



Lamplighter

Ohio U.P. Church 724-378-3690 www.ohiopresbyterian.org December 2009

From the Pastor

Since July I've heard people saying that Christmas is just around the corner. Now it really is. At Ohio Church we are making preparations for a festive Christmas that will heighten our appreciation for what God has done for us this past year. As we prepare for the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world we are still learning what it means for humanity that God is with us, in Christ.

One of my favorite scholars is Ken Bailey. You might recall that I did a series of sermons on parables earlier this year with reference to Ken Bailey's book, entitled Jesus Through Peasant Eyes. In the same way that you and I know something about our parents' lives from hearing them talk about what things were like, and they have told us about how their parent's lived, the people who live in the Middle East have a different sort of connection with Jesus than we do.

Many of the peasant folks that Ken Bailey worked with in the Middle East have lived and worked in a world that is much like the world in which Jesus lived. Dr. Bailey devoted his life to listening to those people reflect on the stories in the Bible. The insights that he offers don't substantially alter the message of the scriptures that we are familiar with. However, Dr. Bailey is able to turn up the volume on certain aspects of the story for us.

The Christmas pageant that will be presented by our youth on December 13th during the 11 o'clock service was written by Dr. Bailey. It offers a sharpened perspective on what it was like to live in the time of Christ in the Roman occupied town of Bethlehem. It also gives insight into the meaning of Christmas for all of those who were witnesses to the birth of Christ. Please plan to make this experience a part of your Christmas celebration this year. God Bless you and your family this Christmas and have a blessed New Year.

December Celebrations



BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 4. Lou Connors | 17. Betty Martin |
| Jonathan Psik | 18. Mark Anthony Muslin |
| Ben Palmieri | 19. Connie Harmotto |
| 5. George Price | 20. Ken Strominger |
| Tracy Pasquarelli | Adam Gibboney |
| Nathan Harmotto | 21. Kathy Fouse |
| 6. Lynn Smith | 25. Kassi Miller |
| Tristin Canonge | 26. Hailey Gilmore |
| 9. Sherri Murdoch | KathyLee Tolfa |
| 10. Roberta Smith | 27. Mark Douglass |
| 12. Dale Fouse | 29. Kyler McWithey |
| Bob Lang | 30. Jane Hilliard |
| Joyce Groves | Lillian Dennis |
| 13. Joe Glatz | 31. Sean McMasters |
| Bill Shinn | Kathy Cropper |
| 16. Joshua Dennis | |



ANNIVERSARIES

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 9. August & Betty Schaeffer |
| 13. Tom & Trudy Boggs |
| 17. Louis & Debbie Ceccarelli |
| 18. Bill & Holly DiCicco |
| 22. Michael & Alice Nestor |
| 24. Randy & Marlene Leheny |
| 27. Clarence & Nancy Shade |
| Zbigniew & Cheryl Lachowicz |
| 30. Jason & Gina Arzberger |



A Great Big **THANK YOU!** To Patti and her "kids" for baking Pumpkin Pies for Meals on Wheels and taking down the Christmas decorations for the Women's Association. We really do appreciate all your help.

Ohio U.P. Fellowship

December 6th—All Church Lunch and Gingerbread Decorating. Cost is \$3.00 per person for Lunch, with a \$12.00 Family limit and \$10.00 per Gingerbread house. If you have not made a reservation yet, please call Eleanor Pike at 724-378-9788.

December 10th—Fellowship Dinner 5:45—6:30 PM- Menu: Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, Bread, Beverage and Homemade Dessert. Cost is \$4.00 for Adults and \$3.00 for Children, with a \$12.00 Family limit. Reservations can be made with the bulletin insert or by phoning the church at 724-378-3690, or emailing the church at oupc@choiceonemail.com.

