

# THE PEW REVIEW

SECOND BAPTIST  
CHURCH

DECEMBER  
2011

## JOSIAH'S DAY

To rise at dawn and shake the world  
With bright stampedes of little feet;  
To fly in father's arms downstairs,  
In joyful cries the house to greet;

This is the morning of my son,  
A day writ large in toddler's joy.  
We wheel pajama'd legs around  
In sheer delight of being boy.

Into the living room we storm,  
And see a zoo of friends around:  
There's Tigger, Pooh, and Curious George,  
All heaped together in a mound.

Oh, the bliss of finding friends  
With glossy fur and smiling eyes!  
And oh, the joy of lining them  
In new arrangements of surprise!

Now breakfast – that's a messy thing:  
It seems that spoons are just too slow;  
So milk-dripped fists make quicker work  
Of cereal; then off we go!

Baby Sam is borne downstairs,  
And told directly where to stay;  
He's greeted with a "Hi, Baby!"  
And then his brother's off to play.

First lines of shapeless Play-Doh ducks,  
Then markers on a cardboard box;  
Next hiding underneath a chair  
While Dad wrestles him into socks.

The world outside is bright and cold,  
And full of reckless wonderment.  
In coat and hat we face the day  
And ponder where the leaves all went.

We pat the giant of a tree  
That stands alone beside our car;  
And murmur sympathetically  
When we dislodge a chip of bark.

Puddles are perfect for jumping,  
Or better, for sitting down in;  
Picnic tables are for climbing,  
And fallen leaves for tumbling in.

Inside for lunch, then take a nap  
(A bright reprieve for Mom and Dad!)  
Two hours down, or three at best,  
Then face the world with vigor glad.

We read a stack of story books,  
All familiar, yet wildly new;  
Well-known books are fonder friends,  
At least for boys not quite yet two.

At supper we sit down to eat  
And have a battle of the wills –  
He, who wants no more than cheese,  
And parents urging vegetables.

Bath time's a fierce and wild cascade  
Full of rubber ducks and splashing;  
Pajamas slide on wheeling limbs  
With laughter and with thrashing.

Now off to bed, but with a prayer –  
He often wants to pray for "house!"  
We pray for all within our home,  
Then hug tight Pooh and Mickey Mouse.

He falls asleep; we breathe a sigh;  
We're done with one day for our son.  
But then we stop and realize –  
Oh man, we've got another one!

Luke 2:6-7

So it was, that while they  
were there the days were ac-  
complished for her to be de-  
livered.

And she brought forth a new  
born Son, and wrapped Him  
in swaddling clothes, and laid  
Him in a manger, because  
there was no room for them in  
the inn."

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
THE BURDEN'S

Matthew  
Rachel  
Josiah  
Samuel



The Pew Review  
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## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today is the second of four Sundays of Advent. Many churches mark each Sunday of Advent with a candle and arrange them in what's called an Advent wreath. Often the candles are purple, with a center, larger candle of white, called the Christ Candle, signifying Jesus Christ.

Each candle for the four Sundays is given a theme. Today's candle is the Candle of HOPE. Advent 1 was PEACE, Advent 3 is JOY, and Advent 4 is LOVE. And all the candles are placed within a circle, or wreath of evergreens.

The late Peter Gomes of Harvard Memorial Church and Homiletics professor at the divinity school, asked rhetorically where one looks for hope. The answer, he said, is that— according to the Bible— one “looks first to the place of suffering and stress.”

It is the person feeling the heat who's cooled off by the winds of hope. Without suffering, without stress, without concern, one cannot experience the blessings of hope.

Certainly the birth of a child is an occasion for hope. When a baby is born, the parents dream and hope. They have hope that, in spite of the perils and dangers that may lie ahead, their child can survive them, and perhaps even alleviate the pain of others.

Jesus represents hope for us, as he came to relieve our suffering, to give us what we need to get through it, and most important to remove the stain of sin from our lives.

Whatever your fears and suffering today, you are invited to grasp at hope— the certainty that Jesus will bear you through whatever each day may bring.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, you are the hope of the world. You are the hope of my life. May many turn to you this Advent season to find rest for their souls. AMEN

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 3      **Sonny Stewart**  
                  **Kaileigh Deacon**  
 Dec. 4      **Chris Gillespie**  
 Dec. 12     **Cindy Richendollar**  
 Dec. 13     **Makayla Hodson**  
 Dec. 14     **Mary McLellan**  
                  **Sandra Skillman**  
 Dec. 17     **Karen Thomas**  
 Dec. 18     **MayBelle Clark**  
 Dec. 19     **Heidi Williams**  
 Dec. 20     **Jeff Doten**  
                  **Beth Doten**

Dec. 22     **Carole Smith**  
                  **Paul Waycott**  
 Dec. 25     **Linda P Wentworth**  
                  **Pastor Chris Stevens**  
 Dec. 28     **Nathan Marshall**  
 Dec. 29     **Josiah Burden**  
 Dec. 31     **Krystal Murphy**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE

Looks like Santa had a busy month.



Worry is like a rocking chair. It will give you

something to do but you will not get anywhere.

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Every night a doting father would sing his two young sons to sleep, until one night he overheard the 4-year old telling the 2-year old, “If you pretend you're asleep, he'll stop.”

# THE CHURCH MOUSE



If one more person asks me to go shopping, I swear I will throw an apple pie at them. I don't care whether it's in Calais, Bangor or beyond, please don't take me. Don't even think about it. I am tired and financially embarrassed. Why? Because I've been there, done that.

What is this season all about anyway? Is it sales on Black Friday, early shopping at Wal-Mart; I don't think so.

