



The First Word

December, 2015

First United Methodist Church, Racine

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Racine, WI 53403
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Jakes Voker
Pastor

Carol Feest
Administrative
Assistant

Jeff Fernholz
Treasurer

Sue Mills
Financial Secretary

Fred Ganaway
Administrative Bd.
Chairperson

Chuck Bragg
Trustee Chairperson

Judith Schulz
Church Historian

Sue Mills
Parish Visitor

Nancy Cook
Organist

Jeanne Whiteside
Media Coordinator

Denise Ferguson
Family, Education & Nurture Coordinator

Rick Reinhard
Custodian

Is Christ Present in your Christmas?

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling amongst us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who Came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John1: 14 NIV).

Christmas is one of the most popular and widely celebrated of all secular and religious holidays in the world. Interestingly, one way or another, people of all cultures, ethnic backgrounds, various political spectrums, secular and religious entities, recognize and celebrate this day that adherents of the Christian Faith believed to be the birth date of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Hey! Look around you as this popular season approaches. There are preparations at all levels and in all places. Businesses are offering seasonal products with unbelievable discounts. The various Community organizations and individuals are spending enormous amount of times, energies and monies on decorations so as to present the best of beauties. Many families are planning reunions that would require some to travel hundreds and thousands of miles either on land, sea or in the air to attend those memorable gatherings; while others are taking off vacation times, all in the name of “Christmas” celebration and observance. WOW!! No doubts, at first glance all of the different activities would seem to be a significant breakthrough for the believers, the disciples of Jesus Christ, in fulfilling their mandate, ***“The Great Commission,” to take the Gospel/Good-News of the Lord Jesus Christ from one end of the world to another. (Matthew 28:16-20).*** Often times, there are all kinds of activities during Christmas Season. The questions: ***Do they all Center on Christ? Do these festivities/celebrations make known Christ’s love and care for all people in our community and the world? Christmas should begin and end with Jesus Christ!***

As a child growing up in a village and family that didn’t know Jesus Christ, but had the most elaborate celebration each Christmas Season raises questions in my mind about the place of Jesus Christ in all the activities marking the Christmas Season. Each year we looked forward to Christmas because it was one of the times of year our parents bought us new pairs of slippers, sneakers, shirts, trousers, not to mention, lots of food stuffs. For the older folks, the various community and fraternal groups would dress up in their uniforms and perform traditional dances, mostly under the influence of alcoholic beverages and other chemical substances. However, on Christmas Day, every parent had had threefold warning for their young kids: 1. “This day is not safe, 2. be careful and 3. don’t go out alone!” Those so-called Christmas Day celebrations were indeed marked

by absolute lawlessness! What a lost opportunity! How about your Christmas prep and celebration? *Is*

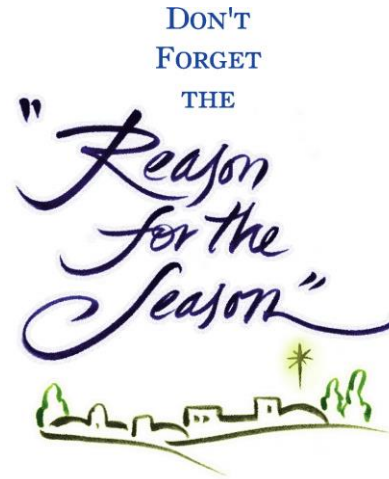
Christ in your Christmas plans and celebration?

December 2015 Newsletter - First United Methodist Church, Racine, WI

*The name "Christmas" comes from the season's first service, Christ's Mass." (UMBOW-P. 269). It is a season of praise and thanksgiving for God coming into the world as a human being in the person of Jesus Christ to live with and save human kind from the power of sins unto salvation. So, the emphasis of Christmas celebration should be on making known God's love and care for all of humanity as demonstrated in Jesus Christ rather than meeting our needs, the desires of our hearts and those of our families. **God's love and care? Yes!** The Bible tells us, "*For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, (Jesus Christ), that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" (John 3:16 NIV). The Savior is born and there's hope for us/the world is the Central message Christmas conveys and we celebrate! Be it individual, family, congregation, community and nation, we've come this far through the turbulences of life thru 2015 not by our own power and strength, but God's mercy and grace. God in Christ deserves our praises and thanks, and let this Christmas' festivities truly reflect that sense of gratitude. For a **mantra**, as you shop and set tables, ask yourself, *would Christ honor my invitation to be present at this gathering and table?* Whatever would be your answer, surely determines if you are indeed celebrating a Christ-Centered **Christ mas or not.***

