

The Messenger

December 2010

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

SHARING HOUR

The Sunday School students would like to share some of what they have learned this past quarter. They have made several crafts depicting their lessons and invite you to view them during our Coffee Hour.

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service on November 7, followed by a coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a delicious delectable to share and have a relaxing morning with us.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

TWILIGHTER'S

The Twilighters will meet on December 8 at 12:00 pm for their monthly meeting. "Admission" is one pot-luck dish to share. We welcome you to come and join us for lunch.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting will be held on December 12 2010 immediately following our worship service. Please see inside this issue for more details.

CAROLING

After our Worship Service on December 12 we will travel to see our homebound members and to the local nursing homes to entertain them with songs of the season. So get your vocal chords tuned up to bring some holiday cheer to others.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Sunday School Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 18, from 10 am to noon. This will also be the last day to drop off "care packages" for the McKinney Clinic. Please see inside this issue for more details.

DRESS REHEARSAL

Dress rehearsal for our Christmas Program will be at 12:30 after our pizza lunch. This will be a very important rehearsal and all cast, crew and choir members are asked to attend it.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Sunday School will present their Christmas Program during the worship service on December 19. Please mark it on your calendars and show our children and youth how much you appreciate and support their efforts to tell the story of our Savior's birth.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

On Christmas Eve, we will begin our celebration of Christ's birth with special music at 7 pm. Our Early Candlelight service will begin at 7:30 pm and the Late Candlelight service is at 11:00 pm. Both services will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We hope that everyone will come to worship our new-born King. Come, let us adore Him.

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From The Pastor's Desk

During this season of giving I found a story that I thought you might like.

There was once a beautiful, expensively dressed lady who complained to her psychiatrist that she felt that her whole life was empty; it had no meaning. So the doctor called over a woman who cleaned the office floors. Then he said to the rich lady, "I'm going to ask Mary here to tell you how she found happiness. All I want you to do is listen."

So Mary put down her broom, sat down on a chair and told her story, "Well, my husband died of malaria and three months later my only son was killed in an automobile accident. I had nobody... I had nothing left. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't eat. I never smiled at anyone. I even thought of taking my own life. Then one evening a little kitten followed me home from work. Somehow I felt sorry for that kitten. It was cold outside, so I let the kitten in the house. I got it some milk, and it licked the plate clean. Then it purred and rubbed against my leg, and for the first time in months I smiled. Then I stopped to think: if helping a little kitten could make me smile, maybe doing something for people could make me happy. So the next day I baked some biscuits and took them to a neighbor who was sick in bed. Every day I tried to do something nice for someone. It made me so happy to see them happy. Today I don't know of anybody who sleeps and eats better than I do. I've found happiness by giving it to others." *(Anonymous)*

The holidays are approaching. Psychologists tell us that Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years are the saddest time of the year for some people. Remembering great joy in years gone by now leads to great sadness for what no longer is. If you know someone who is trapped in this sadness, or maybe it's you, I invite you to make yourself a promise: reach out to somebody else. As the old saying goes, "Happiness is the only thing you increase by giving it away." And another good idea is to wrap it with a smile.

There will be lots of opportunities during the days to come to share with others. We will be setting up our Giving Tree soon. You have been asked to bring coats for those who don't have one. The Stewardship Team will be asking you to fill out your pledge cards soon. Prayerfully consider all requests and be as generous as you are able.

May you feel God's love surrounding you during this the blessed season.

Pastor Penny



Thank You

We received letters from Phoebe-Devitt Homes and Lancaster Theological Seminary thanking us for our recent donations. Our gifts help to provide services and support for these organizations. The letters are on the bell tower bulletin board.

A letter of thanks for our donation of ten Thanksgiving meals is on the bulletin board in the bell tower. Bernie Baluta and the staff of the McKinney Clinic distributed the meals to families who would have gone without a Thanksgiving Dinner. Bernie said that they are very appreciative of our generosity.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, December 12, after our Worship Service. The proposed 2010 Budget was approved by the Consistory for distribution in the weekly bulletins and extra copies are available on the table in the Narthex.