Fall/Winter Thursday Evening Groups

December 3rd—Night in Bethlehem Planning Group—6:30-7:15 PM

December 10th- Night in Bethlehem Planning Group—6:30-7:15 PM

Open Hearts in Bethlehem Drama Practice—6:30-7:15 PM

Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group Schedule & Kindergarten to 6th Grade Youth Group

Jr./Sr. High Youth Group

December 1st- Youth Group 5:00-6:00 PM & Drama practice 6:00 PM

December 5th- Drama Practice 10:30AM-Noon

December 10th- Youth Group 5:00-6:30 (Includes Dinner 5:45-6:30 PM) Drama Practice from 6:30-7:15 PM

December 13th- Perform the Christmas Drama at the 11:00 AM Service

Christmas Caroling- Date and Time TBA

Christmas Party- Date and Time TBA

Kindergarten to 6th Grade Youth Group—The kindergarten thru 6th grade youth group will meet on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30-7:15 PM. In December you will be making a Christmas craft that can help brighten your family's home for the holidays.

Trustees:

- Still looking for potential bus drivers or other changes to vehicle mix. Looking into how to handle vehicle fleet-keep bus or sell and rent one on an as-needed basis instead discussed. More discussion needed.
- Manse water heater was replaced, as well as some electrical repairs made to manse. Looking into replacing window sash/trim.
- Side door lock was repaired by locksmith. Getting price information on replacing library carpeting.
- The church sign was repaired and additional electric outlets were added at the sign and lamppost. Looking to install an awning at the front side entrance.
- In the process of getting a quote for new organ speakers which would sit on floor.

Deacons:

- The Deacons had a joint meeting with Session
- Discussed fruit baskets for our shut-ins. Some of them cannot enjoy the fruit so we will possibly give cookies instead. Will see what they prefer.
- On Tuesday, November 17th some of the Deacons will be making "Kindness Casseroles". If anyone knows of a family in need please let us know. They'll be baked and frozen until needed.

Session:

- Approved designating some mission funds out of the Beaver-Butler Presbytery portion to the PC USA Theological Education Fund.
- Approved a motion to proceed with participating in the partnership for Missional Church Program.

Observe the Season!

There are many opportunities to observe the Christmas season!

November 29th: The first Sunday in Advent

Advent Candle Lighting: 8:30 Worship-The Arzberger Family

11:00 Worship-The Barth Family

December 6th: The Second Sunday in Advent

Advent Candle Lighting: 8:30 Worship—Shirley Fluharty and Lois Davie

11:00 Worship-The Nan Family

All Church Lunch and Gingerbread House Decorating

December 11th: Night in Bethlehem 6:00-8:00 PM

December 13th: The Third Sunday in Advent

Advent Candle Lighting: 8:30 Worship -The Hurni Family

11:00 Worship-The Magee Family

NO 8:30 SERVICE - Christmas Pageant "Open Hearts in Bethlehem"

December 20th: The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Advent Candle Lighting: 8:30 Worship-The Martin Family

11:00 Worship-The Otto Family

Choir Cantata at 8:30 and 11:00 Worship services - Directed by Jeff Davis, the choir will perform "Let Heaven and Nature Sing" (arr. by Don Marsh). A fellowship breakfast will follow the 8:30 service.

December 24th: Christmas Eve Worship at 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm

Advent Candle Lighting: 5:30 Worship-The Moss/Craig Family

8:00 Worship-Lynn & Brittany Smith

Communion served at both services as well as the traditional candle lighting

December 25th: MERRY CHRISTMAS!



PRAYING PARTNERS PILOT PROGRAM



The Women's Association Board is considering changes to the Praying Partners Program for 2010. A change is necessary due to few participants in the past few years. With your help, we can have a successful praying partners program in the coming years.

The purpose of the program is to pray throughout the year for one of the children in our Church Family that you will be assigned. Any special prayer requests that the child has would be included in your prayer and if wanted, the adult would recognize special occasions such as birthdays with a card.

All children from 4 years thru Sr. High would be assigned an adult as their praying partner. In order for this program to work, we would need approximately 50 people to volunteer a few minutes each day to pray for a child. The program would be open to all adults (both local and distant) including women, men, shut-ins, and college students.

Adults would be assigned a child in January via mail informing them the name of the child they will be praying for throughout the year. They would be given the child's name, parent's name for the younger ones, address, age, and birthday (if available). The adult could contact the child for any special prayer requests via phone or mail (snail mail or e-mail).