In His love and service together, Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Rev. Jakes, Pastor



Scripture and themes- December 2015

Advent 2nd / Communion Sunday- 12/06/2015

Psalm 24:1-6

Luke 3: 1-6

Matthew 5: 8

Theme: Blessed are the pure in heart.....

Advent 3rd Sunday- Chancel Choir Christmas

Cantata 12/13/2015

Psalm 100: 1ff

Isaiah 12: 2-6

Luke 3: 7-18

Theme: Voices of praise to the New Born King

Advent 4th Sunday/ Children's Program

12/20/2015

Micah 5: 2-5

Luke 1: 47-55

Matthew 19: 13-15

Theme: Children of the Kingdom

Christmas Eve Service

12/24/2015 @ 7:00 pm

Matthew 1: 18-2: 1-19

Theme: Candlelight Communion Service

1st Sunday – Christmas- 12/27/2015

Psalm 126: 1-6

James 3: 13-18

Matthew 5: 9

Theme: Blessed are the Peacemakers....

HOLIDAY SOCK DISTRIBUTION

The Hospitality Team would like to thank everyone for their generous donations of socks for our Holiday Sock Drive. We would also like to thank Patti and Sue who handed out the socks during the Sack Lunch on November 21. This was a very important outreach to deliver warm socks to needy

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN DECEMBER !

5 - Fred Ganaway
6 - Kelson Meredith
 Jakes Quaye
9 - Liza Reed
11 - Cody Baker
17 - Daelyn Toutant
19 - Ruth Rinehart
21 - Karen Robotka
22 - Samantha Baker
23 - Dylan Reed
24 - Trevor Magnuson
26 - Virginia Harnett
28 - Eric Reed
29 - Pete Feest Sr.
 Grace Manchester
 Tamara Burgos

ALTAR FLOWERS IN DECEMBER

6 -
13 - Kim Rinehart
20 - Mary K. Tsuchiya
27 -

THE ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2015

has been posted in the north foyer.

FOOD BANK ITEM FOR DECEMBER

will be Hamburger Helper. This is just a suggestion – all non-perishable food products are always welcome. The local food banks are serving many, many more families this year

men, women, and children for the coming cold winter months. We had well over 100 (more?) pair of socks donated and will finish handing them out in the month of December. Thanks again!!

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and your donation of food is not only greatly needed, but greatly appreciated. Bring your items to church anytime.

*December 2015 Newsletter - First
United Methodist Church, Racine, WI*

USHER SCHEDULE

Dec. 6
Paul Nejedly
Chuck & Jean Harmon
August Grulich
Dec. 13
Jeff Fernholz
Ricky Castro
Jan Rosellini

Dec. 20
Sandi McQuade
Roger & Betty Oakley
Dave Johnson

Dec. 27
Jan Rosellini
Chuck & Jane Bragg

**Will need ushers for
Christmas Eve 7:00 PM –
please volunteer!!**

If you are unable to be a greeter/usher on your assigned day, please contact someone from the usher list to substitute for you. Thanks.

LOOSE CHANGE

OFFERING FOR

DECEMBER will benefit the local ARC program. The Arc Advocates for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by safeguarding their rights, promoting independence and inclusion in school & community life. Simply place your loose change, or more, in the small brown envelope found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Thank you for your continued support of our outreach ministry.

SANTA'S BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, December 12th from 9-11am. A breakfast of pancakes and sausages will be served from 9-10am, with Santa starting his visit at 9:30. We will sing some songs and also have crafts for the children to make. There is no cost but we ask for a freewill offering. Be sure to bring your cameras! This is a fun morning for all.

