

Caton United Methodist Church
News & Happenings
11186 Hedy Hollow Road
Corning, New York 14830

December 2009

Issue 11

Rev. Beth Bouwens, Pastor
Church (607-524-6715) catonumc@juno.com www.Catonumc.org bbouwens@stny.rr.com

Prayer & Praise: 9:00am Sunday School: 9:20am
Traditional Worship: 10:30am

Our mission at the Caton United Methodist Church is to be a Christ-centered community,
focused on revealing God's love and inviting others to know Jesus Christ.

Putting Jesus at the center!

As I write this note for the December newsletter, I am in Nigeria with temperatures in the 90's. Yes, that might sound really good with frost on the ground and perhaps a bit of snow as you read this in New York. I'm thinking about what it is like to celebrate Christmas in the country that is hot and "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas."

We get so accustomed to our world and how we live out our day to day lives we can forget that most of the people in the world have a very different way of life. We begin to evaluate others by what we have or how we do one thing or another. We become the center of the world and judge others by our standards. We must take time to evaluate what is really important to us and make time for that to happen. As we approach this Christmas season, I encourage you to put Jesus in the center of your preparation.

I realize that celebrating Christmas has nothing to do with the weather. It has nothing to do with western commercialism and boosting the economy. **Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ.**

During the month of December, I invite you and your family to put Jesus at the center of your lives. Remember that God has given us the greatest gift--the gift of love through Jesus Christ. At Christmas we give the gift of love. This gift is not about buying presents and filling our homes with material goods. It is about showing our love to one another. How precious it would be to spend an evening with our families—rather than out shopping!

What a celebration to take the time to hear what is happening in each other's lives. Perhaps the house is not all decorated, but you have sat down at the table to give God thanks and eat together with your family. Love is about giving some of ourselves, our time!

This hymn comes to mind when I think of the greatest gift of love, Love came down at Christmas.

**Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.
Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.**

Looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ with all of you!

Pastor Beth

CONTACT PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Beth Bouwens
607-524-6551

Lay Leader Myrna Hawbaker
607-524-6350

Trustees Chair Brad Hinman
607-962-7688

Office/Newsletter Dianna Hawkins
607-523-8893

Church Council Chair Joan Haussener
607-524-6784

Staff Parish Relations Committee Kathy Force
607-524-6120

Prayer & Praise Bob Blanchard
607-733-2982

Prayer Concerns Iva Jenkins
607-524-8429

Prayer Chain Lillian Crossley
607-524-6110

Outreach & Food Pantry Bob Lord
607-962-5539

Small Groups Nancy Huber

Coordinator 607-936-8355

Elementary Youth Carol Barner
607-524-6864

Middle & High School Coordinator Eric Coons
607-734-0446

Caring Team Martha Harder
607-524-6391

United Methodist Women Emma Mosch
607-937-8157

Finance Don Haussener



(607-524-6715)

Monday & Wednesday 9-Noon

Friday Noon-3

Church Council News

For your information, the minutes from the Church Council are now on the Web Site.

Included in the minutes are decisions of the Church Council and various items that the committees are working on. To access go to catonumc.org. Pull down menu "Info Center" Click 2009 Council then click on the month you want to view.

If you would like a paper copy of the minutes, please contact the church office.

Joan Haussener



607-524-6784

Given By:

Joan & Don Haussener
Fran Allen
Phil & Lois Crooker
Phil & Lois Crooker
Marsha Finley
Mort & Patti Gridley
Don & Joan Haussener

In Memory of:

Gabriel William
Durwood Hopkins
Durwood Hopkins
John Dunn
Durwood Hopkins
June Carlson (90)
Durwood Hopkins



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

We need Bell Ringers as part of our Church's effort to help the Salvation Army in their fund raising for the needy,

If you can give as little as half an hour of your time ringing the kettle bell it will go a long way in helping raise the badly needed funds for the Salvation Army. This year we have the following time slots and some half hour segments are still available.

Sign up sheets are in the foyer of the Church:

Saturday December 5th Centerway Square
10AM - 2PM Thanks to everyone who signed up.