This program can only work if we get enough volunteer praying partners. You will have a chance to participate via the bulletin tear-off insert or by phoning the church at 724-378-3690 or emailing the church at oupc@choiceonemail.com.



WISH TREE

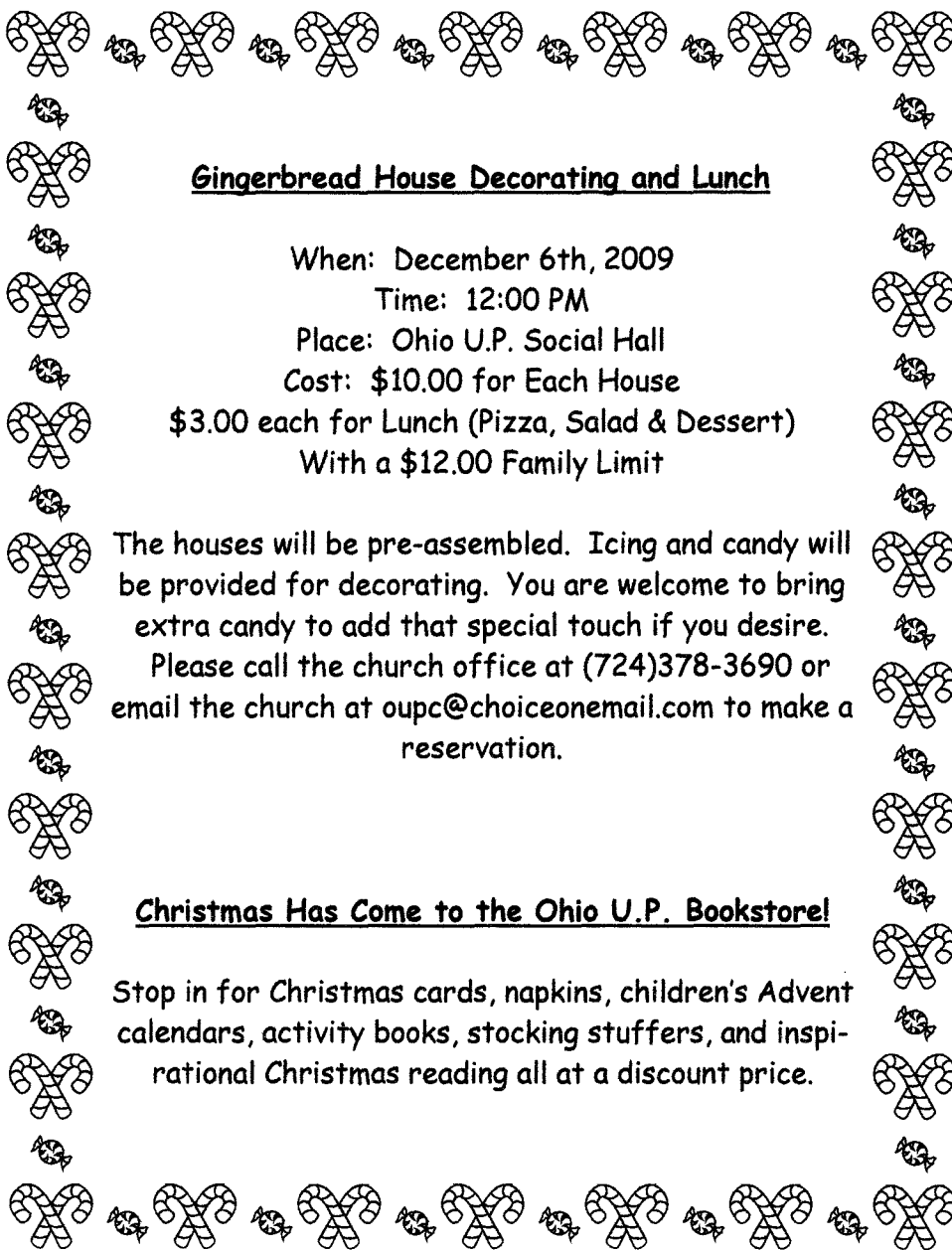
The Wish Tree will be placed in the narthex and again this year, we are pleased to be helping the Salvation Army and Hopewell Conservation Club provide gifts for children in need. You will be able to take an ornament from the tree and purchase the gift (ages, gender and wishes are stated on the ornaments). Both may be returned to the tree unwrapped with the tag attached. The Salvation Army presents need to be in by December 6th. The Conservation Club gifts need to be in by December 13th. Stop by the Wish Tree and pick a tag. **There are still tags left!**



