

GOOD NEWS from Christ Church



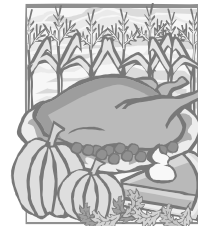
510 South Central Avenue, Laurel, Delaware

December 2009

Acres of Diamonds



A few days before Thanksgiving was a busy time at CUMC. Many helping hands were preparing vegetables, roasting turkeys, and setting up tables and chairs in Straughn Hall. Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, the doors were open to one and all who would like to partake in a delicious dinner and fellowship. I am told there were 54 people who attended; some who needed a good meal, some who had nobody to share the day with and some who just came to join in the occasion.



A big thank you to Marlene and Jeff Dulis, David and Beth Elzey and Pastor Donna and her family who organized this day. We should also say thank you to all who provided food and/or supplies for this day. It was truly a joyous afternoon for one and all.

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Remember to mark your calendars for **December 20**. That Sunday, during the 10:45 service, we will be presenting our cantata "**The First Christmas**".

There will be a social after the service so please plan to stay and join us.

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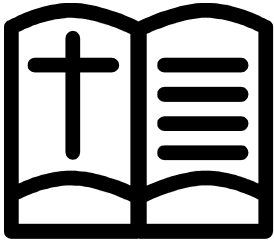
Just a reminder...our next issue will be mailed the end of January 2010. I can't believe this year is coming to an end. Seems like we just put out our first issue of 2009. But, with your help we shall move onward and upward in 2010. If you have anything you would like to have in the next issue, please hand it in by January 20th.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

OUR VISION STATEMENT

We are a Christ-centered family of believers committed to helping people relate to God in life-changing ways.

Following Christ's example, we aspire to spread the Good News by serving one another and by sharing God's love and hope with our community.



*From
the
desk of
Pastor Donna*

December - Comfort and Joy

"in the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be...unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

Hymn of Promise - United Methodist Hymnal #707

The season of Advent is once again upon us. Some of us greet it with joy, some of us greet it with a sigh, just kind of hoping to get through the Christmas season this year.

Those of us who get excited about the holiday season have no trouble finding the joy in the season most of the time. We see the bright, beautiful lights, hum the familiar carols that are playing in all the stores and see a kindness in people's attitudes that seems to be missing the other eleven months of the year. Yet even these folks sometimes have a blue day, a day when the music seems hokey, the lights too garish, the smiles too forced. On those days we need more comfort than joy.

Then there are those of us who need a lot more comfort this holiday season. We remember holidays with dysfunctional families and dashed expectations. Or we see the empty chair that was occupied by a loved one in years past and we seek to find a new tradition that doesn't hurt so much, while honoring the traditions that remind us of all we love. We're not expecting joy.

But God has a way of bringing us both comfort and joy when we least expect it. Whether our blues last only a few hours or through the whole season, we need to remember the hope that Christmas is all about.

Even in the midst of a "blue Christmas" the hope of God's love and light brought to us on Christmas in Jesus Christ can sustain us. God's comfort comes to us as we reflect on a Creator God who knows us and loves us. God's joy comes to us in the renewing and recreating Spirit of God's grace offered to us daily. Allow the gift of Jesus to bring you hope for a joy-filled new year.

"Just remember in the winter, far beneath the bitter snows, lies a seed that with the sun's love in the spring becomes the rose." *The Rose* by Bette Midler

This holiday season may God's comfort and joy surround you and sustain you.

In Faith,

Pastor Donna

UMW CHRISTMAS DINNER



Our UMW Christmas Dinner will be held December 8th at 6:00 PM at St. Phillip's Church. Cost of dinner is \$14.00. There is a sign-up sheet in Straughn Hall; if you plan to attend please sign up. We will need to have a count to give St. Phillip's for the number of dinners to be prepared.

Also, please bring gifts for People's Place (for abused women and children).

Mark you calendars for this date and come and enjoy the fun and fellowship shared.

