



MARKEY MAILER

MARKEY CHURCH

Volume 32, Issue 11

December 2011

Christmas at Markey Church

- Sunday, Dec 4 4:00pm Roscommon County Christian Choir concert
At Houghton Lake United Methodist Church
- Saturday, Dec 10 4:00pm One Starry Night Family Christmas Event
At Markey Church
- Sunday, Dec 11 12:30pm Christmas Carolers meet in the Dining Room
4:00pm Roscommon County Christian Choir concert
At Good Shepherd United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, Dec 13 6:00pm 20 Something Christmas Party in the Friendship Room
- Tuesday, Dec 20 4:00pm Food basket assembly & delivery at Sharp's Corner

Three Christmas Eve Services At Markey Church

Saturday, December 24

5:00 PM • Children and Family Christmas Eve Service

The Legend of the Christmas Tree

This service is especially designed for children and their families. After some wonderful music Ms. Autumn and Miss Megan will share some great stories for children and teach them the Legend of the Christmas Tree. Children will be reading the Christmas Story to us from the Gospel of Luke.

7:00 PM • The Music of Christmas & Candlelighting

"They Returned, Glorifying and Praising God"

This service features beautiful music along with Bible reading, stories, carols and candlelighting at the close of the service with the singing of "Silent Night." Join us for this beautiful candlelighting service which includes traditional and contemporary Christmas music.

11:00 PM • Candlelight Communion Service

"Go and Search Carefully for the Child"

This service begins on Christmas Eve and concludes at the stroke of midnight Christmas Day. Join us for wonderful stories, Bible reading, prayer, and the traditional music of Christmas. Communion and candlelighting with the singing of "Silent Night" will conclude the service.

Child Care available at 7 PM Service

Christmas Poinsettias

Christmas poinsettias to decorate the chancel in the sanctuary may be brought in at any time during office hours. Please contact the church office by Thursday, December 22 if you wish your poinsettia to be in honor or memory of a loved one.

Council of Elders

12:30pm December 11

In the Parsonage

Sara Patti, Joyce Zeneberg, Paul Kamprath, Jeff Redmon, and Jim Kent will be enjoying Kathy's fine cooking as they pray for and plan for our church's goals and strategies to maintain an outward focus and reach our community for Christ. We are particularly working on training and utilizing younger leaders and increasing the accountability of our leaders in actually reaching out goals. Be sure to share your ideas with our elders.

Inside this issue:

Pastor Jim's Editorial	2
Markey Happenings	3
Prayer List	4
People Notes	5
People Page	6
More News	7 & 8
December Calendar	Back Page



CHRISTMAS LOSTALGIA

I'm listening to my Christmas cassette tapes as I write my editorial this month. It is the same music I listened to from my parents' vinyl albums about 50 years ago. I remember moving into the modern age when I recorded them onto audio cassette tapes so I would have them forever. Several times I had to re-record them on new tapes because I wore the old ones out. I haven't figured out yet how to turn them into CD's.

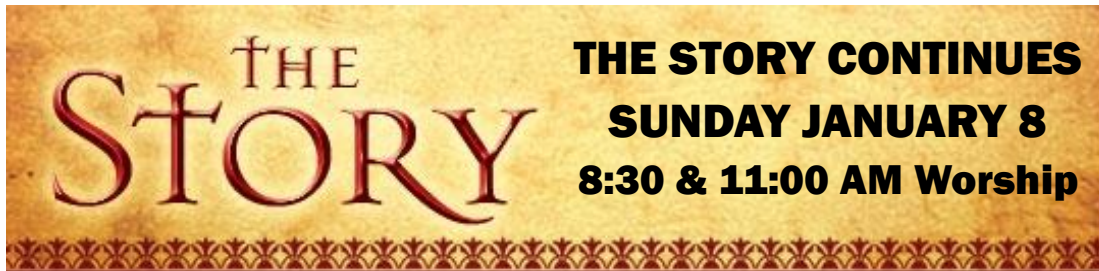
So what is it about Christmas nostalgia that grabs our hearts? Why do I like the Hallmark specials, and all the old Christmas movies, and the commercials with the Budweiser Clydesdales, and the Christmas carolers, and the children under the tree on Christmas morning in their own home with mom and dad? Something which was very, very special to us in the past has lost its wonder. We could blame it on growing up, but that doesn't work because we're still suckers for all the nostalgic stuff that made Christmas the highlight of the year by far.

