

The Messenger

December 2007

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

COMMUNION, POTLUCK LUNCH AND ADVENT WORKSHOP

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, December 2, during our regular Sunday Worship Service. Instead of our regular coffee hour, we will have a potluck lunch after worship and then join in making new chrismons for our Christmas tree. We hope everyone will bring a covered dish and stay to help create new chrismons to replace those that are wearing out.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will again go caroling after the Worship Service on December 9. 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 15

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Sunday School Christmas Party will be held on **December 15 from 12 noon to 2 pm**. We will make fruit baskets for our shut-ins and collect "care packages" and toys 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 15**. **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 23

EMMANUEL AND NEW HOPE UMC CHILDREN PRESENT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year our children and youth are joining together with those of Stairville and Faith UMC to present their Christmas program. Our children are very excited to be sharing with their friends in this project. They are having a great time practicing the program every Friday evening at 6:00 pm. The pageant is entitled "The Best Christmas Present Ever" and revolves around a group of toys arguing over which of them is the best Christmas present. It takes Gabriel and the other members of the Nativity set to show them that the gift of the Christ Child was and still is the best present. **Come and enjoy this message of Christmas on Sunday, December 23, at the Grove Theater in Nuangola. We will begin the evening at 5:00 pm with dinner (potluck, of course) and then enjoy their program.** Come and show your love and support for our children.

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. Anyone wishing to contribute to our special music before the 7:30 service, please see Denise Dean. Come, let us adore Him.

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From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Christian Friends:

As we prepare for our second Advent season together we face the arrival of Christmas with the hope of a new life through Jesus. God's gift to us of his son reminds us that eternal life is available to all of those who believe.

And while "Peace On Earth" may be a forlorn hope for now, we who truly believe can hope beyond hope for his coming reign through the resurrecting power of his mercy.

Have a marvelous Christmas. Please remember that Emmanuel will have a Christmas Eve Service that will be filled with music and Scripture.

Margie and I wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Peace, Pastor Ted

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

TWILIGHTERS

December 12

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, December 12, weather permitting, for a covered dish lunch.

BUS TRIP TO SEE "THE GIFT"

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for everyone interested in joining the bus trip to see The Gift at the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly on Saturday, December 15. We will leave Emmanuel at 4:00 pm for the 6:00 pm showing and return at approximately 8:00 pm. We will stop somewhere along the way for a bite to eat (like at McDonalds). Any Youth Group members attending without their parents will need to have a permission slip completed.

CONSISTORY MEETING

December 20

The Consistory will meet on Thursday, December 20, at 6:30 pm.

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 9. 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.

2008 ENVELOPE BOXES

You may pick up your 2008 Envelope Boxes from the table in the Narthex.

Our Condolences

We wish to send our sincere sympathy to the families of Martha Myers. Martha joined "the church triumphant" on November 14, 2007. Martha was a wonderful member of our church family and we will greatly miss her smiling face.

Our condolences go out to Caroline and David Cronce on the passing of his son, Matthew. We pray for God's peace in your time of sorrow.

Thank You

Dick and Hilda Lewis would like to thank everyone for their cards and calls for their 60th wedding anniversary.

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

We would like to express our appreciation for all of your prayers, telephone calls, cards and expressions of sympathy at the loss of my mother, Lydia Good. The flowers from our church family graced the altar so beautifully at Zion UCC for the memorial service.

We were so grateful for Sharon Moyer's attendance at the funeral to represent all of you. It meant the world to know that you were all with us during our time of need. Thanks again for everything.

Love, Pastor Ted and Margie Good and family

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and concern for Luke Mussmon. His health is improving and we are grateful for your support. Gene & Janice Broyan

The residents of Johnson Home would like to thank the Twlighters for the Christmas stocking ornaments. It is wonderful to have others remember you at this time of the year and all year long.

