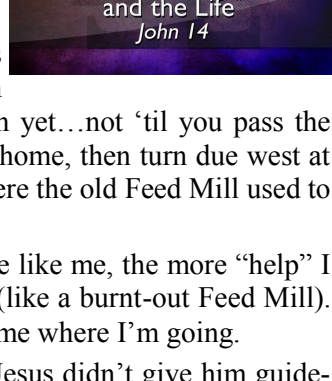


The Beacon

More than a Guidepost. Better than a Guide



“Go northwest a quarter mile past the old Jones place—where the Smiths have lived since '08—then watch for the big oak tree on the south but don't turn yet...not 'til you pass the house with the red pickup out front, assuming they're home, then turn due west at the second stop sign and go another mile or so past where the old Feed Mill used to be till it burnt in '98. You can't miss it.”

Ever been lost? Ever ask for directions? If you're like me, the more “help” I get, the more confused I get. I don't need a guidepost (like a burnt-out Feed Mill). I need a guide...someone to jump in with me and take me where I'm going.

When the apostle Thomas asked for directions, Jesus didn't give him guideposts; he didn't even volunteer to be a guide. He offered something far more valuable. Read on.

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** John 14: 5-6

There aren't a thousand ways to God, or a hundred, or even ten. There is only one way—not a destination, but a person—and his name is Jesus. He embodies the way, he encompasses truth, and his life *is* life. The answer is not a roadmap but a relationship.

The danger of such profound verses is that we hear them, memorize them, and quote them so often that their very familiarity robs us of their splendor. The Good News of Christmas is that God initiates it all. He came to Earth and lived among us and loved us and died for us and was resurrected for us.

The way, the truth and the life has become one of us so he could seek us and find us. Let us celebrate Him this Christmas season.

by Joe Plemon

COMING THIS SUNDAY

Sermon: Rev. David Fischler
“Watchful Waiting” Isaiah 64:1-9

Volunteers:
Counters: Mitch Sweica & Ron Hubbs
Greeters: John Hughley's Mixed Class
Nursery: Sun. School—Brad Stamp **Worship:** Cathy Haley

THIS WEEK AT FEPC

Wednesday 5:30 pm Choir Practice
Thursday 6 pm The Street Ministry at Main St. Center
Thursday 9 am “Hanging of the Green” Christmas decorating time
Sunday COMMUNION/1ST ADVENT SUNDAY
Dec. 3 8:45 am Sunday School for all ages
10 am Worship Service
4 pm Men's Prayer Group
4-6pm *Back Porch Company* Christmas Concert at Saint Anne's Episcopal Church 507 S. Main St., Anna

PRAYERS and PRAISE



Each week we remember to pray especially for some of our church family listed

PRAISE: Dick Hodges' brother is doing amazing well. Thank you for all your healing prayers.

Please be in prayer for these needs:
Harry and Marilyn Rodman, Katie Horne's mother-fall, Jim and Sandy Davis, Dennis and Ann York, Goulds' parents, Harry Warren, Jon Pengress, Bill and Vicky, victims and first responders of local & national tragedies.

VICENZI,
Rick and Stephanie
(Samantha)
VINES, Bonnie and Donald
WALKER,
Carroll and Carrie
(Josie and Noah)

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday: Nov. 29 Pam Miles; Dec. 1-Cheryl Stamp;
2-Janice Plemon; 4-Nikki Nance 5-Sandy Roberts 6-Joe Meller
Happy Anniversary: Dec. 5 Joe & Janice Plemon

SUNDAY REPORT:

Attendance: S.S: 94 Worship: 112
General Fund: \$4,520
Building Fund: \$200
NOV. TOTALS: GF \$18,594.15 Exp. \$19,859.29 BF \$3,125

UPCOMING DATES:

Sat., December 2 at 9am
“Hanging of the Greens”

Everyone is invited to help us decorate the church for Christmas. We have new decorations and are excited to see them up.

Sun., December 3 at 4-6pm *Back Porch Company* (featuring Stuart, Warren, and Carla Anderson, and Richard Johnson) Will have a Christmas Concert at Saint Anne's Episcopal Church 507 S. Main St., Anna.

Tues., Dec. 5, NOON is the deadline for ordering Poinsettias.
Please return you form with the money to the office or call 833-5225. Plants are \$12 each

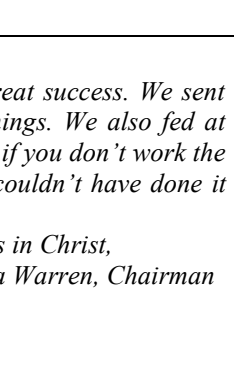
Fri., Dec. 8, 5-9 pm We invite ALL MEMBERS to participate in the **Annual Christmas Bell Ringing For Goodness Sake Campaign.**

We will be raising money for the Alliance of Churches' to provide for those in need throughout the year. This is the major fundraiser and we want to show our support to our community. ALL MONEY COLLECTED STAYS IN UNION COUNTY. If you can't give your time please be generous in your donation. Currently we only have Elders signed up and we would like a show of our congregation. Contact Jim & Shirley Harris.

Tues., Dec. 12 6:30 pm Deacon's Meeting

Wed. Dec. 13 Noon Women's Assoc. Meeting at MaryAnn Fischler's home for lunch.

Sun., Dec. 17 Following Sunday Service there will be a congregational meeting to elect officers and receive the budget for 2018.



THANK YOU

If “Thank Yous” were flowers we'd be handing out pretty bouquets! Our 1st EPC Flower Shop raised \$222 for new buds, blossoms and blooms for the sanctuary decorations. We are grateful to all of you who generously donated to the fundraiser.
God Bless you! Janice

“Thank you very much to everyone who helped with the Veteran's Day Youth ‘Concert.’”
Kent Young

Thank You! Thank You!
This year's Thanksgiving Home Mission Project was a great success. We sent out the door about 300 turkey dinners with all the trimmings. We also fed at least 25 workers a great breakfast. See what your missing if you don't work the 1st shift. Thanks to all who contributed in any way. We couldn't have done it without everyone pitching in to do what they could.
*Yours in Christ,
Linda Warren, Chairman*