

# THE CHIMES

## *The Silent Treasure of Christmas*

### **The Pastor's Word**

*But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. – Luke 2.19*

If you ever find yourself invited to meet the queen of England, you might first want to read up on how to do it properly. If you did, you would know you ought to stand when she enters the room. If she offers her hand to you, a simple touch is enough; firm handshakes are discouraged. So are hugs and kisses.

When she greets you, don't say, "Pleased to meet you." It's redundant. (One assumes that everybody is pleased to meet the queen.) Say simply, "Your majesty," and leave it at that. Of course, if she sticks around and wants to chat, do so only on the subjects which she brings up, not what you've read in the newspaper and definitely not anything of a personal nature. Don't chew gum around the queen. And if on the lucky chance you get to have dinner with her be sure you keep your eye on her. If she stops eating, you should stop eating too. So many rules. So much to remember.



Fortunately, the expectations are not so rigid when it comes to meeting God. When the story is told about the birth of Jesus, in the Gospel of Luke, the reader notices a great deal of activity and noise generated by most of the characters. The angels tell the "good news of great joy" to the shepherds. They announce to the accompaniment of a larger host of angels who sing, "Glory to God in the highest...." The shepherds, in turn, "hurry off" to find Mary, Joseph and the baby in the stable. After they see Jesus, they leave the manger and "spread the word," "glorifying and praising God" for what they had

seen. Luke is careful to add that the people to whom the shepherds spoke were also "amazed."

So many activities. So much noise. And who could blame any of them – angels, shepherds, unnamed village folk – for being amazed and excited? The proclamation by the angels was very good news for the whole world. There's a lot to get excited about.

But in the middle of all the hustle and bustle in the little village of Bethlehem, a solitary figure sits still and ponders the meaning of the moment: Mary, the mother of the child. She has seen the shepherds through the windows of the stable. She may even have heard the angels sing their songs. Indeed, she had already been told by the angel, Gabriel, of her imminent birth. And through all of this, Luke described her reaction simply: "Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

In the moment that changed the entire world, when God himself came among us humans, it seemed that any and all reactions were fitting. Heavenly singers tunefully sounded their news. Earthly (and earthy) shepherds rushed to tell anyone and everyone what they had witnessed. And apparently, everyone who heard the news was just "amazed." But Mary is the quiet one of the story. She holds the child. She ponders the meaning. She silently treasures the moment in her heart.

In the midst of the noisy, rushing Christmas season that is now upon us, I hope you will find time to imitate Mary, too. In quiet moments, focus your attention on Jesus. Ponder the meaning of his presence. Read the Christmas story again and ask yourself, "What does this mean to me?" If Mary thought such contemplations were worth her time, surely we should, too.

- KDS

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The Council met in its last regular session of the year on November 8, 2011 and heard reports of significant activity in several of the areas the congregation selected as our goals for future growth. Specifically, the task groups working with Newcomers and Inactive Members, the Stuckey Interfaith Child Development Center, Marketing, Facility Improvement and United Methodist Cooperative Ministries all had progress to report. The Church's budget for 2012 was also approved and plans for the Stewardship Campaign were discussed. Pastor Karl, as chairman of the Lay Leadership Committee, reported that all but a few of the Church's leadership positions for the new year have been filled.

Among the new officers for 2012 will be Bill Prueter as Chairperson of the Administrative Council. Bill will bring a fresh leadership perspective to the Council and I know that he will enjoy the same level of assistance and cooperation from the members as I have been privileged to receive over the past three years. I would like to express my thanks to those faithful members of the Council who have regularly appeared and participated in our bi-monthly meetings, or at least let me know on those rare occasions when they would be unable to be present. Your willing cooperation in conducting the business of our faith community has been sincerely appreciated.

Jim Williams, Chairperson



## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

We recognize a need in our community by collecting funds, food, personal and household items to help the Salvation Army in its outreach. The Christian Outreach Committee reminds you that there is always a shopping cart in the Lounge for donations, and that the third Sunday of each month is designated as Food Pantry Sunday. **December 18th & January 15th** will be the next two dates for donations of non-perishable food items, paper and cleaning products, and cash donations to be counted for delivery to the Salvation Army. In November, 170 items and \$43.10 were collected. Your response for this much needed community program is appreciated. Thank You!

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Our Committee would like to remind everyone to use the **Advent devotional material** recently mailed to the congregation. Of course, we are all also encouraged to use the Advent offering envelopes that accompanied the devotional material.