The answer is very simple. We've lost because of what we've gained. In all our efforts to make Christmas bigger and better we have lost the qualities which used to make it best. What used to be near magical in wonder has been asphyxiated under the weight of making it longer, more expensive, more demanding, more commercial, more tangled in extended families, poisoned in alcoholic parties with people we don't even like, and then endured with hangovers, debt, and hurt feelings. Happy birthday, Jesus!

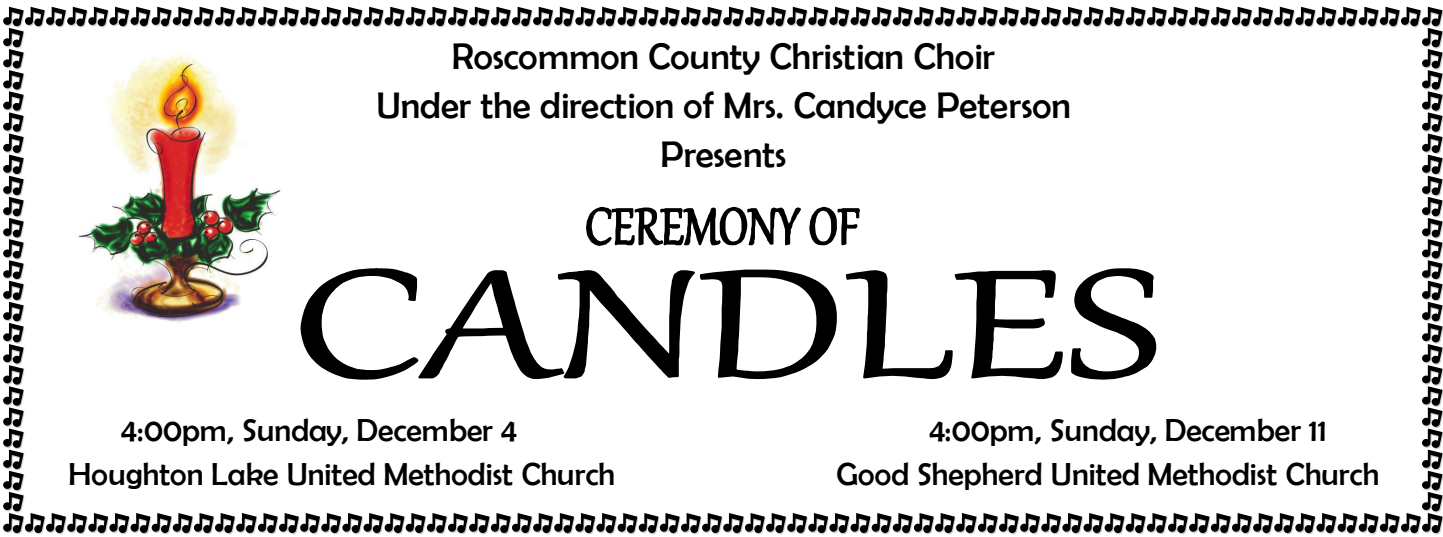

It's certainly time to fix Christmas. But the fact is, it's time to fix life. We have filled our lives with so much stuff (to improve them?) that we have become too busy to live. Nothing takes first place in our lives anymore because we have overstuffed our lives to the point of fibrillation...everything is in motion, but nothing is going anywhere. This way of life is very dangerous for our marriages and families because it makes everybody feel unimportant and unappreciated. And it is absolutely deadly for our faith in God because we have no room in all the clutter of our lives to put anything or anyone in a position of priority. We are living very much like the ancient people who created signature idols to meet their specific needs. But it can be argued that our modern, sophisticated version of this paganism is even deadlier for our souls.

