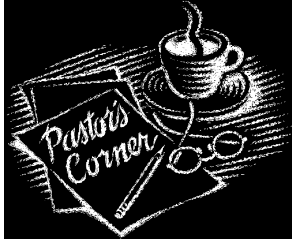




The Good News Letter

St. John's UCC, Fogelsville, PA

December, 2008



From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings in the name of Christ!

Christmas is coming... but not yet! I am sure you have seen the Christmas trees and the stores all decorated. I am sure you have heard the Christmas carols and the hymns. I am sure you have smelled the hot chocolate and cinnamon and spices and pine trees. I am sure you have felt the cold winter air and the tickle of the falling leaves. We are surrounded by Christmas, and we expect it to hurry up and get here like children anxiously trying to sleep Christmas Eve night because the excitement of Christmas morning is in their blood and their bones.

But right now it is advent time.... a time of waiting and anticipation. It is often a difficult time for those of us in the church. Advent is a time when we live in the tension of remembering the time before Christ came, celebrating the time when Christ had broken into the world in a baby boy, and awaiting Christ's coming again.

For quite a long time in my own life I never truly understood advent waiting. I didn't want to wait to sing the carols and light the tree. Sure, I had heard the metaphors and descriptions and countless sermons about the importance of waiting. But it wasn't until I had the experience for myself as an expectant parent that Advent waiting suddenly found new meaning.

Advent is the anticipation and hope of a Messiah breaking into the world that is filled with anxiety and pain and concern. Advent is the patient waiting of an expectant mother and father. As an expectant parent, you are filled with hope and joy for the coming child. Yet,

you have to face the day to day difficulties of pregnancy pain and worry: Will my child be healthy? Will we have the strength to endure? It is also a time of preparation: Preparing the nursery, the finances, and your parental relationship to make sure your home is healthy and happy, warm and inviting to welcome the new baby into your home.

This is the advent preparation we also make as Christians. Advent is an important time for us to prepare our hearts and our minds to receive Christ into our hearts in a new, powerful, meaningful, and purposeful way. Advent waiting is a time for us to reflect on our lives to be open to receiving the divine spirit that brings new hope and healing in our lives.

So take your time this advent and don't rush to the manger. Let us live in pregnant expectation so we can be ready to receive Christ. And then, we can live in the hope and joy Christ brings.

Peace be with you this holiday season,
Pastor Joanne



Church Staff

Joanne Marchetto, Pastor

Office: 610-398-7015 Home: 610-530-9013

Cell: 610-703-5897

e-mail: jomarchetto@rcn.com

Office Hours

Monday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday 10:a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Drew Nielsen, Minister of Music

Dan Einsla, Sexton

Anna DeAngelis, Parish Coordinator

Church Hospital Code # 467

Office Phone: 610-398-7015

E-mail: stjohnsucc1@enter.net

Office Hours

Monday 10:00am -1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am -1:00pm

Friday 10:am -2:00pm

E-mail: stjohnsucc1@enter.net

Website: www.stjohnsucc1.org

Ministry Opportunities

Acolyte

- December 7 - Jessica Williamson
December 14 - Josh Williamson
December 21 - Sydney Cope
December 24 - Evening Service:
Courtney Moyer and Kaitlyn Behney
December 28 - Zachary Edelman

Assisting Ministers

- December 7 - Dick Boyer
December 14 - Dave Roth
December 24 - Scott Breininger
December 28 - Janet Grim

Flowers

- December 7 -
December 14 - Herman & Gladys Rupp
December 21 -
December 28 - Jerry & Marilyn Roth

Bulletins

- December 7 -
December 14 - Herman & Gladys Rupp
December 21 -
December 28 - Jerry & Marilyn Roth

Greeters

- December 7 -
December 14 - Herman & Gladys Rupp
December 21 -
December 28 - Jerry Roth

Coffee Hour

- December 7 - Betty & Homer Heilman
December 14 -
December 21 - Nancy Moyer, Donna Breininger,
Sue Edelman
December 28 -

Ushers

- December 7 - Kay & Mark
December 14 - Marilyn & Warrenne
December 21 - Jeff & Marge
December 24 - Scott & Larry
December 28 - Warrenne & Marilyn

There are many opportunities available to serve as assisting minister, greeters sponsoring coffee hour, bulletins, or flowers. (To sponsor flowers, the cost is \$30 and \$5 for bulletins). Please consider the stewardship of your time, resources, and talents by serving the congregation in these special ministries. If you would like to serve, please sign-up on the bulletin board in the church foyer. Thank you to all of our faithful servants.



Have an article you would like to submit to the January newsletter? Please place the article in the secretary's folder outside of Pastor Joanne's office or email it to stjohnsucc1@enter.net

The deadline for the January Newsletter is at noon on December 15th.



The next Consistory meeting will December 8th at 7:00 pm.