Saturday December 12th Wal-Mart Painted Post
10AM - 4PM

Saturday December 19th Wal-Mart Painted Post
4PM - 6PM.

On Saturday December 19th our Sr High youth will be ringing the bells at Wal-Mart Painted Post from 6PM to 8PM.

All times are broken down to 1/2 hour segments. Sign up today to lend a hand and you will see your friends and neighbors while ringing the Salvation Army Bells.

By ringing the Salvation Army bell your family helps families in our area have a **much happier Christ's Birthday.**

Invitation from the Prayer and Praise Worship Team

Do you remember in last month's newsletter article about how many parts it takes to bring into being each week's Prayer and Praise Service?

Applications are now being accepted from those interested in being a part of planning, preparing, or participating in this service, that have any of the gifts listed below.

- #1. The most important gift necessary is the love of the Lord and an eagerness to learn and to work together for the good of all people especially for the glory of God.
- #2. Planning or scheduling
- #3. Playing an instrument, singing or dance.
- #4. Writing/acting in plays, skits or puppet shows.
- #5. Preparing and presenting a message that with God's blessing will surely touch someone.
- #6. Some computer skills, with a minor in Power Point or other presentation program.
- #7. Preparing coffee and snacks and hanging out in Fellowship Room greeting those coming in.

REMEMBER, the most important gift necessary is the love of the Lord and an eagerness to learn and to work together for the good of all people especially for the glory of God.

Other than the God part your commitment can be as large or small as you care to share.

For more information talk to (alphabetically):
Bob or Mary Jane Blanchard, Pastor Beth Bouwens, Larry Blanchard, Michelle Fitzsimmons, Kathy Force, Patti or Mort Gridley, Jen Hatch, Brad Hinman, Nancy or Dave Huber, Nancy or Dave Johnson, Rev. Mark Robinson, Barb Snyder, Gary or Jan Smith, Sharon Nutting, Jessica Teeter or Lucretia West.

No paper applications accepted only the willingness and the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

By the way Merry Christmas to all

In His Service
Bob Blanchard

Called in a New Direction

This next year the North Central New York Conference of the United Methodist Church (which includes the Caton UMC) will join with other United Methodists in upstate New York to form a new Annual Conference. Kristen Dart, a member of the New Act Team writes about the Vision and Purpose of the new conference.

Advent is a time of joy, hope, anticipation and waiting. Just as the birth of Jesus calls us to live in a new way, our new conference is calling us to do church in a new way.

We are called to do church beyond our buildings. **Our vision statement: “To Live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and God’s love with our neighbors in all places”** is our goal. We want each church and each person to be living examples of God’s presence. Our vision statement encourages us to evaluate everything we do as individuals and as church communities by asking: “Is this an act of loving kindness?” Our purpose statement provides areas of focus for how we will represent God’s love to each other, the communities around us and the people of our world. It encourages churches to look outside of their doors and think outside of the box. There are no how-to’s in either of these statements. We hope that they spark ideas in you! People may start a new ministry, rethink budgeting, rethink programming, and meet new people within and outside their church walls. They’re meant to stir action! During this advent season you are invited to read and reread these statements. Sit with them, think about them, and then may they move you to put them into practice.



Imagine the people of God in Upstate New York:

*Living the gospel of Jesus Christ...
Being God’s love with our neighbor in all places*

Imagine the people of God in Upstate New York:
*Growing in our relationship with God,
Being nourished by vibrant spiritual practices,
Speaking the truth in love
Developing Christ-centered and spirit-empowered
leadership, both lay and clergy
Trusting in God’s abundance and guidance*

Imagine the people of God in Upstate New York:
*Being the body of Christ within the world,
Becoming a community where people WANT to be
showing hospitality by welcoming, engaging and
serving in love with neighbor
Being transparent in word and deed
Embracing diversity in age, ethnicity, geography,
gender, race*

Imagine the people of God in Upstate New York:
*Living in the way of Jesus Christ
Opening to new ways of being and doing Church
Trusting the ambiguity and messiness of change
Seeking courage to take risks
Connecting with one another and the world
Making decisions and planning with prayerful
discernment
Transforming the work of the Church into an act of
worship.*

Thanks to Rev. Fred Kelsey

The Caton United Methodist Church members have been blessed by Rev. Kelsey during the four months that Pastor Beth was in Nigeria. His lively sermons challenged us to go deeper in our faith. His many home visits were a breath of fresh air. Rev. Kelsey’s encouraging words can be heard as we walk throughout the church, “You are a vital, growing church! Keep up the good work!”

