

The Messenger

January 2009

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Sunday, January 4, during our regular Sunday Worship Service which begins at 10:30 am. After worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for Coffee Hour. Please bring a goodie to share.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

TWILIGHTERS MEETING

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, January 14, for a covered dish lunch at 12 noon, weather permitting. If you have any questions or need to check if the meeting is on, please call Ethel Fine at 868-3705.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

MOVIE AND GAMES NIGHT

Our next **family night** will be on January 23 starting at 7:00 pm. There will be a movie for those who wish to watch it and everyone is invited to bring a game. Whether you watch the movie or choose to play games, this will be a great time to bring your family together with other families for a time of fun and fellowship. You may also like to bring a snack to share (this will not be a potluck event).

SONRISE SINGERS

TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30 PM

The Sunrise Singers would like to invite everyone who likes to sing to join us as we raise our voices in song. Our practices are on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm and we have voices of all ages (pre-k to ??). It is a very energetic crowd (think 4-year-old excitement overflowing to our senior members) and we have a lot of fun as we learn our songs. We will be learning songs for OGHs offering Sunday and Lent and Easter. So, come out for a lively and inspiring practice.

EMMANUEL CHOIR

TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00 PM

The Emmanuel Choir would also like to invite new (and prior) singers to join us. Our practice begins around 7:00 pm on Tuesday Evenings. This choir performs more difficult music than some of the younger voices in our Sunrise Singers could handle, but not so difficult as to be intimidating. We also will be gearing up for Lent and Easter and hope you will lend your voices to swell our ranks.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES

Our Wednesday evening services begin at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for this midweek Communion service.

**Emmanuel
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of Christ**

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From The Pastor's Desk

First, let me thank you for the wonderful Christmas gift from the church. I will be able to use it on my vacation going to Richmond, VA to visit my son and daughter-in-law that were here for Thanksgiving. Other old friends have heard I was going to be visiting my old stomping grounds and have me lined up for dinners and overnights. It's always fun to renew old friendships. One of the people I am spending a night with is Mercedes. She was the choir director where I played the organ for about 10 years. We became very good friends and I am very excited to be seeing her. I haven't seen her in many years. She just turned 80 and I am just a few months older than her oldest son so she considers me just one of her kids. She is of Lebanese decent and will fix me a wonderful Middle Eastern dinner – YUM- YUM. But I have to be careful not to gain any of my weight back! That might be hard.

As the year draws to a close I want to say how happy I am that I was called to Emmanuel to be your minister. I have truly enjoyed being here and working with you. The people here are so willing to work to make things go. I knew that it must be so since you kept things going without a called pastor. As I have been planning the Christmas pageant so many people have given of their time and talents to help me out – being willing to go along with my sometimes crazy ideas. The kids have also worked hard getting ready for Rally Day and now working on the Christmas pageant. It has been very rewarding for me to watch everyone rally 'round together. Thank you for all your hard work. I am working much harder than I have before but when I can witness results from my efforts it makes it all worthwhile. It seems like a real caring family unit here at Emmanuel.

It was sad that we have seen some of our members go to be with the Lord during the last few months. But may we move forward as we have seen baptisms as well. We have also welcomed several new members into our midst as God continues to bless us.

As we begin a new year together I pray for much more success. I pray that God will bless us with new people in our pews. I pray that God will bless us with an outpouring of love and cooperation among each other. I pray that God will bless us with a renewed spirit for opening our hearts to feel the Holy Spirit alive in our lives as we look to the future keeping alive our mission, our love, our joy, our peace, and our hope.

Thanks again for all that you are and all that you do.

May God bless you in the 2009!

Pastor Penny

Thank You

I would like to thank the congregation for prayers for my daughter, Sharon, and also for the many sympathy cards that I received. They were well appreciated.

Nick Fenstermacher

We received a thank you letter from Bernadine Baluta, R.N., and the McKinney Clinic Staff for the ten Turkey Dinners we provided through our Sunday School Mission Project. She noted that the “families were very appreciative of your kindness and many had tears in their eyes upon receiving the food boxes.” The letter is on the bulletin board in the bell tower.