Vanessa Stauffer, Ray Ziegler, Isabel Henninger, Marilyn Mohr, Jane Laudenslager, Marilyn Brown, Adele Yost, Anna Ziegler, Kenneth Reichert, Pearl Heintzelman, Arlene Coombe, Betty Wagner, Doris Mohr, Lisa Neumoyer, Bill & Jean Larison, Jean Mohr, Marilyn Roth, Jeanette Paduch, Perma Eisenhard, Jeffrey Lambert, Clayton Moyer.



Dutch Lunch

Pastor Joanne invites you to join her for lunch. Meet her at the Home Town Diner on Wednesday afternoons at 12:00 p.m. It will be Dutch Style where everyone will treat him or herself for a lunch out. We will have informal discussions of faith and life, time to share, support, break bread together, and get to know one another.

Children's Christmas Pageant

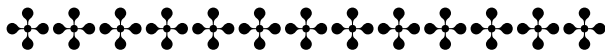
Our Christmas Service/Pageant this year will be themed on Jesus' birth narrative found in the gospel of Luke. The title of the service is "John the Baptist Presents: A Savior, Christ the Lord". During the pageant the congregation will be presented with the history of John the Baptist family, how John's position in the lineage of the prophets is understood, and of course the birth of Jesus.

It is a very interactive and intrapersonal service this year. There will be six to seven primary parts and also many other parts to divide among all of the children and youth. The congregation has their normal role of responsive prayer, hymn sings and some of the hymns will be split between the performers and the congregation. It should be quite the memorable service.

We are planning to hold this service on the Sunday before Christmas which is **Dec. 21**. We will be holding a final run through practice on that morning at 9:00 am. What I would like to do is hold two practices on the two Saturday's prior to this, **Dec. 6 & 13 from 9:00am till 12:00**. Some of the parts are recurring and may require some extra practice and effort.

It is my hope that all the children/youth find some time in their busy schedule to participate. I feel that the more participation we receive will only make the service more memorable.

Peace to all, Pastor Mike



Daffodil Days

Daffodil Days are March 16-22, 2009. 5th edition of the Boyd's Bear Carrie N. Hope with be available for sale with a bunch of daffodils for \$25. They are looking for pre sale coordinators. If you can help, call Rosemarie at 610-921-2329 ext 3109.



Week of December 7, 2008 - 2nd Sunday of Advent/Communion Sunday

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Sermon: Pastor Joanne

Hymns : #116 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#329 Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts

#102 O How Shall I Receive You

Week of December 14, 2008 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Sermon: Pastor Joanne

Hymns : #115 The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

#119 My Soul Gives Glory to My God

#117 Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

Week of December 21, 2008 - 4th Sunday of Advent/Family Service

Sermon: The children & John the Baptist present, "A Savior, Christ the Lord"

Hymns: Theme Hymn: From Jordan's Banks

Away in a Manger

Angels We Have Heard on High

As With Gladness, Those of Old

O Come All Ye Faithful

Joy to the World

December 24, 2008 - Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight service

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Sermon: Pastor Joanne

Hymns: # 144 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

127 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

#148 What Child Is This?

#134 Silent Night

132 Joy to the World

Week of December 28, 2008 - 28th Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Sermon: Lessons and Carols

Hymns: #135 O Come, All You Faithful

#131 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

#132 Joy to the World

#133 O Little Town of Bethlehem

#124 Away in a Manger

#144 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#125 Angels We Have Heard on High

#129 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

December Anniversaries and Birthdays

- 3 – Carl Dietrich
- 9 – Vanessa Stauffer
- 10 – Shelby Wisler
- 11 – Angie Getz
- 11 – Kyra Stauffer
- 14 – Gladys Rupp
- 14 – Gladys & Herman Rupp
- 16 – Jean Larison
- 21 – Jessica Boyer Huth
- 22 – Ryan DeLong
- 22 – Bruce Fehnel
- 22 – Jeff Grim
- 27 – Debra Larison
- 31 – Marilyn & Gerald Roth



Our Church Website

If you have internet access, please visit our church website: www.stjohnsucc1.org. It has pictures from PNEC dinner and church basket party. The website is updated monthly, so please visit again too see pictures from events and receive information about upcoming events at St. John's.

Jim Marchetto has started up and maintains the site. He is also looking for additional people to assist with this project. If you have pictures, information, articles, or are interested in learning more about developing websites, please see Jim. Our church newsletter can now be found on the church website.

If you would like to receive an e-mail update to download an e-copy of the newsletter, please send an e-mail to the church.



Youth Group News

Youth Group will meet the second and fourth Sundays of every month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. We will have time for fellowship, games, field trips, and mission service projects.

Please come and join us for youth group and bring a friend! Everyone in grade 6 and older are welcome to participate.

Busy Bees

Lehigh Valley Entertainment books are available for \$20. Books for outside this area can also be ordered. If you would like one please contact Marilyn Roth. Thank you for helping to support our project. Last call for Entertainment books as the final payment for them is due December 15th.

The **sticky bun sale** is scheduled for Thursday, December 11th. The prices are : \$4.50 for the plain & \$5 for the nut, raisin or coconut topping ones. The due date for the orders is December 4th.