We can recover the sparkle of Christmas by peeling away the layers of bad habits and inappropriate demands. This Christmas, let's make sure we set aside time for those who are the very closest to us and invite Jesus back into his own birthday party with us.

By the way, can anybody help me turn my ancient audio tapes into CD's?

THE STORY
THE STORY CONTINUES
SUNDAY JANUARY 8
8:30 & 11:00 AM Worship

Roscommon County Christian Choir
 Under the direction of Mrs. Candyce Peterson
 Presents
CEREMONY OF
CANDLES

4:00pm, Sunday, December 4
 Houghton Lake United Methodist Church

4:00pm, Sunday, December 11
 Good Shepherd United Methodist Church



Markey Church
2011 Advent Worship Series
The Three Wise Women

Dec 11 - Elizabeth

Luke 1: 5-22, 24-25, 45

Dec 18 - Mary

Luke 1: 28, 38, Luke 2:16-19

Dec 25 - Anna

Luke 2:36-38

Be Sure to Pick Up Your Free Markey Church Advent Devotional Booklet

This year's Markey Church Advent Devotional Booklet is our 6th publication and contains all new devotionals written by your Markey Church friends. This year's title is **Words of Wisdom**. The 1 or 2 pages of daily devotional and scripture readings will relate to the Advent worship services and greatly add to the celebration of Advent and Christmas and all they mean to us.

20 Something Christmas Party

Markey Church's 20 Something Group will meet for a Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 13 at 6pm in the Friendship Room. Join in the fun, food, and good times together.

We will then take a holiday break until January 3rd when we will resume our regular meetings on Tuesday evenings at 7pm when we discuss important themes for The Story. Call Murphy at 989-275-5266 or email at murphyks@charter.net for more details.

Help Us Assemble Christmas Baskets

4:00pm Tuesday, December 20 at Sharp's Corner

This year we will again be helping families we know who are in need have a good Christmas. With the help of Sharp's we assemble large Christmas baskets at the store using shopping carts and boxes. A volunteer is given a list of an anonymous family's needs and fills the boxes for that family. Then the volunteer is given the address of the family and makes the delivery.

We are very grateful to Sharp's. This year they are giving us a much larger discount on the food we will be providing in the baskets. Be sure to thank them when you see them.

If you know local families who may need food this season who are not being helped by other organizations, please call Pam or Monica in the church office.

December Prayer List

Extended Care

June Torok
Bethesda Gardens
13825 Cave Creek Road
#324
Phoenix AZ 85022

Markey Church ABC

Missionaries

Dan Buttry, Peace and
Conflict Resolution
Dan and Sarah Chetti,
Lebanon
Bill and Ann Clemmer, DR
Congo
Rick & Anita Gutierrez,
South Africa
Katherine & Wayne Niles,
DR Congo

Friends and Families Of:

Helen Chase
Jerry Peters

Recovering

Jerry & Diane Ball
Doris Brotherton
Russ Carrick
Tom Edwards
Kathleen Glover
Mary K. Gray
Colette Hamlin (Preuss)
Arlette & Jack Harris
Jim Kent
Evie Kuzhals
Mary Link
Melissa Miller-Cochran
Mike Mol
Don Moore
Clara Moss
Dave Pepperman
Isaac Postma
Norma Price
Toni Shores
Bob Thompson

Al Watts

Esther Yaksich

Markey Church

Ministries

20something Group
American Baptist Women
Caregiver Group
Christmas Baskets Dec 20
Christmas Eve Services
Holy Grounds Coffee House
(Wed. December 28, 2011)
LIFE Groups
Markey Angel Network
Men's Prayer Groups
Mom to Mom
One Starry Night Family
Christmas Event
Sunday BLAST
Sunday Study Groups
Sunday Worship Services
The Story outreach

