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**Gathering
Growing
Going**

Christmas Eve services:

5pm and 7pm

Both services will end with candlelight and silence.

Christmas Day service:

One service at 10am.

A special time of praise and worship



CHARGE CONFERENCE

Cornerstone Church's Annual Charge Conference will be on December 12, 2011 at 7:00 pm. Please plan to attend this important part of our church's life. Charge Conference is where the church body votes and approves the coming years pastoral salaries plus the various heads and members of committees that help run the church for the coming year. All are welcome to attend. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

HOW SWEET IT IS!

Cornerstone Church will be presenting its first annual "Dessert Fantasia" on Sunday December 11th following the second service. The event will be a combined Cookie Walk, Bake Sale and sampling experience. Get your holiday cookies and treats at Cornerstone and spend more time enjoying the season.



MITTEN TREE

Please help us decorate our Mitten Tree and keep the children at Head Start warm this winter. We are decorating the tree with hats, mittens and scarves that will be shared with the pre-school children at Head Start - so think young, and let's fill the tree with colorful warmth!!



SHOP WITH SCRIP

Founded in 1994, Great Lakes Scrip Center (GLSC) has helped retailers ring up more than \$6 billion dollars in sales while raising more than \$300 million for our non-profit clients. GLSC serves more than 14,000 client non-profit organizations in every state. GLSC has long standing relationships with America's most trusted retail brands including Walmart, American Airlines, Bath & Body Works, Burger King, The Gap, Home Depot, JCPenney, Marriott, Red Lobster, Olive Garden, and Sears to name just a few.

GLSC is able to purchase scrip (gift cards) from retailers at a discount. The cards purchased by you will have full value. Our church receives a small profit from the sale of each card. The profits we receive are deposited into the Pastor Al Fund which is used solely to help those in the church who are in need. It's during economic times such as these that we are using the Pastor Al Fund more and more. With the help of your purchases, we are able to brighten the days of others.

Shopping with scrip is so easy. There is a listing of over 600 retailers located in the church office along with order forms for your use. There are also instructions on how to access the website (pink form) so you can get more detailed information on the program and place orders on your own at your leisure!

The holidays are quickly approaching, so think of scrip gift cards for all your shopping needs from groceries, to gas for your car, shopping for your needs, as well as the joy of shopping for others during this season. Remember that gift cards make the perfect presents for teachers, babysitters and other people you would like to thank at the end of the year.

Mark your Calendars: The remaining order dates for this year are December 4 and December 11. Think of using scrip for all your shopping needs

DATES TO REMEMBER

Poinsettia Orders Due:
 Christmas Program:
 Dessert Fantasia:
 Charge Conference:
 Christmas Eve Services:
 Special Christmas Day Service:

December 4th
 December 11th
 December 11th
 December 12th
 December 24th
 December 25th

Using SCRIP supports your church!
 Place an order or make a purchase today ~ it adds up!



Liz got a jump on Christmas shopping with a \$25 Kohl's store card and Cornerstone's offering jumped by \$1.00.

Juanita bought groceries with a \$100 Meijer store card and made \$3.00 for Cornerstone.



Panera made Sue's lunch. Sue made \$.90 for church by using a \$10 Panera store card.

Jim filled up his tank with a \$50 BP card and the offering plate filled up by \$2.00.



Live your life...Use SCRIP...Support your Church!

December Birthdays

1 Caylie Clark
 1 Terri Lind
 1 Breanna Samuelson
 2 Chloe Toppel
 3 Nancy Hoke
 3 Nan Strohmaier
 4 Andrew Erickson
 4 Gordon Muirhead
 4 Kevin Smith
 4 Corey Toppel
 5 Dick Wood
 6 Emma Mae Kimbro
 6 Paula Schwarzwald
 7 Andy Carter
 9 Iris Garrelts
 9 Paul Reed
 10 Anthony Robertson
 11 Matt Overstreet

12 Hannah Gaylord
 13 Tim Schiller
 14 Ellie Butcher
 14 Jake Toppel
 15 Stevie Gruner
 16 Rachel Roth
 16 Paige Stevens
 17 Linda Nelson
 17 Ryan Pasholk
 17 Elizabeth Zale
 19 Jeff Meyer
 20 Rex Covington
 20 Hailey Lewis
 20 Tyler Spinnato
 21 Gert Buniatian
 21 Croy Seagren
 22 Natalie Svendsen

22 Bonnie Whildin
 23 Katie Ballew
 23 Steve Tammes
 26 Brady Hunt
 26 Lauren Johnson
 27 Scott Fehrman
 28 Cheryl Busick
 28 John Hosey
 29 Sue Brownell
 29 Chad Hosey
 29 Jan Morse
 29 Jacob Schutta
 30 Hans Sjurseth
 31 Colton Dunn
 31 Ryan Metz
 31 David Serna

December Anniversaries

Sam & Marilyn Ciaccio 12/4/1948
 Ken & Mary Pfortmiller 12/8/1962
 Eric & Tricia Hutchcroft 12/10/1994
 Jerry & Sandy Pryde 12/13/1959
 Pete & Gert Buniatian 12/18/1954
 Al & Barbara Schening 12/18/1959

WISDOM KEEPERS

Christmas In Song

Wednesday, December 14th

Gather at noon for a special Christmas lunch

Stay for an afternoon of Christmas songs and stories.

