

The Messenger

December 2006

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's Christmas Pageant is based on the traditional story of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have angels and shepherds, wise men and a star, and, of course, Mary and Joseph with Baby Jesus. Many of our Sunday School students and adults are working hard to bring to life the wonderful story of God's awesome love for us; love so great that he was willing to give us the perfect Gift - salvation through his Son. Please take note of the practice times for the pageant and if you are able, come and join in the story. Unlike that first Christmas, there is always room for more people - shepherds, townspeople, angels and singers. All are welcome and will find room in this Bethlehem.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

HANGING OF THE GREENS SUNDAY

We will have a Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, December 3. Please see Pastor Ted's letter for more details.

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, December 3, during our regular Sunday Worship Service. A coffee hour will follow the Worship Service and everyone is welcome to bring a "goodie" to share.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 & 9

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

The Youth Group again planned a FAMILY Fun Night for December 8 & 9. It will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday with a potluck dinner. See more details inside this issue.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will again go caroling after the Worship Service on December 10. If you know of anyone who would appreciate some Christmas cheer, please tell Cindy so she can coordinate our singing. Also, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex so we know how many people to expect.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Sunday School Christmas Party will be held on **December 16 from 12 noon to 2 pm**. We will make fruit baskets for our shut-ins and collect "care packages" for the McKinney Clinic. See inside this issue for details.

BUS TRIP TO SEE "THE GIFT"

Many of our congregation have already signed up for the bus trip to see "The Gift", an outdoor recreation of the birth of Christ, on **December 16**. We will leave the church at **4:00 pm** and travel to the Back Harvest Assembly. This program has been performed for 13 years and every year it gets better. For more information, see Sharon or Gary Eigenbrod (the bus driver) or Marc or Connie Davis.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Services are scheduled for 7:30 and 11:00 pm. Special music will be presented beginning at 7:00 pm. Come, let us adore Him.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 AND 31

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL NOT BE HELD ON THESE DATES
but we WILL HAVE SUNDAY WORSHIP AT THE REGULAR TIME

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Calendar Of Events

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

December 3

On December 3 we will celebrate the sacrament of Communion Sunday. We will also have a Hanging of the Greens Service during worship. Coffee Hour will be held after the Worship Service.

PASTIE AND POT PIE PICK UP

December 2

The pasties and pot pies which were sold to help finance Becky Broyan's mission trip to Nicaragua will be available for pick up on Saturday, December 2 from 9 am to noon. If you can't make that time, please pick your order up on Sunday. Money is due no later than Dec. 10 to Janice Broyan.

TWILIGHTERS

December 13

Weather permitting, the Twilighters will meet on December 13 at 12 pm for a covered dish dinner.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24

We will have our regular worship service on Sunday Morning at 10:30 am. Evening Worship Services are scheduled for 7:30 and 11:00 pm on December 24. Special music is scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm. The early Service will include music by the Christmas and Senior Choirs. The Senior Choir will sing an anthem at the late Service.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will not meet for Sunday School on Sunday, December 24 or December 31.

UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 7 Congregational Meeting
Jan. 13 Boy Scout Christmas Tree Disposal

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INFO

December 18

The deadline for information for the January Messenger is December 18. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

We are looking forward to Advent and Christmas. We will have a Hanging of the Greens service on the first Sunday in Advent, December 3, during our regular worship time. We will be placing various decorations around our sanctuary as our confirmands read aloud about their meaning. We will sing several Christmas carols and there will be special music, as well. We know how much you enjoy singing Christmas carols so we will include them during Advent as well as the usual Advent hymns. We invite you to dress casually for this opportunity. It would be a good time to wear your favorite Christmas sweater or sweatshirt...jeans may also be appropriate.

The confirmation class is progressing beautifully. We are so fortunate to have so many great young people in our church. We are making one final request for mentors for our students. We would like to have a portion of a Sunday service be a litany to dedicate our pupils and their mentors. A mentor is a special Christian friend for the prospective new church member. He or she would be asked to pray for the young man or young woman regularly. The advisor might enjoy taking the young person to a basketball game or for lunch. They would also come forward on the day of the confirmation to be a part of the laying on of hands with the parents of the young person as he or she joins our church.