LET'S GIVE THEM A MERRY CHRISTMAS! -

Pastor Ana Luisa has asked for

our help in giving the children of her congregation a Merry Christmas. You will find the names and ages of the children on cards on the tree in the narthex. Please take a card and purchase a toy/gift for the child named (about \$15.00 so all are somewhat equal), wrap the gift, tape the card to the gift and (this is the important part) **RETURN CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Each Sunday

Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Morning Worship	10:00 am
Sunday School for Children	10:15 am
Fellowship Time	11:15 am
Faith Forum Sunday School	11:15 am
Casa de Dios Worship	5:00 pm

Each Monday

Keith Griffin Choir Rehearsal	6:00-8:00 pm
Casa de Dios Bible Study	6:30 pm

Each Wednesday

Kiwanis Club Luncheon	Noon
Praise Team Rehearsal	5:30 pm
Cantata Choir Rehearsal (thru the 9 th)	6:00 pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (thru the 9 th)	7:00 pm

Each Thursday (except the 24th)

Faith To Life Bible Study	5:30 pm
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Each Saturday

Sack Lunch Program	Noon
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Wednesday, December 2

Youth Group meet at Trinity	6:00 pm
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Friday, December 4

Habitat for Humanity Christmas Party	11:30 am
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Saturday, December 5

Controlling Community Violence	9:00 am
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Sunday, December 6

Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	11:15 am
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Wednesday, December 9

First Alive Wednesday Pot Luck	5:00 pm
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Thursday, December 10

UMW Christmas Luncheon	Noon
Youth Bake Cookies at church	5:30 pm

Saturday, December 12

Santa's Breakfast	9:00 am
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	11:15 am

Sunday, December 13

Choir Christmas Cantata	10:00 am
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THE GIFT TO THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th. Thank you for making someone's Christmas merry.

READERS ARE NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

If you would like to participate in our Christmas Eve service by

Cookie Walk in the Social Room	11:30 am
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Wednesday, December 16

Youth Group at Trinity – Gift Exchange	6:00 pm
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Saturday, December 19

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	10:00 am
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Sunday, December 20

Children's Christmas Pageant	10:00 am
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Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7:00 pm
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Friday, December 25

Merry Christmas

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

will be held on Thursday, December 10th at 12:00 noon. We are excited to have the Cadence Choir, students in grades 2 thru 5, from Gifford Elementary School, directed by Keith Griffin, presenting our program!! Poinsettias will be available for members to take to our shut-in members. Your help with this distribution is greatly appreciated. We're pleased to have our District UMW President, Cheryl Malko with us to lead our installation of officers. Our hostesses are Ruthann Grayson and Lenore Creuziger.

Reservations are needed and may be made with the monthly callers or by calling the church office (633-7632) by noon on Tuesday, December 8th. The cost of the luncheon is \$8.00.

All are welcome – so bring a friend as we celebrate the season together!!

REMINDER: If you have not already done so, please return your "Thank Offering" to Carol as soon as possible.

ATTENTION - ALL COOKIE BAKERS!! - Get out your baking equipment and start making those delicious cookies!! **We will have our "Cookie Walk" on Sunday, December 13th** following worship at 11:30 am in the social room. Here is an opportunity to buy a wonderful assortment of

helping with one or more reading, please sign on the sheets located on the sanctuary tables. We will then contact you with the reading you should prepare.

We'll also need someone to light the Advent Candles that night. Let us know where you can be of assistance.

cookies for your holiday entertaining or to enjoy with family!! Bring your cookies to church by 9:30 am that morning. You may want to bring your own containers – we have a few decorative tins, but not a lot. Then, following morning worship, plan to “walk” around the tables selecting your own assortment. The cost is \$7.00 per pound and all proceeds benefit the Youth Group Fund. Make this a part of your holiday festivities and join us.

Also that morning, the Chancel Choir will present the Christmas Cantata, “*Glory to the Newborn King*” during the 10:00 am morning worship.

The children’s Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 20 at 10:00 am. You won’t want to miss it!!

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FFRANC Breakfast

Dear members and friends,
You are invited to be a part of our FFRANC (Fellowship of Families, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbors, and Co-workers) breakfast on Sunday, December 6 at 9:00 am. We look forward to many fun activities in the church this Holiday season starting off with the breakfast!