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2010 BAZAAR MEETING

There will be a short meeting on Thursday, January 14th at 7:00 PM in the Miracle House. We want to set the date for next year's bazaar and discuss ideas for what we would like to do. Please submit any ideas for craft projects to Marti Seal or Bill Nack.

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THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Every year CUMC puts together food baskets for those in need. This year there were baskets delivered.

We thank everyone who contributed food for these baskets and all who helped put them together and deliver them.

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POWER POINT/SOUND BOARD:

Help is needed for power point and sound board. Please contact Jeff Dulis or Clint Nack if you are interested.

No experience is necessary and commitment can be just one Sunday a month.

ANGEL TREE



We once again have an angel tree with names of children who are in need of gifts for Christmas. It is in Straughn Hall and we hope you will help us to fulfill the wish of some child by taking a name from the tree, purchasing a gift and placing it beneath the tree.

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CONDOLENCES

We offer our thoughts and prayers to Lucy Lutz and her family. Al passed on November 8th and is surely missed.

Also, prayers and thoughts for Steve & Judy Vickers and family. Steve's father passed on November 14th.

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SUPPORT A SOLDIER

Bryan Dykes and Steph Harp are currently serving overseas and needs our support. Please send them a note or card to let them know we are thinking about them.

Bryan Dykes
PRT Bagram
APO AE 09354

and:

Steph Harp
380 ESFS/S30VSA
APO.AE 09853

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The most important part about "Christmas" is the first six letters!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- Bell Choir Practice:** Monday evenings, 7:00 PM
- Praise Team Practice:** Tuesday evenings, 5:30 PM
- Weight Watchers:** Wednesday evenings, 5:30-6:30 PM
- Choir Practice:** Every Wednesday, 6:30 PM
- Men of Faith Breakfast:** First Saturday of every month
- Soup Social:** Every Tuesday, 5:30 PM
- UMW Christmas Dinner:** Thursday, December 8, 6:00 PM, St. Phillip's
- Board Meeting:** December 17, Miracle House, 7:00 PM
- Christmas Cantata:** December 20, 10:45 AM
- Christmas Day:** December 25
- Fundraiser, F.O.G., Pizzeria:** December 28, 5:00 PM
- New Year's Day:** January 1, 2010

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THANK YOU

We would like to thank you for all the prayers, telephone calls, cards, food, and thoughts which have been extended on our behalf. You never know how much it means until you are on the receiving end. Thank you so much for all you've done. We really appreciated all your efforts.

Lucy Lutz & Family

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THE PERFECT GIFT: A HUG!

- Relieves Tension
- Improves Blood Flow
- Reduces Stress
- Non-Polluting
- Helps Self-Esteem
- Generated Good Will

- No batteries required
- Absolutely no cost
- Non-taxable
- Silent performance
- Extremely personal
- Full returnable

CHATTER HATTERS RED HAT GROUP:

November found 10 of our Red Hatters enjoying a delicious lunch at Zia's in Salisbury. Fran Muir was our hostess for the month and, as always, there was fun and fellowship.



December will find us with many other Red Hat groups at Serendipity for a Christmas buffet. We are looking forward to seeing and meeting other groups for a fun time.

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FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR:

If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar for any Sunday, please contact:

Carole Lynch
875-3261

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SOUP SOCIAL

Interested in helping with the Soup Social that is being held every Tuesday? Just show up and lend a helping hand; there is always something you can do. This has been a great success. David Elzey has taken on this ministry and it is continuing to grow. Soup is served at 5:30 PM

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CAT'S MEOW

We have a supply of the Cat's Meow plaques representing our church which have been donated to CUMC. Please see Pastor Donna if you would like to purchase one or they will be available in the church office.

They are available for \$25.00 each and the proceeds will benefit the Scholarship Fund.

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It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church was looking over the cradle when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures. Immediately he turned and went outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

So he walked up to the boy and said, "Well, where did you get Him, my fine friend?"

The little boy replied, "I got him from the church."