We received a Christmas card from Karen Schmidt, CROP Walk 2008, thanking us for our fundraising efforts through the Wapwallopen Ministerium. The card is on the bulletin board in the bell tower.

We received a Christmas card from Bethany Children's Home and a letter describing their “Christmas Year Round” program. The letter included a flyer outlining various gifts which are enjoyed all year by the youth at Bethany. The card and letter are on the bulletin board in the bell tower and copies of the flyer are on the table in the Narthex, for those who wish to give to this special cause.

Thank you so much for your Christmas gift to me and my family. I wish you all a very blessed New Year.

Denise

I would like to thank everyone on the altar committee and the volunteers who helped us throughout the year. Our church always looks so beautiful because of all your efforts.

Mary Rinehimer

A very special THANK YOU to all the volunteers who clean our church. You are really “unsung heroes” as you

go about your chores in the solitude of our church during the weekdays.

Our Condolences

We offer our kindest condolences to Floyd "Nick" Fenstermacher on the passing of his daughter, Sharon Zimmerman, on December 5, 2008. We also offer our sympathy to her husband, Bill, and pray for God's peace in their lives.

Our sincere sympathy is offered to the family of Ted Arnold who passed away on December 7, 2008. May our prayers comfort them in their loss.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

At our Congregational Meeting held on December 21, 2008, we approved the budget for 2009 and elected members to the Consistory and Cemetery Association. Caroline Cronce will join our Consistory as a first year deacon and Allen Dennis will join the Cemetery Association as a Trustee. The other members of the Cemetery Association are: Bill Eckrote, President; Dave Myers, Secretary; Cliff Readler, Treasurer; and Stanley Stein, Trustee. The following reports are included in this issue of the newsletter to inform you of the activities of our committees and teams.

Altar Committee: Head: Mary Rinehimer. Main duties include upkeep and taking care of the Altar paraments, altar flowers, candles, candelabras, Advent Wreath, Memorial Cross, Easter and Christmas flowers, palm branches for Palm Sunday, Christmas decorating and other duties affecting the appearance of our church. Volunteers on the committee are: Anna Mae and Lex Koons, Gladys and Cliff Readler, Judy Cybulski, Jim Rinehimer, Nick Fenstermacher, Ruth Ann Polashenski, and Lois Eigenbrod (Harvest Home Decorations) and many more people who help out as needed. Thanks to all of them for their help.

Missions Team

The Emmanuel United Church of Christ Missions Team meet on an as needed basis for 2008. During the year, we asked for assistance from the congregation for a church member during her time of illness. Any financial contributions were listed monthly in the financial report. Active team members were: Lynne Stewart, Dave Horensky, Ellen Newell, Janice Broyan and Pastor Penny Dollar. New members for 2009 are Mary Martin and Meredith Martin. Departing member at the end of

2008 are Dave Horensky and Lynne Stewart. All financial records and reports for this committee are available from church treasurer, Deb Price.

Stewardship Committee

The Emmanuel United Church of Christ Stewardship committee held several meetings during 2008 to organize the 2009 Stewardship drive. This year's theme was "Mission Possible". Committee members were: Lynne Stewart, Connie Davis, Connie Miller, Ruth Polashenski, Frank Partington and Pastor Penny Dollar. After several preparation meetings, our campaign kick-off was October 12, 2008 and lasted for 4 consecutive weeks, ending with our Thanksgiving pot-luck meal on November 2, 2008. Each Sunday of the campaign, a different speaker would address the congregation on the importance of stewardship. Week one's speaker was Frank Partington whose topic was "Meet the Challenge". Week two's speaker was Lynne Stewart whose topic was "The Greater Good". Week three's speaker was Mary Martin whose topic on "Write here, Write now". Week three was also our pledge week. To wrap up our campaign, Dave Horensky spoke during our fourth week and the topic was "Statement of Faith". Final cumulative pledge numbers for the campaign are only known to recording treasurer Connie Davis. All pledges are confidential.