**Poinsettias** will once again be delivered to visitation members. Sign-up sheets will be in the lounge on **December 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>** for those willing to deliver these beautiful emblems of the season, along with appropriate cards, to those who are unable to attend services. The flowers, cards and decorated Christmas cookies, courtesy of our Church School children, will be available to be picked up any time during the **week of December 11<sup>th</sup>**. Delivery may be made at your convenience. Please consider helping with this greatly appreciated gesture and be sure to allow time to visit when you drop off the gifts.

Best wishes for a blessed holiday season for all from your Congregational Care Committee:  
Sue Burden, Paul Cope, Jane Helwig, Rev. David and Mildred Hostetler, Larry and Connie Pyers, Rev. Karl D. Stonebraker and Peg Williams, Chairperson

## THANKSGIVING CHALLENGE (You can still make a donation!!)

This year, will you sacrifice for hungry people throughout our community and the world?

Each of us can show our Christian love by giving the cost of our own Thanksgiving meal to help feed hungry people.

Christ UMC helps feed the hungry by serving a free community meal at the Alliance Neighborhood Center when a fifth Tuesday occurs in a calendar month (about four times per year). Christ Church volunteers prepare and serve these meals. If you accept the Thanksgiving Challenge, your gift will be used to support these dinners, and to feed hungry people through other church local, statewide, national and international mission projects.

When you think about the Thanksgiving Challenge, or hear about it from the pulpit, please give generously and share God's abundant gifts.

May God bless the gift and the giver.

# Happy Birthday

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Doris Barnhouse	15 Pettie Shields
4 Jacob Shields	19 Bill Sol
5 Kristin Sayre	22 Carol Woolf
6 Emilee Strong	23 Mary Louise Ford
7 Midge Mohr	24 Virginia Fronk
7 David Charlton	25 Mildred Hostetler
9 John Skivolocki	26 Sandra Skivolocki
9 Mark Locke	31 Jessica Richmond

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Leanne (Austin) Vaughn	19 Cheri Rodefer
4 Jason Handy	20 Iris Heddleston
6 Greg Ruff	21 Jennifer Locke
6 Chris Helsel	22 Marilyn Young
7 Brianna Starkey	23 Jay Marsh
8 Drew Shuster	23 Duane Locke
10 Jenni-Jo Kinser	24 Michael Schafer
11 Everette Coldwell	24 Will Kinser
14 Ben Shuster	25 Patti Hirst
16 Brandon Handy	25 David Bodo
18 Billy Reese	28 Donna Webster
18 David Feess	29 Joan Skidmore
	29 Benjamin Kirk

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

27	Lewis and Pettie Shields
29	Rev. David and Mildred Hostetler

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

4	Jack and Cathy Morris
7	John and Donna Lane
22	Jerry and Nancy Sandifer
22	Bradley and Diane Thomas

## FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

### LITURGISTS

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>10:45 A.M.</u>
4	Dolores Lawrence	Susan Haddox
11	Haven Ackley	Keith Noble
18	Steve Diser	Peg Rodefer
24	Christmas Eve 7:00	Jim Greiner
25		Bill Sol

### WELCOME CENTER GREETERS

4	Dick Diser & Peg Williams
11	Bill & Ellen Sol
18	Lou & Bob Clayton
25	Connie & Larry Pyers

### SANCTUARY GREETERS

4	Mike and Jamie Greiner
11	Mark and Karen Locke
18	Patti Hirst
25	Bill and Ellen Sol

### USHERS

Frank Woolf, Captain	Bill Messenheimer
Bob Clayton	Winston Stroup
Dick Diser	Boyd Webster
Jack Edwards	Jim Williams

**DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2012 CHIMES WILL BE  
SUNDAY JANUARY 15TH, 2012.**

**ANY ARTICLES RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE, MIGHT NOT BE PUBLISHED.  
ARTICLES CAN BE SENT BY E-MAIL TO: [cumcalliance@gmail.com](mailto:cumcalliance@gmail.com), OR  
THEY CAN BE PLACED IN THE MAILBOX, OUTSIDE THE OFFICE.**

**READERS FOR THE ADVENT SEASON**

**8:30 AM Service**

- November 27 - Steve Diser**
- December 4 - Dolores Lawrence**
- December 11 - Haven Ackley**
- December 18 - Steve Diser**

**10:45 AM Service**

- November 27 - Sara Sherer & Family**
- December 4 - Chrissy Shields & Family**
- December 11 - The Roger Frank Family**
- December 18 - The Skidmore Family**
- December 24 - The Kinser Family**



Hat & Mitten Tree

**HAT & MITTEN TREE**

The Hat and Mitten Tree and Boys and Girls' Tags for the Salvation Army Christmas project is in the Lounge. Please add hats and mittens, and/or also take a name Tag, buy gifts, listing items and value on back of Tag, and return Tag and gift(s) to church by December 11th. Do not wrap. Thank You.



**THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ALTAR ARRANGEMENT**



As in years past, we have beautified our church at Christmas by placing many lovely poinsettias in memory of/or in honor of loved ones and friends. In order that you might have another option for your Christmas Memorial, there is The World Service Fund, to which you may prefer to give, in lieu of a poinsettia.

Orders for poinsettias to be placed in the church for Christmas must be in by December 11, 2011. The price of the poinsettias this year will be \$8.50 each. Orders may be placed in the offering plates or sent to the church office. No orders will be taken after December 11. ALL ORDERS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE MONEY AND ORDER FORM. Donors' names and those to be honored or memorialized will be listed in the Christmas Bulletin, December 18.

MY NAME \_\_\_\_\_

- I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER A POINSETTIA FOR THE ALTAR AND **TAKE IT** AFTER THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, DECEMBER 24.
- IN LIEU OF A POINTSETTIA I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE WORLD SERVICE FUND.

This poinsettia or donation is **IN MEMORY OF** (please print names): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

or **IN HONOR OF** (please print names): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT INCLUDED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Want to learn more about this photo  
and what it represents?**



**Plan to attend the Sunday, January 8, 10:45 a.m.  
service and coffee hour  
in Fellowship Hall for more information.**

### **Brian Sheetz To Be Guest Speaker on Sunday, January 8**

Brian Sheetz, Executive Director of the East Ohio United Methodist Foundation, will speak on "The Example of David, among others" on January 8 at the 10:45 a.m. service. At the Foundation he is a resource person in the areas of stewardship, endowment management and planned giving to the nearly 800 churches of the Conference.

He was baptized, confirmed and married in our sanctuary, and he is a Troop 50 Eagle Scout. Brian and his wife, Chris, have two daughters, Emily and Andrea, and the family is very active at Strongsville UMC where Brian is Stewardship Chairman, a member of the Finance Committee and washes dishes each Thursday night.

His talk will be based on 1 Chronicles 29: 1-10a, 14. A coffee hour will follow the service in Fellowship Hall.

### **DECEMBER TELLERS**

- 4 Bill Messenheimer &
- 11 Nancy Sandifer & Mildred Hostetler
- 18 Nancy Prueter & Jan Essick
- 25

### **JANUARY TELLERS**

- 1 Jim Greiner & Larry Pyers
- 8 Pat Helsel & Marilyn Ruff
- 15 Jill Greiner & Donna Essick
- 22 Tyler Kinser & Bruce Helsel
- 29 Bill Messenheimer &



### **MEMORIAL TREE**

You may have noticed the Christmas Tree in the back of Sanctuary. This tree is currently decorated with gold and red bulbs, but we would like to turn it into a "Memorial Tree", for our congregation. So if you have a special ornament, that you would like to place on this tree, please feel free to bring it in and hang it on the tree! These ornaments can be for family, friends or past members of the congregation.

The Explorer's Sunday School Class



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN UNIT MEETING

Tuesday December 6 at 7:00 P.M.

### Program:

**“Sounds for the Season”**

**By: Carolyn Wallace, our wonderful organist at the console.**

**Union Ave. UMW will be our guests. All are welcome to join us for this evening of music**  
**Greeter/Hostess: M & M Circle**

### CIRCLES:

December 19, 12:30 P.M. **Dorcus Circle**

Place: Lakeview Terrace, Copeland Oaks

January 16, 12:30 P.M **Dorcus Circle**

Place: Lakeview Terrace, Copeland Oaks

December 19 , 7:00 P.M. **M&M Circle**

Place: Peg Rodefer, 1500 Electric Blvd., Alliance

**M&M Circle ~ Will not meet in January!!**

December 20, 7:00 P.M. **May Smyth Circle**

Place: Ellen Sol, 1060Oakwood Drive., Alliance

January 17, 7:00 P.M. **May Smyth Circle**

Place: Betty-Jo Sutherin, 958 Vincent Blvd., Alliance

### UPDATE FROM NOVEMBER MEETING:

The United Methodist Women annually support mission efforts. We raise funds for our pledge to the district UMW which allocates money through the Women's Division in mission work worldwide.

