

Rittman United Methodist Church

Points to Ponder - December 2010

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Chuck Kaliszewski, Pastor
Sheila Stoll, Editor



God's Love Expressed in a Child

"God so loved the world" is the opening line in one of the most quoted and familiar verses in the Bible - John 3:16. These five simple words summarize one of our most basic Christian beliefs and truly give us

"the reason for the season." Because of God's love for us, God chose to give us Jesus - truly God and truly human. We didn't ask for Jesus - God simply knew we needed Him to reconnect with God. And Jesus does offer us the way.

One of the reasons we United Methodists baptize infants is that it represents our helplessness (like a baby) when it comes to accepting God's gift of grace. There is something about the innocence of a child which lets us drop our guard and replace the frustrations and worries of life with hope.

Like any other proud grandparent, I beam with great pride when I look at a picture of one of my grandchildren. And Christmas is that season when we should grab onto the hope which comes from the baby Jesus. Let us reflect on the fact that God so loves us, that "unto us a child was born."

Yes, Jesus came to die, but he also came to live - to teach and heal and to call together a band of followers to become his body - to continue his work and to share the message, the good news of the kingdom of God.

I'm going to do my best to try to avoid the "other" side of Christmas. If you don't know what I mean, just take a trip to the mall. It will be hard to do with a new grandson, but I know that he needs more than a tree-full of presents to be happy and to become what God created him to be. We all do. With a gift like Jesus, what more do we need?

Merry Christmas,

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Pastor Chuck and Linda will be hosting a Christmas Open House at the parsonage on Sunday, December 19, 2010 from noon until 3:00pm. Everyone is invited.

December Birthdays



3rd	Mark Turnbow
4th	Scott Brickey
7th	Joe Emerson
9th	Sue Baker
	Debbie Knapic
12th	Duane Ryland
14th	Pam Chipps
15th	Matt McClain
16th	Peggy Copley
18th	Zachary Baillis
23rd	Ryan Beckett
24th	Edith McKenzie
27th	Rita Blough
31st	Melanie Schumacher

Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

10th	Homer & Susan Feikert
19th	Bob & Kim Rastorfer
21st	Chris & Vicki Hartlaub
22nd	Dave & Kathy Berg
24th	Bob & Anita Frase

THE RITTMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY KNUPP CHURCH CHRISTMAS

The Rittman Historical Society invites you to our annual Christmas Caroling at Knupp Church on December 5th at 3pm. Come and bring a friend!

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is up and running again. We have had a great start! So many ideas for fundraisers, fun events and some work ideas too! Our first fundraiser will be a babysitting event on Sunday, December 19th from 1-5pm. This will be open to our church families and preschool families for children 3 and up (we may also be able to accommodate younger children as allowed). We will have crafts, cookie decorating, videos and food for the kids. What a perfect time to finish your Christmas shopping or getting those gifts wrapped. Cost will be \$10 per child. For more information, see Connie Baillis, Brett Richards or any YF member. Our next meeting will be Sunday, December 5th at 4:30pm.

PRESCHOOL

Thanks to all who came to the children's singing program. We will celebrate Christmas on December 9th with Pastor Chuck reading "Journey to Bethlehem" to the children. The preschoolers made ornaments for the city's Christmas tree in front of City Hall. We wish you all a Merry Christmas!

FOOD PANTRY

Thanksgiving dinner was served to 64 people. 119 people were given food bags - 44 families with 7 new families. There were coats, hats, gloves and scarves available. These were collected at IGA.

Turkeys donated by: Dale & Lydia Stahl, Chad & Sandy Gasser, Dick & Dorothy Gillman

Mashed potatoes donated by: Betty Winchell, Pauline Rastorfer, Reah Lunter

Sweet potatoes donated by: Anita Frase, Nancy McMillan

Green beans donated by: Marsha Rosenberg, Ruthanne Lindenmuth

Desserts donated by: Kathy Berg, Sheila Stoll

Cooks were; Nancy, Rita, Wilma, Anita. Servers were: Darren, Michael, Nate, Moriyal

The Food Pantry would enjoy a financial donation at the end of the year

Cooks for January are Bob & Anita Frase, and for February John & Reah Lunter. These people will need help - call them, please.

