

Front Porch NEWS

DECEMBER 2011



*Pastor
Cheryl Siegenthaler*

*Green Hills
Chaplain*

Actively waiting for Advent

These are the days of waiting, days of observing Advent.

But the waiting is not passive, for the days are filled with preparation. Churches are preparing for pageants, pastors are preparing messages of hope and promise and love, people are preparing their homes as well as gift and guest lists.

All this preparation is for the coming of Christ once more into our lives that he might find a chance to transform us.

Martin Luther wrote in a Palm Sunday sermon in 1522 that God came the first time in a stormy cloud with fire, smoke, and thunder to the people escaping from bondage in Egypt. They didn't want anything to do with talking to God. In fact, Exodus 20:19 records them saying to Moses, "You speak to us . . . but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." God gave Moses the commandments, laws by which the people are to live.

In contrast, Luther points out, Christ in his advent came not to a mountain top in the country but to a stable in the city.

Christ does not come wild and terrifying but meek and as a baby. God used Moses as an intermediary; Christ will grow into a man who deals face to face with the populace and the powerful.

It is up to us to be prepared for that relationship building moment when Jesus makes himself known—not by the wounds Thomas demanded, not by allowing us to walk on water as Peter desired, but by the person facing us who wants to be seen and who wants to be heard, and most especially, wants to be loved.

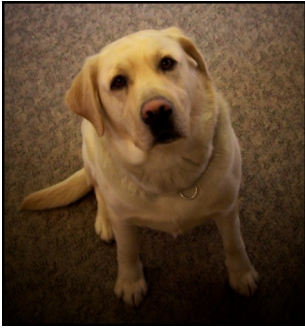
That person matters to Jesus. And because Jesus instructs us to love each other as he loves us, the person facing us is the one for whom we are to prepare.

Glory be to God!



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Winter Driving Tips: "Let's Be Careful Out There"



Tanner
Director of
Pet Therapy

After each briefing to his crew, Sergeant Phil Esterhaus of the TV show, *Hillstreet Blues* always offered good words of advice, "Hey, let's be careful out there."

Now that we have had our first snow fall, we need to keep his words in mind. Here are 10 tips that will keep your car rolling smoothly through winter's challenges.

I hope that you have already found that ice scraper for the next time it snows and that you are already up-to-date on your car's service schedule.

1.) Remove the leaves that find their way into your vehicle: When debris builds up in areas of your car where water is supposed to flow out, you can get leaks or corrosion.

2.) Winter Tires: So-called "all-season" tires have been on the market for decades. Coupled with front-wheel-drive and anti-skid systems, they have allowed many folks to avoid mounting a true snow tire for the winter months. Keep in mind that while wide and low profile tires are more stylish, they are not best suited for the snow.

3.) Install snow wipers: Wiper blades have a lifespan of about a year. If your car doesn't have the newer "beam blade" style wipers, consider a pair, as they don't have an external spring to freeze up. When snow or other freezing precipitation threaten, pop your wipers up when you park so they're not touching the windshield. This will make it easier to scrape your windshield and reduce the chance that you burn out the wiper motor by having them turn on while the blades are frozen in place.

4.) Make sure your battery is fully charged now. Some repair shops will test your battery for free.

5.) Check under the vehicle: Make sure that there is nothing hanging that could become worse if you drive through a snow drift.

6.) Antifreeze: Chances are good that your engine coolant (a better name for it) is just fine for the winter. If you follow your car's service schedule regularly, you should be fine. Most coolants can last for up to five years or 150,000 miles.

7.) Check your tire pressure: Tires lose a pound of pressure for every drop of 10 degrees Fahrenheit. An underinflated tire won't "bite" through snow down to the pavement as well as one at pressure.

8.) Pack a blanket: Everyone should have a blanket, especially a space blanket, in the car within reach of the driver.

9.) Wax the Lights: It may seem odd but the slippery surface will be less likely to build up an icy coat when road slush refreezes on your car - and it will make it easier to remove it if it does.

10.) Above all - allow extra time to get to your destination. This will allow you to get where you want to go when others have not read this same article and run into problems.

Wag, wag,
Tanner





Three join the Green Hills leadership team

There are three new faces traveling the hallways at Green Hills. They are Karen Burwell, Director of Child Care; Stephanie Christopher, Chief Financial Officer; and Marie Barth, Director of Memory Care.

Karen Burwell, who lives in Lima, has worked in several child care facilities over the last 30-some years, including owning two different facilities and working at Head Start.

Her duties here include scheduling a staff of 7 to give excellent care to 36 families with 43 children including payroll, collection of fees, curriculum planning and working with the inter-generational programming. Because of her vast knowledge and experience, she is also working with Champaign and Logan counties on other early childhood issues.

She and her husband, Steve, of 36 years, have three grown children and four grandchildren whom are her hobby.

Karen holds an associates degree in Early Childhood Development from Rhodes State Lima, a bachelors degree in School Age Care from Concordia University major in School Age Care with a double minor in Child Development and Business.

“I enjoy working at Green Hills and love the interaction with the children and adults,” she said.

The new Chief Financial Officer is **Stephanie Christopher** of Columbus. Her duties include monthly financial reports, annual budget, and Medicare and Medicaid Cost Reports. She assists the CEO and Administrator with strategic plans as they relate to the financial planning, budget management, and cost analysis for the campus.

She comes to us from Plante & Moran, PLLC, where she worked for 10 years as a Senior Consultant on their Healthcare Team.

She holds a bachelors degree health from Ohio Northern University and a bachelors in Accounting from Franklin University.

Marie Barth, Director of Memory Care, oversees the care of those in the Emerald and enrolled in the DayBreak program.

Before joining the team at Green Hills, she worked at The Ohio State University Medical Center for four years. During her time there, she was an RN in the operating room and three years as an RN at the James Cancer Hospital.

She was born and raised in West Liberty. She currently lives in Cable with her husband, Steven and their children, two-year-old Amelia and Isaiah, who is one.

Her hobbies are baking, running, reading. She is a graduate of West Liberty-Salem High School and received her bachelors degree in nursing from Wright State University.

“My very first job in high school was working at Green Hills as an STNA. It was during that time that I decided to make nursing my career and go for my BSN after graduation. I am very excited to be working close to home and in the community I love,” she said.