I would like to encourage you to strive to keep Christ in Christmas. In our commercialized society it is very challenging to accomplish that goal. Denise has organized a beautiful Christmas program, which will be presented on December 17 during our worship hour. The bus trip to see The Gift is another opportunity for you to join our church family to remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. Sharon has invited us to bring our crèches to display and share the background about them during the Advent season as well. Our church family is a very wonderful one and we appreciate each and every one of you. Margie and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Peace,

Pastor Ted

Thank You

Thank you to those who help around the church:

- Lex and Anna Mae Koons, Cliff and Gladys Readler, and Mary and Jim Rinehimer for decorating the church
- Barry, Alecia and Dave Myers for setting up the outside Nativity

Thank you also to the many people who act “behind the scenes”. At some time during the year the following has mysteriously occurred: Flowers have been planted, bushes have been trimmed, windows washed (inside and outside), lights cleaned, decorations put up, closets organized, the Sunday School Bulletin Board decorated, flags and luminaries set out, and many other things which I have since forgot, but show your love.

I would like to thank Judy Cybulski, Esther Heller and Mary Rinehimer for all their help in assembling the monthly Messenger. I really appreciate it. Denise

Bernie Baluta of the McKinney Clinic, sent a thank you card to the Sunday School thanking us for the “turkey baskets” filled with a turkey and all the trimmings which she gave to our brothers and sisters who come to the McKinney Clinic. Thanks to our congregation, many families enjoyed a real Thanksgiving dinner.

We received thank you letters from Phoebe-Devitt Homes and Lancaster Theological Seminary for our gifts to their organizations. These donations were made to fulfill our annual allocation as provided in the 2006 budget and emphasize our continuing commitment to UCC affiliates. Thanks to your offerings to the General Fund, we are able to keep our promises to support these worthwhile organizations. The letters are on the bulletin board in the bell tower.

Congratulations

A baby boy was born to Shawn and Jana (Baker) Barnes on November 19, 2006. His name is Seth Thomas Barnes and he weighed 6 lb 12 oz and was 19½ inches long. Congratulations to the new family and to Seth’s grandparents, Roy and Betty Baker, and greatgrandma, Ruth Baker.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

TWILIGHTERS

December 13

The Twilights will meet on Wednesday, December 13 at 12:00 pm for a covered dish dinner, weather permitting.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Our Search Committee continues to work toward finding an appropriate pastor for us. The candidate which they were scheduled to hear elected to withdraw her profile. Since then, the Committee returned to reviewing profiles and is busy evaluating potential candidates. Please keep them and their work in your prayers in their effort to find a pastor for us.

POINSETTIAS LIST

Sign-up sheets are on the tables in the Narthex and next to the Fellowship Hallway for anyone who would like to purchase poinsettias to adorn the altar for Christmas. The deadline for ordering is December 10. Please pay Mary Rinehimer.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Please be generous in giving to our church ministries supported by this offering:

\$150 to Phoebe Devitt Home

\$150 to Bethany Children’s Home

\$250 to Lancaster Theological Seminary

These organizations sincerely need and appreciate your support. The amounts you give through the Christmas offering are in addition to those provided by the annual budget allowance. Every penny counts with today’s expenses, so please give generously.

SHARING YOUR NATIVITY

During the season of Advent, we are inviting everyone to bring in their Nativity set(s) so we can share in the many ways that the birth of Christ is depicted. Please see Sharon Moyer for more details.

2007 ENVELOPE BOXES

You may pick up your 2007 Envelope Boxes from the table in the Narthex.