Mark Turnbow

OTTERBEIN CLASS

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Otterbein Class celebrated Christmas and the New Year with a carry-in dinner on Saturday, November 20th. We opened with prayer for the needs of our class members and for others. We then enjoyed supper with each other. We were few in numbers, but thankful for the fellowship.

We then packed the candy that the church provides for the children attending the Hanging of the Greens. We tested some of the candy too!

Our next class social will be in February. We try to simplify the holidays so we can enjoy our families during that hustle and bustle of activities with one less get-up-and-go thing to do.

You can still relax with us in our Sunday School class on Sunday mornings @ 10am.

Joanna Shankland
Secretary

CARD MINISTRY

The card ministry will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 15, 2011 at the parsonage from 1-4 pm. Please join us for a time of fellowship and to make greeting cards that will brighten someone's day.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



-UMW DATES-

December 4

10am Cookie Walk

December 6

11:30am Dorcas Circle
Christmas Luncheon

11:30am Hannah Circle
Christmas Luncheon

December 8

11:30am Hannah Circle
Christmas Luncheon

Dorcas Circle

We met at 1pm for our meeting in the Fellowship Room. Ruth Schumacher led us in the Apostle's Creed and in the United Methodist Women's Purpose. Ruth's devotions were "All Over The World" and the scripture Psalm 112.

Secretary's report was read and Karen Copenhaver gave the treasurer's report. Ruth gave the report from the Executive Meeting on November 16th. They voted to add \$5 to next year's district pledge budget. Dates were set for next year's events.

We voted to join Beth Circle starting in 2011. We will be meeting with them at 9am on Tuesday, January 4th.

Our Christmas luncheon will be on December 6th at Buehler's in Wadsworth. Irene's program was "Holy Days". There was a list of the "Christmas Characters" and we discussed how we relate to different ones. She read a reflection on Advent by Myra Hewlitt and scriptures Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 2:1-23. Irene closed with prayer.

Karen Copenhaver
Treasurer

Hannah Circle

Hannah Circle met at the church on Monday, November 8th with ten members present. Ruth Baker had devotions by reading "The Tree of Life" and Luke 6:44 and "Finding Our Way" and Luke 15:24

followed by prayer.

Minutes were read and approved. Pauline Rastorfer gave the treasurer's report. Pat read "Living Life". Linda Kaliszewski read "From Fear to Service" for our multi-cultural moment. We all read Purpose of United Methodist Women.

The Thank Offering meeting went very well with 46 present. There were many from different churches in the area. Debbie Thompson did a great job with the program. We received a thank you note from Rev. Dulin for our contribution to Coats For Carrie's Kids.

Our Annual Cookie Walk will be on Saturday, December 4th at 10am. We should be at the church at 8:30am to arrange cookies. On Friday, December 3rd we will set up tables, etc. On Monday, December 6th we will meet at the church at 11:30am to go to the Galaxy Restaurant for our Christmas luncheon.

Next year's program schedule was passed out and we filled in our hostesses and program leaders for the coming year.

Anne Salyer had our Christmas program, "Women of the Manger". Those taking part were Audrey, Eileen, Pauline, Elaine, Eleanor Yoss and Eleanor Winkler. We sang "Away in a Manger" and "Silent Night". Linda Kaliszewski served delicious refreshments.

Elaine Fetter
Secretary

17th ANNUAL UMW COOKIE WALK

Saturday, December 4th - 10am - sold out
Only \$6/pound

There will be lots of cookies, candies, pumpkin rolls, breads, and other goodies for sale! Donations of Christmas cookies are needed. Please bring cookies to the church by 8am on December 4th. For more information, see Pat Seiler.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The new Beth Moore Bible Study will begin January 13, 2011. The present study, "The Bad Girls of the Bible" will resume after the completion of the Beth Moore study. See Lisa Winchell for details.