Military Personnel

Andria Alvarez
Levi Balcom
Brian Bowars
David L. Bulley
Peter Gross
Travis Hickey — *In Iraq*
Scott Katalenich
Jennifer Lang
Robert Tyler Link
Elizabeth Reicks
A.J. Palmerton
Rodger Papenhagen
Mike Richardson
Matthew Schorr
Michael B. Shores — *USS George Washington*
Nathan Stover
Gregory Strite
Keith Tegman — *In Afghanistan*
(Candy Klein's son)
Ronald Youngblut



Christmas Offering

You will find special offering envelopes in the pew racks for our 2011 Christmas Offering. This year it will be divided evenly between our Benevolence Fund and the 2012 High School Summer Trip.

Our church uses the Benevolence Fund to help people we know who have financial needs or crises. We use it in conjunction with other local charities to give our people the most efficient and effective short term assistance possible. Since the economy has been so bad, we have been amazed at how many of our recipients have paid us back over time!

This summer we will be sending our high school students to a national gathering of American Baptist youth in Washington, D.C. They will be traveling with the Michigan delegation on charter buses to this once-every-four-year opportunity, which this year is named "Immerse." They will be joining 1500 youth from all over the country doing mission projects in the DC area and spending time in worship, Bible Study, and outstanding activities and sight-seeing. Your contributions to our Christmas Offering may help a student attend who otherwise might not be able to afford this great opportunity.

PEOPLE NOTES

A woman shopping on Black Friday decides to pepper spray her competition to make sure she gets first crack at the best prices— a Detroit Lions player flunks anger management 101 when he purposely stomps a competitor who made a play he didn't like— presidential candidates fend off continued accusations of sexual misconduct with denial and bluffery. If you feast on nothing but sound bytes, this is a very sad, skewed culture in which to live. My 85 year old mother-in-law commented at dinner tonight that the world appears to be getting more evil every day. I thought about that for a while, and then did a mental revolt! Our culture has its scars and dark places, but I believe the kind, compassionate people outweigh the headliners by a HUGE margin. This Advent and Christmas season, I'd like to challenge you to consider some of the gifts you receive that aren't wrapped in artful paper and tied with a big fat bow. Using Markey Church and Roscommon County as a starting point, consider telling people that you received these kinds of gifts this year:

*The sound of running feet, high fives and pint sized excitement every time the worship leader says "It's time for Children's Worship with **Miss Autumn, Miss Melissa, Miss Megan, Miss Erin and Mr. Dennis.**

*The delicious smells wafting from the kitchen on any given Sunday BLAST evening because **Claire Lovegrove, Danny Bates, Paul and Cathy Dahlin, Bob and Marie Gillespie, Kim Tatro, Betty Hawkes** and any number of other people are donating their time and culinary talents to keep your tummies from growling!

*That little bit of country and a little bit rock n roll that resound from the sanctuary on Sunday mornings from the fast fingered finessing of **Valli Smith, Cody Stewart, Kris Mol, Jeremy Lundy** or the smooth

vocals of our praise teamers **Judy Barbour, Bill Ashworth, Joyce Zeneberg, Libbie McDonald** and others who rise to the occasion to lead us in song.

*The New York publishing house quality of our bulletins, mailers, special flyers, website, posters and power points due to the creative think tank that is **Pam Reicks, Monica Lytle** and helpers more numerous than Santa's elves.

*A church sign that welcomes and announces welcome to everyone who drives by and those who brave frigid temps to change the sign when needed.

*A safe place to go to talk to someone when you are happy, sad, grieving or confused that can transform us like a caterpillar to a butterfly in the **Monarch Center.**

*A benevolence fund that is a financial priority for the huge portion of church people who give generously for those in need in our church and our community.

*A group of committed and talented people who care deeply about eliminating substandard housing in our area and pour out their hearts, time and money to make it so through Habitat for Humanity.