MAGAZINES FOR JOHNSON’S HOME

Cindy Heller is collecting used magazines for the Johnson’s Retirement Home which they love to read and use for their projects. If you have any old magazines, please see her.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Another Family Fun Night is scheduled for December 8 and 9. It will begin with a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm on Friday, December 8. After dinner, we will play games and/or watch a movie (whichever you prefer, or both, if you're really talented). Everyone is welcome to stay as long as you like, even overnight. Youth who opt to stay are required to have a permission slip and parents are asked to pick their children up on Saturday, December 9, by 9:00 am. So bring a favorite game and a covered dish to share and join us for a great evening of family fun.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We are in the midst of practicing for our Christmas program but there is always plenty of room for more participants. It will be the traditional story of the birth of Jesus. More voices are always welcome to sing in the Christmas Choir and it would be wonderful to have additional shepherds, townspeople and angels (of all ages). **Everyone in the church is welcome to join us.**

The program will be presented during the worship service on Sunday, December 17. Dress rehearsal is planned for Saturday, December 16, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and all participants (cast and singers) are needed at this rehearsal.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Speaking Parts

Dec. 1 **No Practice**
Dec. 8 6:30 to 7:30 pm
Dec. 15 6:30 to 7:30 pm
Dec. 16 10 am to 12 noon
Dec. 17 9:00 am to 10:00 am (during Sunday School)

Singing Parts

Dec. 3 11:45 am
Dec. 8 6:30 to 7:30 pm
Dec. 10 11:45 am
Dec. 15 6:30 to 7:30 pm
Dec. 16 10 am to 12 noon (Dress Rehearsal)
Dec. 17 9:00 am to 10:00 am

I really hope that you will consider participating in this year's pageant. The more people, the more realistic the presentation will be. Denise Dean

Special Music For Christmas Eve

Anyone wishing to present music prior to the Christmas Eve Early Service is asked to see Denise Dean. We will begin at 7:00 pm and conclude at 7:30 pm. If you are more inclined to read a poem or selection, that would be very welcome also.

From the Sunday School Superintendent

We have had a busy season for our Sunday School Mission. We delivered our Turkeys and fixings on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving to our mission, the McKinney Clinic. This year, the generosity of our kids and congregation made it possible for **ten** families to celebrate Thanksgiving with a full table. This should make each and every one of you feel wonderful. To help others is part of our mission through God! I know I love it!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party will be on December 16 from 12 noon to 2 pm. We are asking all the kids to bring a piece of fruit for the baskets for our shut-ins and a new or "gently used" stuffed animal or toy to be wrapped for the children of the McKinney Clinic.

We will also be gathering **care packages** to keep with our ongoing theme "**Giving without Thinking of Receiving**" for distribution to the people served by the McKinney Clinic. The packages should include: new white socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, comb, razor, hand lotion and a candy cane. If you would like to add anything else, please feel free (only nothing with alcohol in it). Also appreciated are gift cards from Walmart and K-Mart. A freezer bag holds the items very well. Attach a card signed by your family and send it with your child(ren) to the Christmas party on December 16 or drop it off in the narthex under the Christmas tree. Thank you for all your generosity. Our faith is strong and through it we can do God's work.

When making your care package, please talk with your child(ren) about how wonderful it feels to know you will make someone's Christmas brighter by giving!

Love to My Christian Family, Sharon E.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

Bianca Oldershaw, daughter of Doreen and Donnie Oldershaw, helped the Bishop Hoban Girls Volleyball team to advance to the Regional Championship on November 7. Congratulations to Bianca and the team.

Amanda Kemmerer was named to the MMI 1st quarter Honor Roll. Keep up the good work, Mandi.

Greeters: Carol Duffy and Eileen Bonczek

TURKEY SUPPER October 21, 2006

EXPENSES		
Keyco Distributors	Vegetables, Paper Goods, etc.	\$316.18
Keyco Distributors	Turkeys	\$895.41
Carone's Market	Sugar, Flour, Coffee Butter	\$32.00
Sunshine Market	Celery, Carrots	\$26.00
Sam's Club	Eggs, Onions	\$22.00
Wal Mart	Vinegar, Salt, Cleaning Prod., Margarine	\$26.00
Carone's Market	Bread Cubes	\$120.00
Pecora's Dairy	Milk	\$23.00
Tuzzi's Bakery	Bread	\$24.00
Chapin's	Potatoes	\$78.00
Burger's	Cabbage, Peppers	\$10.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,572.59
RECEIPTS		
Ticket Sales		
Door	345 @ \$8.00 adult	\$2,760.00
Door	9 @ \$3.00 children	\$27.00
Advance	229 @ \$8.00	\$1,832.00
Donations		\$100.00
Surplus Sold		\$165.25
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$4,884.25
LESS EXPENSES		\$1,572.59
PROFIT		\$3,311.66