Worship Committee

The Committee consists of Denise Dean, Chris Dietrich, Lois Eigenbrod, Mary Rinehimer and Eugene Good. The purpose of the committee is to assist the Pastor with regard to worship services and to provide feedback. The committee met on July 2, 2008. The discussion revolved around past worship practices and looking forward to Pastor Penny's leadership role in the worship service. Although the committee has not met formally since then, Pastor Penny has asked advice of the members on different matters concerning our services, such as service times for Wednesday Evening Worship, traditions regarding seasonal times like Harvest Home and Rally Day, and Christmas Eve traditions.

CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave Myers has placed a 2009 calendar in the custodian closet. We encourage you to sign up for any week during the year to clean your church. Our church has been cleaned by our volunteers for over 11 years and is something anyone can do to help out. Please see Dave or call him at 868-3655 if you have any questions or would like to help with this very important volunteer project.

2009 ENVELOPE BOXES

You may pick up your 2009 Envelope Boxes from the table in the Narthex.

TWILIGHTERS

Weather permitting, the Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, January 14, at 12 pm for a covered dish dinner. We welcome you to join our group of “60-somethings” for good food and fellowship. If you wish to come, all you need is a good appetite for food and friendship. So bring a dish to share and join us. If you want to know more about our group, please call Ethel Fine at 868-3705.

Sunday School News

WARMING HEARTS AND SOULS IN JANUARY

For the month of January, our mission project is to restock the St. Vincent de Paul clothing room which has a special need for children’s clothing at this time. They accept gently used or new clothing. Please drop off your bagged clothing in the Narthex. We will only collect the clothing for the month of January. At the end of the month, we will deliver all the donated clothing to St. Vincent de Paul so please be sure to get your donations to the church before the end of the month.

Please keep watch for our next mission project for February. It will probably have a St. Valentine’s theme.

Please check the “Giving Tree” to see pictures of our youth who wrapped all the gifts you provided for the McKinney Clinic families. The tree was bare, thanks to your generosity.

Thank you for all your support, Lisa Rinehimer

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

Justin Rinehimer was chosen as 8th Grade Student of the Month for October. Justin also participated in a Veteran’s Day Essay program and his was chosen by the teachers to be the best essay. He was invited to read it to the entire Middle School as part of their Veteran’s Day program.

Check out these names of our youth that made the Honor Rolls:

Crestwood High School

Honors: Sami Dauber, Dylan Atkinson, Travis Grosz, Kelly Sufrinko, Gary Eigenbrod, Barry Myers, Chelsea Myers

High Honors: Courtney Kania, Kelly Madigan, Jared Yakscoe, Marc Davis, Jacob Mylet

Principal’s Honors: Alecia Myers, Jordan Pickering
Crestwood Middle School

High Honors: Glynis Dean, Justin Rinehimer

Honors: Devin Stein, Rachelle Heller, Eric Rinehimer

Must be Ice Hockey time. Kyle Prelewicz is back in the papers. The Crestwood JV’s shut out the Back Mountain Hawks 3-0 on December 13. Check out the article on the front entrance bulletin board.

You can also check out some of the fun our youth had at our Fall Fest. There is a picture on the front entrance bulletin board with a blurb about the party. Pictured are Nate Kamowski, Carol and Robert Duffy (in the UPS costume), Glynis Dean, Kiersten Whitmire (Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz), and you can just make out the backs of Brooke Aton and Kelsey Rinehimer as they are circled around for a game of “Hot Pumpkin”.

YOUTH GROUP

Get ready for the next Movie/Game night. It will be on Friday, January 23, at 7 pm. There will be snacks and drinks, and if you want, you can bring your own favorite snack to share. You can also bring along your favorite games and just spend some time playing them. Don’t forget to bring along a friend or two, also.