Tickets may be purchased in the office.

\$8/ticket

Questions? Concerns?

Eileen Leschke (847) 707-8444

Joan Pelletier (847) 741-6097

Marlene Shales (847) 742-8904

MISSION OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2010

Betty Tshala: Mujila Falls Agricultural Centre



This December, Cornerstone will support the encouraging and enterprising work of Betty Tshala, nutritional teacher and organizer at Mujila Falls Agricultural Centre in Zambia. In an area of Africa that previously was known for its poverty, malnutrition, high infant mortality, and short life spans, the Mujila District now holds first place in corn production.

Betty provides an active program of teaching families, especially women, about how to eat healthy, to guard against debilitating diseases, and to be more self-supporting. The Women's Club that she has organized gives valuable training: women are taught about hygiene and overcoming malnutrition with healthy eating and cooking. The club has been instrumental in building a herd of goats for milk. The Women's Club also teaches women how to knit and make mats in order to bring income to their families. Another important service that Betty oversees is the children's feeding center. With a balanced diet and the use of the home-grown Moringa and soybeans, the children receive a full-protein diet. In November, 41 of the 104 children at the feeding center were released with full recovery.



The Mujila Agricultural Centre has been in existence for 11 years. In 2000 a tribal chieftain, whose people were dying of malnutrition and hunger, gave a grant of 2500 acres. Tshala Mwengo and his wife Betty were educated at Africa University under the special instruction of Larry Kies, one of our UMC missionaries. The

Tshalas have educated local farmers and, with their help, have planted peanuts, beans, corn, potatoes, bananas, and strawberries on the land. Now their work has received national press in Zambia and has won awards for their agricultural success. Still they are in dire need of updated farm machinery, seeds, fertilizer, and animal husbandry. These are areas in which contributions from Cornerstone are greatly needed.



SAVE YOUR COINS

TACKLE



HUNGER

Yes, it will soon be time for our annual Souper Bowl Sunday on Sunday, January 29, 2012, so be sure to be saving your coins - and dollar bills also. Who will win the big contest this year?? The girls have won 3 of the last 4 contests, so are the boys up to the challenge??



CORNERSTONE QUILTERS

Come join the quilters on an earlier Tues. in December. Because of the Christmas Holiday, we will be meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 6:00 - 9:00 PM in the youth space. We will have instruction on an easy table runner for the holidays, so if you are reluctant to try quilting at this time but want to make some easy table runners, this may be the meeting for you. The runners take

1/4 yd. of focus fabric and 1/2 yd. of fabric that becomes the border and backing. If you are not interested in the table runners, many will be working on their quilts that are in progress. We always welcome new people, so come give us a try. No experience is necessary and supplies are provided. Any questions contact Susie Kostka, sukostka@comcast.net or 847-697-0639.

OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN AT WORK



Dear Friends,

A special thank you to all the wonderful people who provided a plentiful garden for the Cornerstone family. The Stepping Stone Mix Aged Preschool has benefited in so many ways. We discovered that tomatoes come in different sizes and colors. We sorted tomatoes by color, size, shape, ripe, and too old to eat. We counted cherry tomatoes, 106 one day. We weighed beefsteak tomatoes. We ate every kind of tomato. We collected green and yellow beans and tasted them raw and steamed. The longest green bean measured 8-1/2 inches. We found green and purple peppers. We feasted on cucumbers and cantaloupe. At the end of September, when we thought the garden was empty, we found potatoes, yum-yum. The biggest surprise was the watermelons – some children pushed the wagon, other children pulled the wagon. The heavy watermelon was worth the work.

On our very last trip to say good night to the garden for fall, farmer Charlie was tilling the garden. As the children watched, with total awe, the earth being turned over they said “good night garden”.

Again, a special thanks to all the people who invested endless hours into the perfect classroom for teaching math, science, and the circle of life.

Sincerely
Katherine Crocetti

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CORNER

We have started the planning process for our 2012 programs and ministries. If you have not completed the “Estimate of Giving Card” for 2012, please consider completing the card as soon as possible. Your help is needed to give the finance committee a true picture of our projected income for 2012.. Cards are available at the usher stations in the worship room.

SAVE THE DATES

- ◇ Youth will have a lock in. Check FB for the dates.
- ◇ Our next Serve Saturday will be January 14, 2012.
- ◇ Cornerstone's Got Talent—Feb. 3rd.
- ◇ The next women's retreat will be February 10 & 11.