

# Bright Eyes



January 2012

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## J.T. & E.J. Crumbaugh Memorial Spiritualist Church

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## NOTES

by *Cyndy Ruszkowski, music & art committee chair*

The musical program for the Holiday Service held on December 18th was well received by all in attendance. The Committee extends many thanks to our program performers. Moving forward, music will play in the Church prior to the start of Lyceum. Volume will be low for anyone wishing to arrive early for prayer or meditation.

We are seeking some contemporary pieces that we can introduce into service to strike a balance along with the much loved, older hymns.

Anyone wishing to serve on this committee, please call  
Cyndy at 309.287.0432 or  
Bonnie at 309.830.2259.

## New Accounting Methods

by *Judy Tittle, church treasurer*

This year the church began using Quick Books for our accounting needs. The advantage to this system is our ability to provide our members with printed statements for their yearly contributions to the church when contributions are made by check. Since we began this process late in the year, statements printed for 2011 will not be for the entire year. If you have tracked your offerings and need a corrected statement, please contact Judy at 309.838.4735.

Starting January of 2012, all checks will be recorded and a full year's statement will be provided at the end of the year.

## HELP WANTED

The music and art committee is currently checking several places for a professional who can assist with the removal of mold and sealing of our precipitation paintings in the séance room to help preserve these beautiful works of spirit art. If you know of anyone who could help with this contact Cyndy at **309.827.0432**.



*When Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as a Helper, he used the word paraclete. The word "paraclete" is an ancient warrior' term. Greek soldiers would go into battle in pairs so when the enemy attacked they could draw together back-to-back, covering each other's blind side. One's battle partner was the paraclete.*

*Infinite Intelligence does not send us to fight the good fight alone. Spirit is our battle partner, our paraclete, who covers our blind side and fights for our well-being.*

## THE SIDEBAR



### Sweet's Soul Café newsletter's **Top Ten Liars' Lies**

10. We'll only stay for five minutes.
9. This will be a short meeting.
8. I'll respect you in the morning.
7. The check is in the mail.
6. I'm from the government, and I am here to help you.
5. This hurts me more than it hurts you.
4. Your money will be cheerfully refunded.
3. We service what we sell.
2. Your table will be ready in just a minute.
1. I'll start exercising (dieting,) tomorrow.



## AND NOW A WORD... from Your Pastor

Another year has passed and we move forward to see what exciting things await us in the coming new year.

For many of us, 2011 seemed to be long and drawn out and for others it seemed like it would not slow down and give us a breather, just for a second. But new beginnings await us, as this year has come to an end.

We must put to rest the things from this past year that may have troubled us or held us back. We now have an opportunity to tell ourselves that everything is new and we can develop new ideas to help relinquish those old concerns.

Our church is no different. The church continually goes through phases and changes based upon what is happening in the lives of our members, our community. The Reverend Sharon and I have witnessed, as have many of you, the highs and lows our church has endured and how it survives with new beginnings and new outlooks. 2012 provides us with a new beginning, progressing in a forward direction in unity with our church board as well as the estate board. Open mindedness, acceptance and a spirit of sharing will propel us through 2012 in a united, prosperous manner.

Let this be the direction we all take in our lives for this New Year. Let us all look at this as an exciting time; a time to seek the things we desire, for ourselves, our families, our friends, all those we meet, and our church family.

Reverend Sharon and I wish nothing but the highest blessings for all of you and for our beautiful church in this coming New Year. May the Spirit be always with us and guide us in our new beginnings.

*Pastor Bob*

## What is a Community?

*by Bonnie Crosier, Morris Pratt Student*

I believe a community to be a group of people who share not only location but common beliefs. I was recently asked about our church and was challenged with having to put who we are into just a few words. I feel we are more than a congregation. The word "community" came to mind. The more I thought about it, I knew I had made the right decision in choosing this word to describe our church.



I thought about this past year with so many of you wanting to help someone in need within our community. More and more are coming forward to help in the kitchen and volunteer to serve on our committees. When I watch people during Sunday fellowship, I can't think of a single person who doesn't listen intently to another person. Soon, it will be time for membership renewal. In addition, if you have not joined the church, it is time to consider doing so to help keep our community strong and share in all this church community has to offer.

***What is a community?  
We are a community.***