NOTICE TO ALL COMMITTEES, TEAMS AND ASSOCIATIONS: In accordance with our Constitution Article 10, All committees should have a report prepared for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

“Article 10. ORGANIZATIONS, SOCIETIES. All organizations and societies of the Congregation are subordinate to the Consistory and shall make an annual report (Activities and Financial) to the Congregation.”

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

TWILIGHTERS LUNCH – The Twilighters will meet on December 8 at 12:00 for lunch.

POINSETTIA SIGN-UP SHEETS

There are sign-up sheets on the tables in the Narthex and next to the fellowship hall doorway for you to purchase poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary. The last day to sign up is December 14.

ALTAR FLOWER CHART

The chart for the altar flowers is on the table in the Narthex. The price is still \$12.50 per vase. Please pay Mary or Jim Rinehimer for the dates you sponsor.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will meet after the Annual Meeting on December 12 for caroling. We will stop for lunch at McDonald's and then raise our voices and spirits as we sing songs of the season to residents of our local nursing homes and to our homebound. Come with us and sing glory to the newborn king!

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.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Come to Bethlehem as two young girls witness the mayhem and confusion caused by the census ordered by Cesar Augustus. Those arriving in Bethlehem have many questions and misgivings about needing to travel so far. “Here We Come to Bethlehem” answers their questions and gives meaning to their travel. The program will be presented during our worship service on December 19. Come and experience the nativity through the eyes of two young girls.

HEIFER PROJECT

Our Sunday School has taken on a special project inspired by their lessons. Boaz allowed the widow, Ruth, to gather barley from his fields to feed herself and her mother-in-law, Naomi. In doing so, he performed an act of charity or kindness for the poor, known in Hebrew as zedakah. The children made offering envelopes to gather donations to purchase an animal (or two, three) from Heifer International. Our Sunday School has previously donated through this organization which makes a difference in the world through providing livestock and education for sustained living – not just a one-time gift. Please see any of our children if you wish to help with this project. They are really enthusiastic about getting a rabbit – or was it a cow? pig? chicks? all of the above? All they know is the more they gather, the more they will be able to purchase so that others can learn to live more self-sufficiently. **Their envelopes will be collected on December 19.**

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree has been set up in the Narthex. Bernie Baluta, at the McKinney Clinic, asks that we provide mainly men's gifts. There is a great hardship among our middle/older age men and she appreciates our help in ministering to their needs. Just take an ornament, purchase the item listed on it, wrap it, tape the ornament to the package and place it under the tree. You may also include a card from you and your family.

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. Every penny counts with today's expenses, so please give generously.

YOUTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

If you know of any of our youth who deserve recognition for their scholastic, talent or sports abilities, please let me know. Better yet, if there is a news article, cut it out and give it to me. Thanks, Denise

MMI Honor Roll: Keegan Farrell - Keep up the great work, Keegan!

Sunday School News

THANKSGIVING DINNERS – Thank you for being so generous. We again were able to provide meals for ten families thanks to you.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 18

Our Christmas Party will be held on December 18 from 10 am to 12 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. Bernie, the director of the clinic, has asked that we provide more men’s packages. She says that they minister to more men than women and so there is a greater need for men’s gifts. 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 or drop it off in the narthex under the Christmas tree **before Saturday, December 18.** 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

AROUND OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

CHS MUSICAL – The Crestwood High School musical will be presented on Friday and Saturday, December 10 and 11, at 7:00 pm. This year’s play is “Annie”. So get ready for your favorite redhead to sing her way into your heart – *tomorrow, tomorrow.* Or at least on the 10th and 11th.

BETHANY CHILDREN’S SANCTUARY CELEBRATION

In celebration of receiving Sanctuary Certification, Bethany Children’s Home is inviting everyone to an open house on Wednesday, December 8, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. There will be a presentation of the sanctuary plaque and certificate at 4:00 pm with local and state dignitaries in attendance. Campus tours will be conducted until 3:30 pm and resident musical groups will honor the occasion with song. A letter and postcard regarding this great honor is on the bulletin board in the bell tower.