Candy orders will be for sale at \$10 a pound & \$11 a pound for the nut & sugar free. Orders will be due the 23rd of November with delivery the very beginning of December. Beulah Snyder will take orders or she can be reached at 610 285-6608..



Consistory Notes from the November meeting

Jeff Grim will check with the electrician to learn the possibility of using the lights that were formally in the foyer along the walls going up the stairs to the sanctuary.

It was voted to sign a two year contract with Laudenslager's for servicing the oil burners. This would correspond then to the contract for the servicing of the air conditioners.

Pastor Joanne's mike has been sent for repair & will be returned soon.

Items in the back Sunday school room are available for purchase by anyone interested in them. Pastor Joanne will investigate if a local church is interested in several of the items so they can be put to use the way they were intended rather than being stored in the attic or basement of St John's.

There is a possibility of putting unwanted items on Craig's List or e-bay. Contact Scott Breininger for information.

Church decorating date is December 6 from 9 - 12.



St. John's 175th Anniversary 1834-2009

St John's has organized a committee to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Church. The committee is planning a year of celebration events for 2009-2010 ending with a big banquet celebration. The committee is organizing fundraisers to help us with our cost. Please come out and join us for these events!

The committee is planning a dinner theater event here at St. John's UCC. The show will be "American Idol: Clay's Revenge." The event is planned for March 21, 2009. The cost is \$40.00 per ticket. Tickets on sale now. Tickets are limited. Please contact Minnie Breininger.

The committee is organizing a church directory for next year. We now have a dedicated team of volunteers to help support this project. We will have pictures taken in March, and we welcome your support and invite all families to be a part of our new directory. Thank you!



Thank you Corner

Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers who make the newsletter possible.

Some people make a difference by being who they are. Bill was one of those people. He will forever play in all lives organized. We ly you—churc



family and friends and Pastor Joanne, for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, baked goods, and church donations in honor of Bill.

The memories are a precious source of healing and comfort to our family. Thank you!

Lorraine, Jeff, Michael, Wanda, Wayne and families

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Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating the church for the Christmas season on Saturday, December 6th. Please join us for a warm french toast breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and we will begin decorating at 9:00 a.m.

Please come and join us!



Blue Christmas Healing Service

Blue Christmas Healing Service will be held at St John's Lutheran Church on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00p.m. When we have experienced the loss of a loved one, a job, a relationship, it is difficult to find our way through the holidays. This is a healing service with communion to recognize the pains we have experienced and find peace and hope in our God through Jesus Christ.



Christmas Tree lighting ceremony

Our Christmas Tree lighting ceremony will be held at 6:00pm on December 7th at the Fogelsville Community Park.



Holiday Concert

The Music Department of Brandywine Heights High School is having a free holiday concert for all seniors in the area. There will be refreshments in the cafeteria after the performance. The concert will be held on December 19th at 2:30 and no tickets are required. This concert will feature the Senior High Band, Concert Choir, ensembles, and soloists. The performance for the general public will be held on Sunday, December 21st at 3:00. Admission is free but tickets are required.

Please contact Rebecca Rhodes at 610-682-5102 x2529 or e-mail rebrho@bhasd.org for further information

Bethany Children's Home 2008 Christmas Year Round:

If you would like to help the children at Bethany Home with a "Christmas Year Round" gift, you should fill out the sheet that was distributed in church on November 16 or pick up one in the narthex, fill out the form, and send it along with your check to:

Bethany Children's Home
Development Office
1863 Bethany Road
Womelsdorf, PA 19567



Annual Meeting

The 47th Annual Meeting of the Penn Northeast Conference was one of the most interesting that we have had for some time. The theme of the meeting was "Communicating the Gospel". The Reverend Felix Carrion, U.C.C. Still Speaking Coordinator, from our Cleveland office was the keynote speaker and worship leader. Reverend Carrion's message was centered on the fact that God speaks to everyone, regardless of our ethnic background, regardless of our color, regardless of our religions heritage, regardless of where we live in the world, regardless of our life's work. God looks upon all of us as being equal. The important thing is how we use God's teachings to make things better in this world.

R. H. Ziegler



Our Pastor

This Pastor appreciation poem reminds us of the importance of pastors in our lives and how we should respond.

Have you ever walked in our Pastor's shoes,
And gone where their feet have been?
Have you ever thought of what they mean to us,
And on your knees, given them thanks?

Have you ever told them thank you,
For being there, when times are tough,
For comforting words and fervent prayers
When trials come and the storms of life are rough?

They answer our calls in the middle of the night
And tell us not to worry, for they will be there.
They give up their comfort and quiet rest
And come with prayers of comfort to share.

Have you ever thought to say thank you Pastor,
For preaching God's word to help us understand,
For all the times they have asked for things
That will lend us a helping hand?

When you pray, put them at the top of the list
And ask the Lord to surround them with loving care,
To give them strength and walk with them,



*For unto us a child is born
unto us a son is given.*
Isaiah 9:6

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Have you ever walked in our Pastor's shoes,
And gone where their feet have trod?
Have you ever thought of what they mean to us,
And on your knees, given thanks to God?