FFRANC Sunday offers opportunities for all members of our congregation and their invitees to gather on the first Sunday of each month for a time of fellowship and to celebrate the blessings of special days in their lives over delicious breakfast. Those special days may include birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, newly wedded, first job, etc., not to mention we are celebrating the birth of Christ this month!

December’s FFRANC event will be sponsored by the people who were recognized as having special events in November. Thereafter, on the first Sunday of each subsequent month, people whose special days were celebrated in the preceding month, along with the entire congregation, will provide the breakfast for those celebrating in the current month. The FFRANC Breakfast has been a

resounding success. Let’s keep it going!

Again, we would like to encourage everyone to invite someone and be present at each celebration, even if you aren’t able to bring a dish! We prayerfully look forward to a joyful celebration with you at each FFRANC Sunday, all in the name of Jesus Christ, the one in whom our joy is made complete!

Sincerely,
The Team on Hospitality

REMINDER: Please return your “Estimate of Giving” as soon as possible so the Finance Team can complete the 2016 budget. Thank you.

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First Alive Wednesday

The second Wednesday of the month is First Alive Wednesday! This time it is December 9. We feature a potluck dinner starting at 5pm. The event, hosted by the Hospitality Team, is open to everyone. This is a time of fellowship, fun, and good conversation. This month we will be featuring a Christmas related theme. Hope to see you there and don't forget to bring your favorite dish to pass.

God's Cheezeheads

We will be meeting at Trinity United Methodist Church in December, January, and February. Our December meetings will be on Wednesday, December 2nd and December 16th from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. We will have a Christmas celebration and gift exchange on December 16th. We will exchange names on the 2nd. If you cannot be there on the 2nd, but would like to be included in the gift exchange, let me know.



We will be participating in the Cookie Walk at First Church following the Worship service on December

13 (about 11:15 AM). Funds raised will go to support our activities. We will be baking cookies at First Church on Thursday, December 10th from about 5:30 to 9:00 PM.

Scott
ScottHMcClelland@aol.com

First United Methodist CHURCH HISTORY ~THEN & NOW~

Racine, Wisconsin Judith D. Schulz, Church Historian
Editing assistance from Carol Michael Feast & Judy Johnson Madsen

~ DRAMA IN 1921 AD ~

~ 94 years ago, on Dec. 3, 1921, our church ran this advertisement in *Racine Journal News*, reprinted at the right; cost: about \$4.80.

~ The wording, phrases and details are *very descriptive and very dramatic, a different era!* Our church ran this ad to draw people, both members and visitors, to come to the church service. It uses hype, controversy, emotion and challenging statements to entice readers. The headline referring to our church: *SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE HOUSE OF HAPPINESS* is a major contrast to the wording that follows.

~ *The Pastor will give a ringing five minute talk on Fatty Arbuckle's Greatest Danger.* "Fatty" Arbuckle was an American silent film actor, comedian, director, screenwriter who was accused of attacking a woman and murder. The new Yellow Journalism thrived on the story and scandal making it became a national story. At the time of this Dec 1921 ad, his trials (3 in total!) were underway, but ultimately he was acquitted in April 1922. Still, the racy circumstances caused endless moral discussions and judgements; at homes and from the pulpits in the 1920s. No transcript of the sermon has been found.

~ *A civil aspect in the ad: Our New Prayer Cross will be used in the closing song* refers to the 10' high, revolving lighted cross that was outside on top of the church on the Main Street

side, placed there March 1920. The statement suggests they went outside by the cross for the closing song, (yet it was December?)

~ *What they said of the Cross last Sunday Night,* again refers to the revolving lighted cross outside. –More details about this cross: in the June 2013 "First Word" church newsletter. ~"The Great Assize" *Assize* is a judicial inquest or court, so the sermon was probably about the trial & Fatty Arbuckle's behavior, perhaps with moral lessons for all.

~ In smaller print... a really full house!

Last Sunday Night the people began coming about 6:30 and kept coming until the church was packed and crowded with all available space filled and with folks sitting on the steps, inside the alter rail, standing along the wall. It was wonderful.