*A bushel basket under the communion table that never seems to be empty because of you who care about those who are hungry in our community.

*A church with a personality that expresses a desire to serve, not be served and welcome everyone as a created, loved and cherished person in the manner of the God we worship.

*A staff that keeps the train running when the conductor is recovering from back surgery— and people who fill the pulpit with grace and wisdom like **Murphy, Mark Monte, Karen Henderlong and Pam Reicks.**

*A team of youth leaders led by **Ryan Madis and Jeremy Lundy** and a group of youth that make you

smile when you think about the future of our church, our community and our world!

*Behind the scenes people like the **Lewis and Sherrill** families who prepare your communion and plow your parking lots.

*A Minister of Visitation, **Ron Howell**, with a huge but gentle gift to care about others.

*A prayer team that takes its vision and mission very seriously and absolutely saturates the staff, the church and the community with prayer.

Okay, you probably get the drift of this gift list by now. When you realize the most important things in life aren't things at all, you understand the best gifts of this season are things you cannot wrap! I seriously think the woman who peppered sprayed her fellow shoppers would benefit greatly from spending a few months working in a soup kitchen. She would find the gifts she receives from such an experience cannot be found in the most expensive stores in the world!

Do yourself and Santa a really big favor, and make out your Christmas list by writing down all the wonderful gifts you've already received this year! You'll be richly blessed and your world view will make you want to smile, or even whistle!

Merry Christmas! It really is— ..



PEOPLE PAGE



SHOP AT THE HABITAT ReSTORE!

The Roscommon County Habitat for Humanity ReStore, located on M-55 (across from Curves), Houghton Lake, is a retail outlet where quality used and surplus building materials are sold at a fraction of normal prices. Materials sold by the ReStore are usually donated from contractors, demolition crews or from individuals who wish to show their support for Habitat. In addition to raising funds, ReStores help the environment by rechanneling good, usable materials into use. Proceeds from the Roscommon County Habitat Restore will raise enough money to build a house this year.

If you need building supplies, large or small appliances, windows, doors, etc. check out the Habitat ReStore FIRST!

Happy Birthday

December

- 12/3 Russ Carrick
- 12/3 Karen Henderlong
- 12/3 Patricia Gardner
- 12/3 Bonnie Schank
- 12/10 Jim Kent
- 12/10 Gregg Gardner
- 12/11 Sharon Ashworth
- 12/11 Thomas Rowell
- 12/12 Kathleen Glover
- 12/13 Jerry Tice
- 12/14 Billee Banks
- 12/15 Aaron Weber
- 12/15 Michelle Patterson
- 12/15 Merry Maiani
- 12/18 Dalyana Miller
- 12/19 David Warner
- 12/21 Donna Telling
- 12/22 Doug Brown
- 12/22 Nadine Emmons
- 12/24 Cathy Dahlin
- 12/28 Mary Everly
- 12/31 Ericka Kamprath



Monarch Center Counseling

4736 Flint Road, Roscommon, MI 48653
989-225-1269

Murphy
Limited Licensed
Professional Counselor
Certified Spiritual Director

Sharon Ashworth
Licensed Professional
Counselor
Trauma & Loss Consultant

Happy Anniversary

- 12/6 Donald & Viola Moore
- 12/9 Dale & Libbie McDonald
- 12/12 Bruce & Janice Balcom
- 12/22 Howard & Donna Telling

**Interested in Being on
the Markey Email
Prayer Chain?**

MARKEYPRAYERLINK
Call / fax / email the church
office with your name and
email address.

VIP Wall of Honor

For the Markey 80+ years
young crowd

Are you about to turn 80 years
young? Plan to have your pic-
ture taken for the VIP Wall of
Honor. Contact Chris Schicker,
821-5389 and/or Ron Howell,
821-9371

SUNDAY STUDY GROUPS FOR ADULTS

10:00am

- Lamplighters' Class (Friendship Room)
- Adventurers (Dining Room)
- Mustard Seeds (east wing 4)

You're welcome at any of these Sunday groups!