BOOK CLUB

Our next book is Goodness Gracious Green by Judy Christie. Our time of fellowship to discuss this book will be Monday, January 24, 2011 at 7:00 pm. We will not meet in December.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
November 9, 2010

In Attendance: Rod Thompson, Dave Berg, Kathy Berg, Ron Yoss, Dorothy Gillman, Deb Thompson, Irene Hopton, Joanna Shankland, Nancy McMillan, Lee Winchell, Karen Copenhaver, Bruce Lindenmuth, Pat Seiler, Pastor Chuck Kaliszewski

Chairman Rod Thompson opened the meeting with devotions from Matthew 16:21-24.

The minutes from the October 19, 2010 Administrative Council meeting were read and Dave Berg made a motion to accept the minutes as published, seconded by Pat Seiler - accepted.

The Financial Reports for October 2010 were read (including the budget/expenses report) and Bruce Lindenmuth made a motion to accept it as amended which was seconded by Lee Winchell - accepted.

New Business:

Kathy Berg (preschool): The preschool children will be singing for the 11am worship service this coming Sunday with 30 children scheduled to attend.

Pat Seiler (UMW): December 4th at 10am will be the UMW Cookie Walk.

Bruce Lindenmuth (trustees): Programmed timer to turn off sign and steeple lights at 11pm. Conducted a parsonage inspection for charge conference report. Repaired several pella window blind mechanisms. CFL's were installed in the llama room wall fixtures. Painted the walls in the air handler closet, and painted the choir room closet walls/polyurethaned shelves. Cleaned the projector filters and two sanctuary bulbs.

The 2011 Budget was gone over and discussion ensued on the worship/office needs – accounting service line. If a church treasurer was to be paid in the future would it be under SPPR or Finance Committee. Joanna made a motion to accept the budget as published with the understanding that changes may be made in the future – Bruce seconded, passed.

Debbie Thompson: Has a idea to send/give cards to people in the community (preschool parents, food pantry clients, Christmas basket recipients, etc.) inviting them to the Advent/Christmas events. The Hanging of the Greens is coming up on November 21st. The Monday Morning Sewcial group has started a banner.

Pastor Chuck: Pastor is pleased with the budget. District training event is coming up on Sunday, January 30th at the Wadsworth UMC.

Rod Thopmson (AdCouncil chair): Rod is handing the gavel over to Lee Winchell who will take over as chairman of the Administrative Council in January 2011. Rod thanked everyone for their help, work and cooperation.

Rod then closed the meeting with prayer.

Motion to adjourn was made by Lee Winchell.

Unanswered Questions

How do you tell someone who is grieving that you never get over it? That time can ease the pain, but it never totally goes away.

If you are a human being, the time will come when you will grieve. C.S. Lewis said that the feeling of grief is very close to the feeling of fear. Today the woman I am sitting with says she is scared all the time. All I can do is be with her and try to console her. But isn't that what we all want and need - someone to just "be with us".

Emmanuel - "God with us". Even when we don't feel it. His consolation, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4

As we enter another Advent season, let us once again take the time to ponder Emmanuel - God with us. The one who made everything, including us. He doesn't make mistakes. His timing is perfect - even when it is hard to understand or accept.

Mary Winkler

Christmas Cookies for UMW 1st Cookbook

Pecan Puffs - Elinor Armstrong



1/2 cup margarine
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup flour
2 tbsp. sugar
1 cup ground nuts

Cream margarine, sugar and vanilla. Stir in flour and nuts. Make into balls and bake in slow oven at 325 degrees for 20 minutes. Roll in powdered sugar while still hot.

Peanut Butter Balls - Kim Rastorfer

12 oz. peanut butter
3/4 cup butter or margarine
1 tsp. vanilla
1 lb. powdered sugar

Beat together on low speed of mixer. Slowly add powdered sugar. Beat 10 minutes. Roll into balls about 1 inch.

1/2 grated wax bar
12 oz. chocolate milk

Place in covered pan at 150 degrees to melt. Leave on stove and dip ball with toothpicks in chocolate. Place on waxed paper.