This month we took a more hands-on approach to mission work. We spent our November unit meeting assisting the Stuckey Interfaith Child Development Center.

With buckets in hand, we began cleaning the art area, writing area and many toys, blocks and beads. We also made a fall favor for each child. We currently are creating Christmas favors for the children. In addition, we are helping the teachers out by baking Christmas cookies for the Interfaith family Christmas party on December 22. 50 dozen cookies are needed for their holiday party.

The Stuckey Interfaith Child Development Center is one of the areas of emphasis adopted by the Administrative Council in our Strategic Plan.

### FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

#### LITURGISTS

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>10:45 A.M.</u>
1		Pat Helsel
8	Haven Ackley	Victor Lee
15	Steve Diser	Judith Hookway
22	Haven Ackley	Tyler Kinser
29	Dolores Lawrence	Rev. Paul Whipple

#### SANCTUARY GREETERS

1	Bill & Ellen Sol
8	Chrissy Shields
15	Greg & Marilyn Ruff
22	Chuck & Treva Cline
29	Pat & Bruce Helsel

#### WELCOME CENTER GREETERS

1	Peg & Jim Williams
8	Rev. & Mrs. David Hostetler
15	Helen Brown & Peg Williams
22	Betty Thorpe & Peg Rodefer
29	Cynthia Carlin & Charlie Manypenny

#### USHERS

Jim Greiner, Captain	
John Christian	Keith Noble
Mike Greiner	Bill Sol
Arnie Hirvella	Ward Tuttle
Charlie Manypenny	Dave Williams

#### DECEMBER VISITATION MEMBERS

4	Mary Jane Johnson, 2350 Cherry Ave., #32B Alliance, OH 44601
11	Darlene Howell, 350 S. Arch Ave., #511, Alliance, OH 44601
18	Margaret Reisch, 800 S. 15 <sup>th</sup> St., #F-176, Sebring, OH44672
25	Donald Ray Alton, 2040 McCrea St., #153-B Alliance, OH 44601

#### JANUARY VISITATION MEMBERS

1	Mary Jane Bingle, 2350 Cherry Ave., #311, Alliance, OH 44601
8	Dorothy Bailey, 800 S. 15 <sup>th</sup> St., Apt. 7-327, Sebring, OH 44672
15	Dorothy Taylor, 114 Catherine Lane, Alliance, OH 44601
22	Everette Coldwell, 800 S. 15 <sup>th</sup> St., # 9-133, Sebring, OH 44672
29	Helen Hunter, 800 S. 15 <sup>th</sup> St., #9-202, Sebring, OH 44672

## CHRISTIAN ED CORNER

There are several church seasons and holy days that have special implications for our spiritual lives. While the Christmas season is the most favorite season for many of us, we can keep in mind they all have the potential to guide us into a rhythm for faith formation and discipleship. We will celebrate the first Sunday in Advent on November 27, 2011. Advent is the season of anticipation and preparation as we await the coming of Jesus, the Son of God. After Christmas Day we will experience the Christmas Tide (also known as the Twelve Days of Christmas). This is the season of celebration of praise for the wonderful and joyous gift of receiving the Incarnate God (in the person of Jesus Christ), for the sake of all humanity. January 6, 2012 will be the date of the Epiphany of the Lord that reminds us that God was manifest in Jesus, both to the Jews (in his baptism) and to the Gentiles (by the visit of the magi).

These three seasons are not all inclusive of the Christian year: there are also Lent, Easter and Pentecost. Each one offers us another opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God and another chance to improve upon our own behavior and commitment as it relates to our faith in Him. Advent is the beginning of the church year and it begins on a Sunday and ends on Christmas Eve. We are preparing our hearts for the celebration of God's gift of Christ to us. Let every heart prepare Him room. This is the gift that keeps on giving. This is the gift that we will not be returning.

Peace,  
Dr. J.

## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMISSION

"You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."-1 Corinthians 12:27

It's hard to believe that another year will soon be coming to an end! Thank you so much for your generous support of all our projects- most recently: providing ready-to-serve dishes for the community Thanksgiving meals, our churchwide Christmas card for global missions, and ringing bells at Giant Eagle for the Salvation Army. Also, thank you for your help and monetary donations for our last 2011 community dinner on November 29. We appreciate the help we received from two Girl Scout troops, too.

Our final quarterly Good Samaritan Fund offering for 2011 will be taken on Sunday, December 11. Remember that the funds are now managed by the Alliance of Churches. Thank you for helping with the needs of our community members.