"And why did you take Him?" The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus and I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give him a ride around the block in it."

SCRAPBOOKING DEMO

We are looking into having a demo for those who might be interested in learning to scrapbook. There is a sign-up sheet in Straughn Hall. If you are interested please let us know. It will depend on the number of those who would like to do this whether it will be worth setting a date.

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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please notify Judy Vickers of all meetings and their times, so they will appear in the church bulletin. Deadline for these announcements is Wednesday.

Please call Judy at 875-4306 or email judy_vickers@hotmail.com

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OUT OF THE LOOP?

Are you missing our prayer chain requests or email devotions? If so, contact Judy Vickers to update addresses.

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LAY VISITATION TEAM:

The Lay Visitation Team needs a few more people to visit the sick, the bereaved and many of those on our prayer list. We also need some help to take Holy Communion to those in nursing homes or our home-bound.

Come be "the hands and feet of Christ".

Call Janet Walker at 875-7677 or 229-8177.

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DIAL DAILY DEVOTIONS

Pastor Donna has revitalized Dial Daily Devotions. Give our DDD number - 875-4309 to your friends and watch for your e-mails.



CHRISTMAS FACTS
(True or False)

1. The Wise Men came from the East to Jerusalem.
2. The shepherds saw the star over Bethlehem.
3. The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph.
4. Joseph went up from Galilee to Nazareth for the census.
5. The Wise Men found the babe lying in a manger.
6. The father of John the Baptist was Zacharias
7. The angel appeared to the Wise Men on their journey.
8. Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms.
9. Herod asked the Wise Men where the child should be born.
10. Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth.
11. Julius Caesar issued the decree in order to tax the "whole world".
12. The prophet Malachi foretold that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of Messiah.
13. An angel warned Joseph to take Mary and the baby Jesus to Syria.
14. Anna was a prophetess in the temple at Jerusalem.
15. The Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
16. There was no room for Mary and Joseph in the Bethlehem inn.
17. The shepherds knelt and worshiped the baby Jesus.
18. The city of David was called Bethlehem.
19. Immanuel means "He shall save His people from their sins.
20. The star of the Lord shone down on the shepherds on the hillside.

(Answers on Page 8)

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY:



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY:



- Dec. 2 Carley Lynn Hastings
Taylor Larmore
- 5 Steve Walker, Jr.
John Whitby
- 10 Jim Bradley
- 11 Bill Baker
Lynn Irwin
- 12 Kevin Muir
Dale Guy
- 14 Steve Vickers
- 16 Cindy Mitchell
Enoch Swartz
- 17 Alison Stauffer
- 20 Mike Lowe
- 21 Lois Hartstein
- 22 Victoria Walker
- 23 Walter Littleton
Ashley Pugh
Bobby Truitt
- 28 Travis Larmore
- 31 Galen Queen

- Jan. 1 George Bradley
- 4 Shaughn Rubino
Judy Vickers
- 6 Karla Walker Gomez
- 7 Billy Hastings
- 9 Michael Matthews
- 14 Chip Guy
Gordon Hearn
- 15 Ashley Gshwandtner
- 16 Tom Wright
- 17 Adam Lewis
- 18 Genetta Dykes
Cheri Watts
- 20 Dean Minton
Josh Rubino
- 21 Ruth Matthews
George Todd
- 22 Joyce Baker
- 23 Reagan Stauffer
- 24 Shari Benson
Jason Wedding
- 27 Joanne Brittingham
- 28 Pat Duncan

- Dec. 8 M/M Bruce Farrelly
- 16 M/M Bob Blake
- 23 M/M Walter Littleton

- Jan. 7 M/M Olan Matthews
- 17 M/M Billy Hastings

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DELAWARE LAUNCHES 2-1-1 PHONE
SERVICE

The 2-1-1 service links callers to service providers who can assist with such issues as rent assistance, food banks, affordable housing, health resources, mental health resources, child care, after-school programs, and much more.