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

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Due to the inclement weather on December 21, our Christmas Pageant, The Colors of Christmas, was postponed to Christmas Eve. We would like thank everyone who helped make it a wonderful program. Thanks to: Pete and Betty Dickson for their carpenter skills, Mary Eroh for her seamstress abilities, Gene Broyan for providing the greenery, the choir for adding their lilting voices, to all the parents of our youth for

bringing them to practice, and, especially, to our Young Christians for giving of their special talents and presenting this holy message to us.

HALL RENTAL AGREEMENT REVISED

Due to increased costs, we are revising our Fellowship Hall Rental agreement. There will be a \$100 deposit to reserve the hall, half of which (\$50) may be refunded if the hall is left in good order and clean. The deposit will be the same whether a member or non-member rents the hall. This change will be effective January 1, 2009.

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

January 19

The deadline for information for the February Messenger is Monday, January 19. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

AROUND OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

CANCER RESEARCH FUNDRAISER

This is not exactly “in our neighborhood”, but maybe in our extended neighborhood? **Jim Cybulski** recently sent his mom, Judy, an e-mail regarding a little bike ride he is participating in during February. It seems he thinks a relaxing ride includes 100 miles of biking around Palm Springs, CA (the Team in Training Century Bike Ride). Jim has always been very active and won awards for track while he attended Crestwood High School. Now, he wants to take his fitness craze to a new level – the level of giving back. The primary goal of the bike ride is to raise money to support research on blood cancer, which you can learn more about at:

http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org/all_page.adp?item_id=9346 .

There is also a link to make a contribution directly to Jim at:

<http://pages.teamintraining.org/sj/tdps09/jcybulski>.

Judy has also volunteered to collect any donations and forward them to Jim or you can mail them to him at 243 Buena Vista Ave., Apt. 408, Sunnyvale, CA 94086-4867. His goal is to raise **\$2,500** (he never did think

small) and he notes in the email that some employers may match your contribution. GO, JIM!!! (We can give Go Joe a run for his money!!)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS CONSISTORY

The Consistory will meet on Thursday, January 15, at 6:30 pm.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

In order to keep our Directory current, I need updates on all addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Please note any changes on the sheet on the table in the Narthex or next to the Fellowship Hall door. I would like to put out a new Directory for January. Thanks, Denise

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2009

Jan. 4 – Second Sunday after Christmas

Greeters: Eileen Bonczek and Carol Duffy

Acolytes: Glynis Dean and Eric Rinehimer

Jan. 11 – The Baptism of Christ

Greeters: Jayne and Rich Rotski

Acolyte: Justin Rinehimer

Jan. 18 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

Greeters: Kyle Prelewicz and Eric Rinehimer

Acolyte: Devin Stein

Jan. 25 – Third Sunday After Epiphany

Greeters: Connie and Alecia Myers

Acolyte: Maegan Grosz

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers

Clifford & Gladys Readler

Marc & Connie Davis

John, Linda, & J.P. Jankowski

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Agnes Fornett | 11 Eli Hoyt | 22 Dorothy Heller |
| 3 Matteo McCord | 13 Chris Dietrich | 22 Mary Horwath |
| 4 Kari Hoch | 14 Marvin Rinehimer, Jr. | 22 Jacob Mylet |
| 5 Sherri Hoch | 14 Rhonda Madigan | 25 Christopher Peters |
| 7 Kevin Price | 15 Amanda Kemmerer | 26 Ethan Hoyt |
| 9 Donna Aumick | 16 James Cybulski | 26 Tristan Oldershaw |
| 9 Haylie Newell | 19 Maegan Grosz | 28 Mildred Myers |
| 10 Tarah Slusser | 20 Keegan Farrell | 28 James Rinehimer |
| 10 Brian Ring | | 29 Mary Martin |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- January 3, 1989..... Ron and Teresa Day
January 13, 1990..... Bill and Mary Martin
January 14, 2005..... Bob and Carol Duffy

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