am Special and J - Baby Jesus. They also learned the numbers 7, 8, and 9. .

The children prepared for our family Christmas program and party all month by practicing Christmas carols and some learning lines at home. The programs and parties were beautiful. The children in their Santa hats sang and did motions including holding Baby Jesus during “Away in A Manger”. We were so proud of them. After they sang, their parents helped each of them make a Gingerbread house and we played a relay race. Then we all had a snack. The children were very excited about Santa, but also realized that it is Jesus’ birthday too!

Looking forward to the New Year! ~ Love, Stacy & April

## Updating our Church Member's Information/ Adding to our Photo Directory



In the very near future, you will see inserts in the bulletins for every family to fill out. This will request each family member's birthdays (year is not necessary), anniversaries, address, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc. If you have been attending our church for years or have just started to attend recently, it is important that you fill these out, so we will have your current information on file.

Jim Bromley will also be taking pictures of new attendees to add to our current Member's photo directory. If you do not have a current Member's photo directory and would like one, please see April Ross or call the office to request one.



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CHRIST**

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**Rev. Bill Hunley – Pastor**  
**Cami Schaubroek –  
Worship Leader**  
**April Ross – Church Secretary**

The Church Office will be closed:

**Monday, December 26th**

**&**

**Monday & Tuesday, January 2nd & 3rd**

Due to the Christmas & New Year's Holiday.



### Prayer for the New Year



O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new year. May it be a time of grace for me, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son, Jesus. May it be a year of blessing for me, a time to cherish my family and friends, a time to renew my efforts at work, a time to embrace my faith more fully. Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this new year, that the light of Christ might shine through me, in spite of my weaknesses and failings. Above all, may I remember this year that I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You. Amen ~ Anonymous