2-1-1 calls are answered by staff trained to assess callers needs quickly and refer them to the most appropriate assistance. It is available 8:00 AM-8:00 PM Monday-Friday.

All landline phone carriers are now linked to the 2-1-1 network, there are some cell phone carriers who are not yet linked. Persons having difficulty reaching the 2-1-1 service are encouraged to call 1-800-464-HELP.

The 2-1-1 service is offered by Delaware Helpline with support from United Way of Delaware, the State of Delaware and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which is administered by First State Community Action.

IMPORTANT: The 2-1-1 number is NOT a replacement for 9-1-1. Remember to use 9-1-1 for life and death emergencies.

PRAVER LIST AND HOMEBOUND:

Prayer List: Sarah Bayley & Family, Teresa Bozman, Timothy Bozman, Bernice Brittingham, Jay Brittingham, Stacy Davis, Marlene Dulis, Marie Dickerson, Bill Fischbeck, Alana Foskey, Richard Foster, Helen Goodman, Pastor Don Hagen, Calvin Hearn, Mary Lou Higgens, Barbara Hodges, Isabella Rose & Family, Anna Joyner, Betty King & Family, Blaize Lantana, Alice Layton, Richard Layton, Terry Layton, Robert Lemin, Rose Lemin, Walter Lipincott, Sr., Elaine Lynch, Dot Murphy, Bill & Deanna Nack, Debbie Nack, Conner Nibblett, Cathy Parker, Donna Parker, John Phillips, The Porches' Family, Audrey Russell, Enoch Swartz, Tierno Seymour, The Spicer Family, Rosemary & Bill Sudduth, Chelsea Marie Vogel, Ruth Walker, Shane Warrington, Janice & John Whitby, Betty & Carl Wilkins, Mary Wilson, Tom Wright, Men of Faith, UMW, Our Sunday School & Church, N.U.T.S. & F.O.G., Our Troops & Families, Unsaved Loved Ones, Bishop Peggy Johnson, DS Boyd Etter, Pastor Donna Hinkle, Pastor Julie Lewis, The Leaders of Our Nation, Unspoken request.

Nursing Home Residents:

Jackie Fooks, Arvalene Hitchens, Margeurite Lloyd, Margaret Walls, Martha Windsor

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NEW WEB SITE FOR CUMC:

We have a new web site:

www.christumclaurel.org.

Pastor: Pastor Donna Hinkle
Editor: Betty Ringrose
Staff: Fran Muir
Shirley Sommers
Joanne Brittingham
Historian: Bruce Farrelly

Answers to "Christmas Facts"

- 1. True (Matthew 2:1)
- 2. False (Matthew 2.2; Luke 2:8-20)
- 3. True (Matthew 1:20; 2:13, 19)
- 4. False (Luke 2:4)
- 5. False (Matthew 2:11)
- 6. True (Luke 1:67)
- 7. False (Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:9)
- 8. True (Luke 2:25-28)
- 9. False (Matthew 2:5-7)
- 10. True (Luke 1:40)
- 11. False (Luke 2:1)
- 12. False (Micah 5:2)
- 13. False (Matthew 2:13)
- 14. True (Luke 2:36, 37)
- 15. True (Matthew 2:11)
- 16. True (Luke 2:7)
- 17. False (Luke 2:16-20)
- 18. True (Luke 2:4)
- 19. False (Matthew 1:21-23)
- 20. False (Luke 2:9)

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A little girl had asked for a watch for Christmas. She constantly begged her parents for a watch until they said, "If you mention it once more, you surely won't get it." During family devotions that evening, each person was to recite a Bible verse in turn, and when it came to the little girl's turn, she said, "What I say unto you, I say unto all. Watch". (Mark 13:37)

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Church Phone Numbers

Church 875-4233
Dial Daily Devotion . . 875-4309
FAX 875-8201

Pastor's Phone Numbers

Parsonage 280-6254
Pastor's Cell 228-6193

WEB PAGE

www.christumclaurel.com
www.gb-gm-umc.org/cumc-laurel