Thank you Rev. Kelsey for sharing your love for Christ, your joy of serving the Lord, your listening ear and your kind, compassionate self with us. Our journey is richer because we have traveled together.



Small Group News

There is a group of women who meet each Wednesday at 10:00 to study and discuss the Upper Room Devotional. We read the scripture and talk about what the Bible and also the devotional means to us. Each week is a different devotional so please come even if it will be your first time. You won't be behind.

The men met on Nov. 28 for breakfast. The next meeting for them is Dec. 19 at 9:00 at Renee's.

They are available to help out with some small projects for those who find it difficult to do things.

If you do have a small project that you'd like help with please call the church or send a note with your name and details of what you need. They have some exciting ideas for January and February. Ask Dave Huber or Bob Thompson about them if you missed the breakfast.

A new group of "Sisters" is planned to begin the month of January. This is a series of studies about the women in the Bible and how they relate to us, as women of today. Dates and times will be posted soon.

The group of Living Fully, Dying Well has ended. Thank you Rev. Kelsey for leading that interesting group.

Small groups are a great way to get to know each other as people. Please join in. We can have singles groups, couples groups, adult groups, dinner groups, family groups and many other types of groups. If there is a group you want to see happen, or if there is a one you would like to lead please call Nancy Huber 936-8355 or e-mail me at NLHUBER@stny.rr.com or see me at church.

Nancy Huber



U.M.W. NOTES

For the December 14th meeting, we will be packing 6 baskets for Christmas giving. For the program bring a Christmas reading and a ½ dozen cookies.

Emma Mosch had our annual UMW program entitled, "The World Thank Offering". This offering, which we all contribute to, is given each year to the UMW Global Ministries.

We elected new officers for 2010 and they will be installed at our January 11th meeting. The new officers will be as follows:

Connie Powell	President
Pat Robbins	Secretary
Mary Jane Blanchard	Communication
Emma Mosch	Treasurer

Iva Jenkins

Jr/Sr High Youth Group

First I would like to extend a big thank you to; Pat and Kim Clark, Megan Clark, Marcia Ritter, Amy and Harriett for working so hard and chaperoning the Super-Bowl event last month. We had 29 youth attend the event, and scholarships for 7 of those to experience a night of fun with a message of God's love. On December 6th, we will be doing a service project for an area nursing home. Because we cannot go into these facilities because of the flu, we will do the projects at the church and I will take them there. On the 13th, we will be having a fun night. On Saturday the 19th, we will be ringing the bell at the Painted Post Wal-mart from 6-8pm. Come dressed warm! On the 20th we will not meet because of gathering the night before. We will not meet also on the 27th, as there will still be some family gatherings going on. Have a blessed Christmas!

Eric Coons

RONALD McDONALD HOUSES

There are 254 Ronald McDonald Houses through the world. These Houses supply for a low cost, housing much like a small hotel, to families visiting a child in a far away hospital. The Ronald McDonald Houses are supported by McDonalds Corporation, through the receiving of POP CAN TABS from the public. The more pop can tabs McDonalds receives the more funding the Ronald McDonald houses receive.

Some of our church family have a young relative in Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester. The parents of this child while being at the hospital have stayed at the Ronald McDonald house located near Strong Memorial.

YOU can help with the funding of Ronald McDonald houses without spending any funds.

When you are ready to recycle your pop cans, simply remove the tab on the top of the can and bring them to the foyer of our church.

These tabs will find their way to McDonalds to help with the financial support of all Ronald McDonald Houses.

You can make a difference by spending a small amount of time removing the tabs from your cans and bringing them to our Church foyer.

I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SMALL WAY TO HELP MY FELLOW MAN.