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our congregation is cordially invited to an evening of Advent/Christmas music planned by the handbell choirs and the adult choir of Our Lady of Fatima. Our own handbell and adult choir members will be joining them. This combined effort will surely enhance the beauty of the season, so take a little time to join your friends and neighbors at Our Lady of Fatima on Sunday evening, December 13 at 6:00 PM. This is a free concert, but a free will offering will be accepted and given to a local charity.





Gingerbread House Decorating and Lunch

When: December 6th, 2009

Time: 12:00 PM

Place: Ohio U.P. Social Hall

Cost: \$10.00 for Each House

\$3.00 each for Lunch (Pizza, Salad & Dessert)

With a \$12.00 Family Limit

The houses will be pre-assembled. Icing and candy will be provided for decorating. You are welcome to bring extra candy to add that special touch if you desire.

Please call the church office at (724)378-3690 or email the church at oupc@choiceonemail.com to make a reservation.

Christmas Has Come to the Ohio U.P. Bookstore!

Stop in for Christmas cards, napkins, children's Advent calendars, activity books, stocking stuffers, and inspirational Christmas reading all at a discount price.

8:30 WORSHIP LEADERS

December 6: Scott Byers
Diane Byers

December 13: Amber Tackac
Shirley Fluharty

December 20: CANTATA

December 27: Joe Glatz
Justin Tackac

CHRISTMAS EVE LEADERS

5:30 PM: Alli Martin

8:00 PM: Chris Cronin

JR. CHURCH

Nancy Hribar
Patti Strominger

11:00 WORSHIP LEADERS

December 6: Elaine Verostek

December 13: Donna Craig

December 20: Chuck Adamski

December 27: Jessica Muslin

GREETERS

December: Linda Duganich
Sallie Alviani

NURSERY

December 6: Janice Angelo

December 13: Christina Murdock &
Jess Muslin

December 20: Brittany Smith

December 27: Kristen Nan



Save the date:
Women's Retreat - February 12, 13, 14
More details to come!

Christmas



Christmas is the LIGHT that burns eternally. It is a glow that warms the hearts of people wherever the message of "Peace on earth to those of good will" is believed.

Christmas is PEACE in a world where people have been alienated from each other by hatred and jealousy.

Christmas is JOY of fellowship, of giving, of sharing, of lifting, of caring and of being what Christ wants us to be.

Christmas is FORGIVENESS, the time for fresh beginnings, a time to right the wrongs of yesterday.

Christmas is GIVING to those who cannot give to us. It is visiting the neglected, lifting the fallen, giving hope to the hopeless, assuring victory to the defeated, living the spirit of good will to all humankind.

Christmas is SURRENDER of one's life to Christ in renewed dedication, which makes Christ the Lord of our Lives.

A Night in Bethlehem

Ready to take your family back in time? Want to make some family memories you will treasure forever? And would you like to have a blast as you do it?



Then reserve Friday, December 11th for a Night in Bethlehem!!!! The doors open at 6:00 PM And we'll keep the city gates open until 8:00 PM. At the Ohio United Presbyterian Church, 1236 Longvue Ave. Hopewell.

As soon as you set foot inside, your family will travel back to ancient Bethlehem. You'll taste, see, and smell what daily life was like when Jesus was born.

There's something for everyone!

There's a special Jewish Family Home where everyone is invited to have a snack after a stroll through the nearby Marketplace. There you will enjoy making crafts, hearing stories, and experiencing what life may have been like over 2000 years ago. And of course, you will get to greet Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus!!!! Bring your whole family. At a Night in Bethlehem, the more, the merrier! Encourage your children to bring a friend, and leave your wallet at home. For more information see our website: ohiopresbyterian.org