As a nation, we have completely lost touch with the true meaning of Christmas. We aren't supposed to say

"Christmas" anymore. It's "Holiday." Don't offend anyone and say, "Merry Christmas." By now it's probably a capital offense.

Does no one remember the word Christmas means the Mass of Christ. Do they not remember the saying, "Jesus is the reason for the season?" Who took Christ out of Christmas?

To me the answer is the merchants and the politicians. The merchants want more money and the politicians are afraid to offend any one of their con-

stituents. Personally, I don't care who I offend. When I meet someone during this blessed season I will always say, "Merry Christmas." And as I say it to you now, please know that I truly believe that the birth of Christ was the miracle this world needed then, and needs to recognize again now.

My gift to you is love because if I can't love you, I have nothing.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM MY HEART  
TO YOURS.

# SOME COMMITTEE STUFF

The Trustees have had the outside sign repaired with new glass. Thank you to Sonny Stewart and Alan Smith. Hopefully, tomorrow the grab bars in the bathrooms will be installed.

The Christian Ed Board is busy planning the Christmas events in the church—caroling on the 11th and the Christmas Children's Program on the 18th. They are also looking for someone to take over the nursery class next year.

The Diaconate is preparing for Christmas visits to our shut-ins.

The Nominating Committee is working on filling all positions for next year. If you are asked to help, pray about it, think about it, and then, hopefully, say "yes."

Brothers & Sisters for Missions will soon be shopping for Christmas gifts for their chosen family in need.

The Finance Committee asked for budgets

from each department. Since no one responded to the request, the committee went ahead and prepared the recommended budget for next year. This will be reviewed by the Executive Board on the 4th and presented to the Church at the annual meeting—January 22, 2012.



## PRESENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOUR WIFE

- A car-wash kit.
- A table saw
- A case of oil
- A five-year subscription to Sports Illustrated
- The Rambo trilogy on DVD
- A three-year membership to Weight Watchers
- A new outboard motor

## PRESENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOUR HUSBAND

- Any knick-knack
- A Body Shop soap basket
- Tickets to the ballet
- A week-end seminar on "Getting in Touch with Your Feelings"
- Teddy Bear Pajamas
- A nose/ear hair trimmer kit (well, maybe)



Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.

(Bobby, Age 7)

When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.

(Karen, Age 7)

## THIS 'N THAT

Sorry to report that Winnie Demmons is a patient at EMMC in Bangor. Get well soon, Winnie, we miss you.

Did you know that Chip Howell repaired our roof at NO COST? Thank you, Chip, for a job well done.

Rita Stewart wants to express a big [Thank You](#) to all who donated to the White Cross. All items have been shipped to New Jersey. Next, she will be collecting for our pledge to Nicaragua—we need to raise \$130, but that is after Christmas.

Congratulations to David & Melanie Currie on the birth of their son.

Our youth workers: Debbie Little, Steve McFadden, and Abe Holmes took 9 kids to STRIVE in November. This is a fun filled Christian event hosted by the Columbia Street Baptist Church.

Jimmy and I traveled to Dover-Foxcroft for Thanksgiving with our family. We all enjoyed a wonderful meal while 4 dogs sat near the table awaiting their turn. A great day!!!

Also traveling on Thanksgiving were Mike & Kathy Francis. They were in Virginia with Wayne & Katie. I little elf didn't say Marion was there, but I bet she was.

Matt, Rachel and the boys were at his parents for Thanksgiving. Thankfully, we all missed the snowstorm. Wednesday was not a good day for traveling.

A BIG thank you to Sonny Stewart for repairing our outside sign. He worked on it most of the day Thursday under the strict guidance of Alan Smith.

Speaking of Alan, it's nice to see him up and about after a struggle with pneumonia.

Welcome back Pam Price. How was Cancun? Great to see you in the choir.

The BYC land purchase is complete!! The East Area Association churches raised the \$90,000 necessary. Who says. "God doesn't answer prayers?"

Thank you, everyone, who helped with the memorial service for my nephew, John Moreshead. Such a sad thing to happen to a young man with a family. He is now drawing for God. A wonderful artist and father.

Norma Shattuck is now residing at North Street Bridge Home. Stay well, Norma.

Nice to have John & Sally Baker with us. They took some time to go deer hunting with the family. And, guess what, John got a deer. Now if I understand correctly, Sally will be making mincemeat for each of us. (I wish)

Mary McLellan, the director of the Christmas pageant is still looking for wise men. No experience is necessary.



**A special shout-out this month to Bruce and Sharon Bailey. They are somewhere down south but I don't know where. I am asking them to send us an address so we can keep in contact. Hey, you two, we miss you.**

### A brief Financial Report

The finances from October show the following:

Checkbook	\$13622
Received	10796
Mortgage Bal.	92212

This report is from the November Executive Board Meeting. Any questions please see Elaine Trainor or Lewis Little.

## OUR WISH (PRAYER) LIST 2012-2013

The following is a list of things the Trustees and other committees would like to see happen:

- The lower outside roof and walkway completed
- The roof completely repaired permanently
- A dishwasher in the kitchen
- The bell relocated to the front of the church and install chimes
- Secretary's office wall repaired
- The parsonage stairwell repaired, papered or painted
- A new walkway at the parsonage
- Place the projector closer to the front of the sanctuary, install viewing screens, and have the computer capability to handle all videos, DVD's, etc.
- The need to expand the back of the church another 50 feet because our congregation has grown.
- Risers for the choir. We need to hear all their beautiful voices and see their smiling faces.

**Sign on Laundromat next to a church:**

HERE'S WHERE  
CLEANLINESS  
REALLY IS NEXT  
TO GODLINESS!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long, and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world.