Thank you to those who help around the church:

- Lex & Anna Mae Koons, Cliff & Gladys Readler, Allen Dennis, Mary & Jim Rinehimer, the Sunday School and everyone else who helped decorate the church
- Joe Huntzinger for painting the new office door
- Donnie Oldershaw for painting the outside doors near the lower parking lot

Thank you also to the many people who act "behind the scenes". At some time during the year the following have mysteriously occurred: Flowers have been planted, bushes have been trimmed, windows washed (inside and outside), lights cleaned, decorations put up and taken down, 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, who wouldn't have the chance, enjoyed a real Thanksgiving dinner.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

As noted on page 1, we are joining with the children of Faith and Stairville UMC to present "The Best Christmas Present Ever". Our practices are on Friday evenings at 6:00 pm and we are alternating between Faith and Stairville UMC for these practices. By the time this newsletter is distributed, those with speaking parts should know them pretty well, so we will be looking forward to actually acting out the pageant at the next practices. Our youth are doing a really great job and it's great to see their enthusiasm as they learn about God's gift of love through this program.

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.

MICROWAVE NEEDED FOR FELLOWSHIP HALL

Our microwave has seen its last leftover and we are in need of replacing it. Anyone who would like to donate one or contribute to purchasing a new one, please see Hilbert Eigenbrod.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

We're going **Christmas Caroling** with the rest of the members and friends of Emmanuel on **December 9** after our worship service. Come sing your heart out to lift the spirits of our shut-ins and those in our area nursing homes.

Any Youth Group members who want to see "**The Gift**" at the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly on Saturday, December 15 will need **to be at Emmanuel before the bus leaves at 4:00 pm**. We will return at approximately 8:00 pm after a stop somewhere along the way for a bite to eat (like at McDonalds). Any Youth Group members attending without their parents will need to have a permission slip completed.

We are planning for Soup-er-Bowl Sunday in February and the 30-Hour Famine which will be in either February or March. So keep your calendar open for these mission events. You all did a terrific job last year during the famine and I was proud to take you shopping at Mr. Z's to purchase food for the food bank with the money you raised during Soup-er-Bowl Sunday.

Marc Davis

From the Sunday School Superintendent

TURKEY DINNER DELIVERIES

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 **ELEVEN** families to celebrate Thanksgiving with a full table. Our Sunday School students are learning how the love of God is shown to others by our deeds of kindness. Thank you for being such wonderful role models for them.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party will be on December 15 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 15 or drop it off in the narthex under the Christmas tree. Thank you for all your generosity.

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!

Thank you for all your support, Lisa Rinehimer

PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE NEWS

BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME CHRISTMAS GIFT LIST

Copies of the 2007 Wish List are on the table 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").

This year, we also received a "2007 Christmas Year Round" flyer which provides a list of items to which you can donate. For example: \$5 for a "Good Night's Rest" pillow or \$50 for a "Cozy and Warm Feeling" winter coat. Copies of the flyer are also on the table in the Narthex.

Letters from Jonathan Henning, CEO of Bethany are on the bulletin board in the Bell Tower. Please take the time to read these letters as they share with us the importance of giving to these children.

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.

UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 6 Annual Congregation Meeting

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INFO December 17

The deadline for information for the January Messenger is December 17. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2007

Dec. 2 – First Sunday of Advent

Greeters: Dylan and Forrest Atkinson

Dec. 9 – Second Sunday of Advent

Greeters: Gene and Janice Broyan

Dec. 16 – Third Sunday of Advent

Greeters: Jayne and Rich Rotski

Dec. 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Greeters: Doris Yurchak and Connie Davis

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

Early Service: Connie and Alecia Myers

Late Service:

Dec. 30 – First Sunday After Christmas

Greeters: Judy Cybulski and Sami Dauber

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers

Clifford & Gladys Readler

Marc & Connie Davis

John, Linda, & J.P. Jankowski

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Kayla Supkowski
1 Ronald Kania
1 Harry Henry, Jr.
2 Esther Heller
2 Bonnie Shafer
3 David A. Myers
8 Jason Seward
10 Michael Belanchik
10 Lorrie Slusser

10 Billy Martin
10 Laura Cease
12 Bruce Fine
15 Andrew Horensky
15 Kelsey Rinehimer
17 Danielle Pallando
18 Brandon Ring
20 Darlene Stein

21 Mary Rinehimer
24 Donald Murray
24 Lonnie Rinehimer, Sr.
25 Anthony DiMaria
26 Russell Koons
26 Linda Byrnes
26 Meredith Martin
27 Marian Rinehimer
28 Lonnie Rinehimer, Jr.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 13, 1968Lonnie and Mary Rinehimer
Dec. 15, 1984Peter and Gwen Sakowski