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2006

Dec. 3 – First Sunday in Advent

Organist: Don Eroh
Greeters: Doris Yurchak and Connie Davis

Dec. 10 – Second Sunday in Advent

Organist:
Greeters: Jayne and Rich Rotski

Dec. 17 – Third Sunday in Advent

Organist: Don Eroh
Greeters: Caroline Cronce and Connie Myers

Dec. 24 – Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve

Morning Worship:

Organist:
Greeters: Roy and Betty Baker

Early Service:

Organist: Don Eroh
Greeters: Dave and Rosemary Myers

Late Service:

Organist:
Greeters: Lois and Hilbert Eigenbrod

Dec. 31 – First Sunday after Christmas

Organist:

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers
Clifford & Gladys Readler
Marc & Connie Davis
John, Linda, & J.P. Jankowski

Note: The organist schedule has been left intentionally blank on some dates in anticipation of Orceil's ability to return to playing after Lydon's surgery. We hope to hear her playing again soon.

PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE NEWS

BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME CHRISTMAS GIFT LIST

Copies of the Giving Guide and the 2006 Wish List are on the tables by the Fellowship Hall Doorway and in the Narthex. Please consider the needs (and wants) of these children. Please note that the children at Bethany are between the ages of 11 and 18 years old so when choosing a gift, think about the children you know who are preteens and teenagers. Although the Giving Guide asks that the gifts not be wrapped, we are allowed to **wrap them in white paper with a tag** indicating whether it is for a boy or girl and what age group (such as "12 year old boy" or "15 year old girl").

Please note that if you purchase a video game, CD, cassette tapes or movies, they **cannot be ones which indicate a "parental advisory" or "R rating" notice**. Also, the items must be new – no used clothing or gifts will be accepted. Please bring your gifts to the church by Sunday, December 10, so that we can get them to the children in time for Christmas.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL GIFT CATALOGS

Gift Catalogs from Heifer International are on the table in the Narthex. Our Sunday School has previously donated toward livestock and other natural resources for underdeveloped countries. Heifer International makes a difference in the world through providing livestock and education for sustained living – not just a one-time gift.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Carrie Russell
2 Herman Spangler
3 Stanley Cybulski
3 Brenda Heller
3 Terry Belanchik
5 James Daniels
5 Richard Supkowski, Jr.
6 Pauline Dennis
6 Lydon Bloss
7 Elizabeth Sufrinko
8 Diane Yakscoe
8 Gerald Mellas

9 Morgan May Rinehimer
10 Karl C. Kemmerer
10 Rich Rotski
11 Casey Eigenbrod
13 Jack Shafer, Sr.
13 Gertrude Ostrowski
16 Ellen Newell
16 Jeffrey Rinehimer
16 Sharon Horensky
16 Cristy Mulherin
17 David Cronce

17 Donna Lynn Myers
18 Anna Mae Koons
18 Sharon Eigenbrod
19 Lynne Stewart
19 Marie Conrad
20 Janice Rinehimer
21 Eric Hoffman
22 Stanley Stein
23 Caleb Mussman
23 Millard Rinehimer, Jr.
25 Duane Stein
30 Dustin Harter

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 4, 2000Brad and Becky Frey
Nov. 7, 1947Dick and Hilda Lewis
Nov. 11, 1950Cliff and Gladys Readler
Nov. 12, 2001Jim and Laura Cease
Nov. 16, 1996Ronald, Jr. and Lisa Rinehimer