Another adjective filled statement: *Church of the Cheer, the Cross and the Crowds*

and ... Come early for a good seat....the ad says

December 3, 1921 Racine Journal News

500-Men and Boys Wanted-500
SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE HOUSE OF
HAPPINESS

to hear

**Mr. Hargett on "Men-Heroes-
 Cowards-Which Are You?"**

Everybody is welcome to this service but
 the men and boys are especially invited to
 be our honored guests.

The Pastor will give a ringing five minute talk on
"Fatty Arbuckle's Greatest Danger"

Musical Features—Organ Recital from 7:15 to 7:30
 by Mrs. J. F. Sugden

BIG TABERNACLE SING

- "Only Jesus"
- "He Ransomed Me"
- "How Can I Help But Love Him?"

- Male Quartet and Chorus will sing.
- Mr. Otto Paiga will render a Violin Solo.
- Our New Prayer Cross will be used in the closing song.

What they said of the Cross last Sunday
 Night—

- "Beautiful."
- "Impressive."
- "It certainly is unique."
- "Wonderful idea."
- "Simply grand."
- "Held me spellbound."
- "Most wonderful thing I ever saw."
- "I nearly stopped breathing when it went on."
- "It will tend to deepen the spiritual life of our people."

**Sunday Morning Sermon Subject—
 The Great Assize**

Last Sunday Night the people began coming about 6:30 and kept coming until the church was packed and crowded with all available space filled and with folks sitting on the steps, inside the altar rail, standing along the wall. It was wonderful.

"THERE'S A REASON"

First Methodist Church

Main & Eighth

Church of the Cheer, the Cross and the Crowds.
 Come early for a good seat.

WOMEN and GIRLS, come and bring your Men and Boys.

What do the years 1919 and 2015 have in common? A crisis for Syrians, then and today, as reported daily in the world news. In 1919 there was a national **Campaign for \$30,000,000 for Armenian & Syrian Relief** and our church participated in that benevolent effort. Here are a few of the receipts of that year that were mailed to the church treasurer and a church official. Our Choir, and our Sunday School sent money to help.

Jan. 18, 1919 Choir Ass'n 1st M.E. Church \$21.70 (= \$299 in 2015)

CAMPAIGN FOR \$30,000,000.00
OFFICIAL RECEIPT
 JAMES L. BARTON, CHAIRMAN SAMUEL T. DUTTON, VICE-CHAIRMAN CHARLES V. VICKREY, SECRETARY
AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR ARMENIAN AND SYRIAN RELIEF
 ONE MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

L Jan 18/19	Choir Ass'n 1st M. E. Church -Mr. Wm. A. Lunn, Treas. 724 Valla St. Racine, Wis.	21.70
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- Jan. 18, 1918 Receipt sent to church treasurer's home
 - Archives of First United Methodist Church, Racine, Wisconsin
 - Name was 1st Methodist Episcopal Church at that time

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR KIND REMITTANCE, AS INDICATED ABOVE, IN AID OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK.

CLEVELAND H. DODGE, TREASURER
 PER *[Signature]*

THIS RECEIPT WILL BE ACCEPTED AS VOUCHER AND CREDITED ON LOCAL QUOTA OF \$30,000,000.00 CAMPAIGN.

Jan. 24, 1919 First M.E. Sunday School \$100 (= \$1375 in 2015)

OFFICIAL RECEIPT—SUNDAY SCHOOL FUND
 JAMES L. BARTON, CHAIRMAN SAMUEL T. DUTTON, VICE-CHAIRMAN CHARLES V. VICKREY, SECRETARY
AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR ARMENIAN AND SYRIAN RELIEF
 ONE MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

d Jan 24/19	First M. E. Sunday School -H. B. Hall, 817 Union St., Racine, Wisc.	100.00
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- Jan. 24, 1919 Receipt sent to a church official: Henry B. Hall
 - Name was First Methodist Episcopal Church at that time
 - Archives of First United Methodist Church, Racine, Wisconsin

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR KIND REMITTANCE, AS INDICATED ABOVE, IN AID OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK.