We are planning to continue our Alliance Neighborhood Center dinners in 2012. The dates will be January 31, May 29, July 31, and October 30. We appreciate the help of the United Methodist Women in sponsoring two dinners each year.

Aaron Webster is now the activities director at McCrea Manor. He would like to ask for large gift bags to be used for afghans for 60 residents. I will put a box in the lounge if you can help with this project. Thanks.

The tentative date for the Carnival in the Parking Lot will be July 7, 2012, with a rain date of July 14. As yet we do not know if other churches will be assisting us.

I recently received an e-mail from our missionary in Sierra Leone, Beatrice G'Banga. She thanked us for our support and gave an update about her country. They are preparing to elect a president and other members of government next year, and she asked for prayers for their stability and a smooth transition. She said that much of her time is spent providing insecticide-treated nets to prevent malaria. Last year 328,000 nets were distributed. Winter is the peak season for malaria.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Salvation Army through your donations of food items and money.

We appreciate each and every one of you members and friends of Christ United Methodist Church. May the Christmas season be a blessed time for you and your families.

Susie Buckel, Chairman

**THANK YOU  
for a Successful Stewardship Campaign**

Many thanks go out to the congregation for your support of Consecration Sunday. The new pledges and the many increases in pledges show your belief in our ministry from Christ Church to our local and worldwide community.

Preliminary calculations showed commitments were up over 2 % over last year. This may seem a small increase but we are very thankful considering we had a significant number of lost pledges due to the deaths of faithful givers. Hopefully, these numbers may increase as a number of commitment cards still need to be returned.

Special thanks go out to **Rev. Alan Zagray** for his great message on Consecration Sunday; **Pat Stone** for the excellent stewardship message the week prior to Stewardship Sunday and **Pettie Shields** and **Julie Greiner** for insuring the program runs smoothly and to the United Methodist Women for providing a wonderful Celebration Luncheon.

God bless the work and the commitment of our church.

Finance and Stewardship Committee

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Once again our congregation, showed how much they truly care about their community! For the first three Sunday's in November, we had a cornucopia, at the front of the church, to collect non-perishable items, for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. **We were able to collect 170 items!!!** On average we usually collect around 50 - 60 items for one month!! Thanks again, care and concern!!!

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Habitat for Humanity Apostle build continues to be in the thoughts, minds and hearts of our community. Check out the "Billboard" picture of the Ground Breaking ceremonies for the Apostle Build last summer. As you drive north from State Street on Liberty Avenue and stop at South Street, look at the full size Billboard picture of the Apostle Build Ground breaking ceremonies. The billboard picture features our own chairman, for Christ United Methodist's Apostle Build Committee, Mark Locke!!

**Words of Thanks.....**

Thank you to all the persons, from Christ Church, who have visited my mother, Corinne Ruby, at Crandall Medical Center.

Sincerely,  
Tom Ruby

**THE BLESSINGS OF THE MAHAN FUND**

Christ Church is blessed to have several endowments, to promote God's work. The Mahan Fund was created to be used to promote church programs. The last several years most of the monies from this fund have been used for the benefit of the Education Department. The fund has helped pay for educational supplies, children's Sunday school teachers and support for the Director of Christian Education. Expenditures should be around \$13,000, for 2011.

The budget for 2011, in addition to the support for the Education Department includes funds made available for the Worship Committee and the Administrative Council, if there is a special need not provided in the church budget. Total budget is \$15,000.

The church should be very thankful, for the thoughtfulness of Freeman Mahan, for the continued work of the church.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Congratulations, to our newest 3rd Grade students, who received their Bible's, during the worship service, on November 20!! Rev. Dr. Karl Stonebraker, Dr. Jo Ann Patterson and Pat Stone presented the Bible's to (pictured below): Zion Bettis (Left) and Hunter Frank (Right).



**THE CHIMES**  
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**Christ United Methodist Church**



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Rev. Karl D. Stonebraker  
Church: 330-823-7136

*"The Church on The Hill"*

***Our Mission is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and to  
Serve God by Sharing Compassion, Hope and Love***

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**THE CHIMES**  
**DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012**

***Did you know.....***

- *Family Night will be held on December 4, at 6:00 PM, which will include a skit called: "Bethlehem Inn"?*
- *that the children of CUMC will be decorating cookies on December 4, for our visitation members?*
- *that December 11, is the last day to place your order for Poinsettia's?*
- *the Candlelight Christmas Eve service @ CUMC, will be held at 7:00 PM?*
- *we will have a combined 10:45 AM worship service on Christmas Day?*