BETHANY CHRISTMAS LIST

Copies of the 2010 Christmas Wish List and 2010 Christmas Year Round List are on the table in the Narthex. Please be aware that the children at Bethany are between the ages of 13 and 18 years old. If you prefer, the children love to receive gift cards to department stores, craft stores, area malls, etc. Specific gift items are included on the Christmas Wish List. All they ask is that you choose age-appropriate gifts with consideration for parental warnings, modest clothing and safety. The gifts should not be wrapped since Bethany’s staff will do that. Their Christmas Year Round Fund asks for donations which will be used to provide gifts for special occasions like birthdays and funds for special group activities like going to the movies or their annual day-out at Knoebels.

PICTURE PERFECT

Check the front door bulletin board for these mug shots!

The Sunday School Fall Festival was a big hit. Check out the pictures taken by Ron Rinehimer and the news article from the Mountain Peaks for a look at kids having a great time. By the way, Kimmy, I didn’t know Santa is a Packers fan.

More costumed creations were gathered in the Fellowship Hall for the Cub Scout Halloween Party. There are some really amazing costumes in that pack!

Our Boy Scout Troop 434 went camping at Ricketts Glen State Park October 9 to 11. Pictured among the hardy souls is Hunter Rinehimer.

UCC'S 5 FOR 5 OFFERINGS

As you have noticed, the Neighbors in Need offering envelopes have been in the pews for the last several weeks. Earlier we had Strengthen the Church and OGHS envelopes and before the end of the year will be the Christmas Fund. These are the four special mission offerings of the UCC. OGHS provides resources for international programs. Strengthen the Church funds new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, lay and pastoral leadership formation and, most recently, the StillSpeaking Ministry. Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion. The Christmas Fund helps provide pensions and health-premium supplements to low-income, retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy families in need, and Christmas checks to hundreds of annuitants. The fifth offering is Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) which we support through our weekly envelope offering. Each year, our budget sets aside \$1,500 of our offering for OCWM which provides funding for the work of UCC Conference and National ministries in support of the life and work of the local church and its members. By participating in all five offerings, we are known as a "5 for 5" church, a number which is growing steadily. The concept began in 2003 as part of a "thank-you" for the stewardship display at the General Synod. Since that time, the number of churches giving to all five offerings has nearly doubled. Being a "5 for 5" church is a sign of congregational vitality by giving to Basic Support (OCWM) and Special Support (the four special mission offerings).

CONSISTORY MEETING

E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR CONSISTORY

A "group" e-mail address has been set up so that you can contact members of the consistory by using just one address: consistory@emmanuel-ucc.org.

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

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the January Messenger is Monday, December 20. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 6 Epiphany

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2010

Dec. 5

Greeters: Judy Cybulski & Mary Martin

Liturgist: Dave Myers

Dec. 12

Greeters: Frank & Joan Partington

Liturgist: Beverly Kramer

Dec. 19

Greeters: Eric and Justin Rinehimer

Liturgist: Meredith Martin

Dec. 26

Greeters: Don Myers and Carol & Robert Duffy

Liturgist: Sharon Moyer

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers

Clifford & Gladys Readler

Diana Decker

John & JP Jankowski



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Kayla Supkowski	10 Lorrie Slusser	24 Lonnie Rinehimer, Sr.
1 Ronald Kania	10 Billy Martin	25 Anthony DiMaria
1 Harry Henry, Jr.	15 Andrew Horensky	26 Russell Koons
2 Esther Heller	15 Kelsey Rinehimer	26 Linda Byrnes
2 Bonnie Shafer	17 Danielle Pallando	26 Meredith Martin
3 David A. Myers	18 Brandon Ring	28 Lonnie Rinehimer, Jr.
10 Michael Belanchik	20 Darlene Stein	30 Angie Thomas
	21 Mary Rinehimer	

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 13, 1968.....Lonnie and Mary Rinehimer

Dec. 15, 1984.....Peter and Gwen Sakowski

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