CLEVELAND H. DODGE, TREASURER
 PER *[Signature]*

No. S29663

July 24, 1919 1st Meth. Episc. S. S. \$84.85 (= \$1,167 in 2015)

OFFICIAL RECEIPT—SUNDAY SCHOOL FUND
 JAMES L. BARTON, CHAIRMAN SAMUEL T. DUTTON, VICE-CHAIRMAN CHARLES V. VICKREY, SECRETARY
AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR RELIEF IN THE NEAR EAST.
 ONE MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

k July 24/19	1st Meth. Episc. S. S. -Mr Henry B. Hall, 817 Union St., Racine, Wisc.	84.85
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- July, 24, 1919 Receipt sent to a church official: Henry B. Hall
 - Name was First Methodist Episcopal Church at that time
 - Archives of First United Methodist Church, Racine, Wisconsin

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR KIND REMITTANCE, AS INDICATED ABOVE, IN AID OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK.

CLEVELAND H. DODGE, TREASURER
 PER *[Signature]*

No. S S 45040

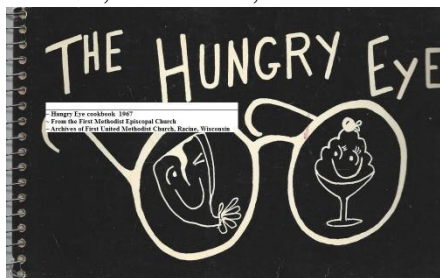
Rev. Ira Mason Hargett was our pastor from 1919-1923. (See his photo in the 1923 panoramic Easter photograph where he is seated in the front pew holding a child: photo on display in our church museum.)

DO YOU LIKE OLD PHOTOGRAPHS?

~~There are about 20 wonderful, historic photographs of our church interior, exterior, stereographs, and groups stored away in the local history museum. ~They charge \$20/photo for a scan, and then we still need to go have a print made for more cost.

Please help us to purchase some of those photo scans for our church archives & displays.....

Here is one way to help: ~We have several copies of the rare, collectible, 1967 HUNGRY EYE cookbooks



For Sale, which we have purchased on ebay and at sales. ~ A donation of \$15 each would be most appreciated, & almost enough for us to acquire a

scan of one of those old, historic photographs!

~ Hungry Eye, 240 pages, published by our church, was so popular that it went into a second printing in 1974. It was even up in the Chicago Tribune. A copy is on exhibit in our church history museum, too. Prices

vary, if you can find one, all the way up to extreme \$3,477.00 currently on Amazon! (Really!)

~ The members who were the *staff* to create it: (Mmes. means the "Mrs." of each of the husband's name's:) Mmes. Keehn Yeager; E.G. Rutherford; James Cook; Paul Nejedly; Harley Brown; Ernest Styberg, Jr; Glenn Coates; Emil Wiegand; Robert Ruston; George Spangenberg; Harold Schimek; L.D.Potter; Russell Jacober. ~Recipes were contributed by, many church members. Peggy Nejedly created the distinctive art work.

WHAT'S MISSING IN THIS 1954 PHOTO?



The angels~ Take a special look at the *Angels of the Organ* this Christmas, standing steady on our choir mantel in front of the organ pipes, gracing the mantel for 60 years, since their dedication on Feb. 19, 1955. ~How many are there?

December 2015 History pages by Judith D. Schulz

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Faith To Life Bible Study

Thursday December 3-31 2015, @ 3: P.M

Resources: 1. The Bible, 2. Advent video Study by: Matt Chandler

All interested in strengthening their faith and growth on their spiritual journey are invited to five weeks of very uplifting and inspiring video based study of the Christmas Story written and led by Pastor Matt Chandler. In these five weeks sessions, Matt covered the history of Advent beginning with the Old Testament through the New Testament era. The topics include:

- 1. The History of Darkness;**
- 2. Rescue,**
- 3. Forgiveness,**
- 4. New Hearts, and**
- 5. All things New.**

Remember, you are not required to buy any materials! If you like to prepare in advance of each session, the Advent presentation can be found on "Rightnow media.org," a video based program website that the

church purchased for every member's use. If you do not have an account to be able to login, please contact me through the Church's office or Jeanne Whiteside by phone # (262) 308 9840 for help.

As you can see, we've moved the study time up from 6:p.m. to 3: p.m. for the convenience of those for whom driving when dark poses a problem. Come let us nourish our faith and spirits so that we may continue to be spiritually healthy.

Blessings,

Rev. Jakes Voker

Pastor and Group facilitator