TURKEYS FOR THOSE IN NEED

Our Church gave 16 Turkeys to the “Pantry of Angels” for Thanksgiving dinner. Three area churches gave turkeys through the “Pantry of Angels” to those who would not have had a Thanksgiving dinner without this gift.

We thank all who could give and help those in need this Thanksgiving

FOOD PANTRY

The need for food to those in need in our Caton - Lindley area gets greater each month. Steuben County has the highest unemployment rate of all upstate Counties.

As we enter into the heavy heating months these people must make the hard choice of heating the home or putting food on the table for the kids! At the “Pantry of the Angels” (were our church’s items go) the November 19th Pantry had over 300 parents, grandparents and children present at Presho United Methodist Church. They received a monthly truck load of food items from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier.

The other three Food Pantries each month done by the “Panty of Angels” is food from what our church and other churches in the area give as well as very generous donations by Wegmans.

YOU can help feed those in real need by placing your items our shopping cart in the foyer, these items are taken to the “Pantry of Angels” by Frank and Emma Mosch.

Items most needed are:

Food:

Any type of canned meat, tuna fish, chili products, gravies of all types, canned vegetables, canned fruits any type of breakfast cereals, pasta and spaghetti sauces, peanut butter, jelly's of all types.

In need are soap products and paper products. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps.

Paper Products:

paper towels, paper napkins, toilet paper.

Soap Products:

laundry detergents, hand soaps, tooth paste and shampoos.

Should you forget to bring an item to church there is a basket in the cart for a small donation. \$1 goes a long way when purchasing food in volume.

IF you or someone you know is in need of food, paper or soap items, contact Kim Snyder ant the Food Pantry of Angels at 524 -7715.

THANK GOD EVERY DAY FOR WHAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN THIS LIFE.

Caton United Methodist Church
11186 Hendy Hollow Road
Corning, New York 14830

Advent and Christmas Happenings
Sunday worship at 9 am and 10:30 am
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services @ 7 pm & 11 pm

The family of Pastor Beth invites you to her 60th birthday party to be held January 1, 2010 @ the Cortland United Methodist Church, 734 State Route 222 in Cortland from 11am until???
Call 607-753-3923 for further information.

Caton United Methodist Church

DECEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		Choir Practice (7:00 PM)	Women's Study Group 10:00 AM	Prayer & Praise Band Practice (7:00 PM)		Salvation Army Bell Ringing (10:00 AM to 2:00 PM)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Prayer & Praise Service, 9:00 AM Traditional Service 10:30 am Sunday School (9:30 AM) Middle/High School Youth 6:30-8 pm	Elementary Youth Group (5:30- 7:00 PM) Praise Team (6:00 PM)	Senior Citizens Meeting (12:00 PM) Choir Practice (7:00 PM)	Women's Study Group 10:00 AM	Church Council Meeting 7:00 PM Prayer & Praise Band Practice (7:00 PM)		Salvation Army Bell Ringing (10:00 AM to 4:00 PM)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Prayer & Praise Service, 9:00 AM Traditional Service 10:30 am Sunday School (9:30 AM) Middle/High School Youth 6:30-8 pm	UMW Meeting (1:30 PM) Praise Team (6:00 PM)	Choir Practice (7:00 PM) Trustees Meeting (7:00 PM)	Women's Study Group 10:00 AM	Prayer & Praise Band Practice (7:00 PM)		UMM Breakfast @ Renee's (9:00 AM) Salvation Army Bell Ringing (4-6 PM) Salvation Army Bell Ringing (6-8 PM)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Prayer & Praise Service, 9:00 AM Traditional Service 10:30 am Sunday School (9:30 AM) Middle/High School Youth 6:30-8 pm	Elementary Youth Group (5:30- 7:00 PM) Praise Team (6:00 PM)	Choir Practice (7:00 PM)	Women's Study Group 10:00 AM	Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM & 11:00 PM		
27	28	29	30	31		
Prayer & Praise Service, 9:00 AM Traditional Service 10:30 am Sunday School (9:30 AM) Middle/High School Youth 6:30-8 pm	Praise Team (6:00 PM)	Choir Practice (7:00 PM)	Women's Study Group 10:00 AM	Prayer & Praise Band Practice (7:00 PM)		