Do We Have Your Birthday/

Anniversary Date?

Please fill out the form below and drop off in the
church office to have your special dates included
in the Markey Mailer.

Fill out for your family

Name _____ Birthday _____

Name _____ Birthday _____

Name _____ Birthday _____

Name _____ Birthday _____

Anniversary Date _____



Kids Crossing News– December



Christmas is almost here!! Lots of things happening in Kids Crossing this month; On December 4th the children will be singing at the 8:30am and 11:00am services. On December 10th from 4:00pm-6:00pm in the Markey gym join us for One Starry Night. One Starry Night is a family event with stories about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, there will be light supper at the Inn and lots of crafts around the Marketplace.

December 24th at 5:00pm we will have a children/family Christmas Eve service, filling in for Pastor Jim will be Ms Autumn and Ms Megan. Also, if you haven't yet please pick up a family advent calendar on the counter in Kids Crossing. Along with the family calendar is a Manger Scene advent calendar for each child to take home. Thank you for all of support for Operation Lovies, we have received so many Lovie donations and a good start to our financial donations for postage.

Have a very Blessed Christmas!!

Ms. Autumn, Ms. Melissa, Ms. Erin, & Ms. Megan

Nursery News with Ms. Megan

Merry Christmas!!

Preschool News with Ms. Erin

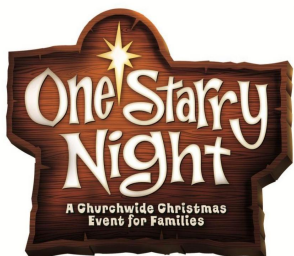
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

K-3rd News with Ms. Autumn

Keep studying your books of the Bible see me if you need a study sheet. Have a very Blessed Christmas!!

4th-6th News with Ms. Melissa

There will be a Risk Management class in January, watch here for more information.



One Starry Night Family Christmas Event

4:00pm, Saturday, December 10 in the Gym

Please bring the whole family and join us on a journey through Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph.

Many activities for the family to enjoy, and a light soup supper will be served.

If you have questions or would like to help out, please contact Autumn Vanacker at 745-3151



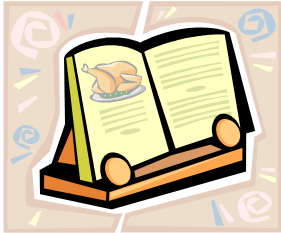
DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE MARKEY CHURCH FITNESS CENTER

Open during church office business hours

The Markey Church Fitness Center is set up in the East Wing, room 5. Equipment use guidelines are posted and the equipment is ready for use! Come and try it out ... and start working toward a healthier you! If you're under 16 we ask that you come with a parent or guardian.



The American Baptist Women
Have a few cookbooks left from their 2010
sale. They are available for \$10 each



They make great gifts!

Contact Wilma Hendrixson, 275-4705 or Betty Granzow,
989-281-8426 to purchase.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Monday, December 12

Noon-5:45pm

At the Roscommon VFW

Wednesday, December 21

8:45am-2:30pm

HLHS Library

Call 1-800-GIVE LIFE for an
appointment or just show up.

Markey Angel Network

This is a special group of Markey members who volunteer to be angels whenever they are needed. They might prepare a meal for a shut-in, take a non-driver to the doctor's office or just make a phone call when necessary.

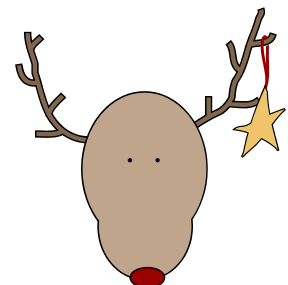
Many wings have been distributed already and we have wings in all sizes for those who might still want to volunteer. Contact the church office if you desire to become an angel or would like an angelic visit!

MEN'S PRAYER GROUPS

6:30am Mondays at St.

Michael's Catholic
Church, Roscommon

6:45am Tuesdays in the
home of Bill & Sharon
Ashworth



Markey Church is online!

Look For Markey Church on Facebook.com

Be sure to click the "LIKE" button.

You can "Follow" us on Twitter.com

Podcasts are available on iTunes

Our church website is www.markeychurch.org



And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more. ~Dr Seuss

Christmas Greetings

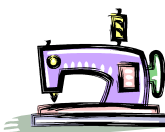
The bulletin board at the top of the stairs next to the sanctuary doors has been transformed to hold your Christmas greetings to your Markey Church family. Bring in a Christmas card and post it on the board and save lots of \$\$\$\$ in postage! You can even donate your savings to a worthwhile project ... such as the Markey Church Christmas Offering.

Christmas Cookies Wanted

The Markey American Baptist Women are looking for bakers to make cookies for their annual Christmas Cookie Walk which will be held in the Library on Sunday, December 11 after both 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Services. Contact Carol Bates, 821-7570 or Betty Granzow, 821-8426 if you can help.

TRAUMA DOLLS

Megan Taylor is spearheading a 'fabric drive' to collect material to make Trauma Dolls. The dolls are given to children to have as their own, and doctors use them to help explain to the children what is happening to them and where the pain this; this is to help children understand and take away some of their fears. Megan is putting together an event for the community to come together and make these dolls for the Grayling, Clare and West Branch Hospitals. Megan is looking for donations of scrap fabric to make the gowns, stuffing, and muslin to make the actual dolls. There will be a tub out in Grand Central for anyone who is able to donate to this cause



The big sewing night will take place on Wednesday, January 11th, 2012, location to be determined. If you are a sewer and are interested in helping at this event or have any questions please contact Megan at 989-714-1950 or email her at blondy1195@hotmail.com

MOM

Markey Church Mom to Mom

Wednesday, December 14

6:00 pm potluck supper

6:30 - 7:30 pm meeting

FREE child care is available, so bring your kids, a dish to pass, and a friend to join us as we learn and grow as moms.



New Year's Day Communion Service

11:00am Sunday, January 1, 2012

The only thing on our church calendar on Sunday January 1 is a Communion Service for everybody at 11:00am. Betty Granzow will be bringing the message and assisted by other church leaders who will preside at the communion table.

No other events are scheduled in the church building on that day.



You Are Invited to ...

Holy Grounds Coffeehouse



Wednesday, December 28, 7-9 PM in the Church Library

Join us in the Library on the final Wednesday of every month for great coffee, snacks, a wonderful theme, and the Markey artist of the month. Contact Valli Smith if you would like to be the artist of the month at one of our upcoming coffeehouses.

For more information contact Valli Smith, 745-3848 or the church office.

Markey LIFE Groups

There is room for YOU in a LIFE Group. Contact a leader for more information.

MEETING DAY	TIME	LOCATION	LEADERS
SUNDAY	3:00pm	In the church dining room	Bob Gillespie (821-8909) Tom Zeneberg (821-6408)
MONDAY	7:00pm	Redmonsø7280 W. Birch Road, West side of Higgins Lake	Jeff Redmon (821-9227) Russ Bennett (821-07511)
TUESDAY	7:00pm	Ty & Carolyn Black 10701 Murphy Road, Near Pioneer Hill in Roscommon	Ty & Carolyn Black (275-4165)
TUESDAY	7:00pm	Tom Rowell 107 Larkmoor Lane, South of Markey Church, off Flint Road	Tom Rowell (989-220-4219)
WEDNESDAY	6:30pm	Reicksø6394 E. Higgins Lake Drive, Northeast side of Higgins Lake	Pam/Brian Reicks (821-8244) Linda Remsing (821-7712)
FRIDAY	10:00am	Country Village 2nd Floor Lounge	Mary Link (821-9676) Betty Granzow (821-8426)