



# THE FAITHFUL NEWS

CHURCH PHONE 812-282-6993  
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*"Faithful Lutherans sent by Christ to  
serve God's children"*

DECEMBER, 2006



## PJ'S JOTS

PASTOR JOHN

Geetings Sisters and Brothers,

Last month I shared with you an article from Alban Institute concerning congregational leadership and their responsibility. This month Alban has offered another article on congregational leadership and after reading it felt it was a follow on and want to share it with you as the Congregation will be electing 5 new members to the Council in January. I hope you find it informative.

### Expanding the Leadership Circle - **Patricia Hayes**

Most congregations dramatically underutilize their leadership gifts. Stagnation of the leadership circle is neither healthy nor inevitable, and it does little to encourage the creativity that moves us toward God. Here are some ideas for expanding your leadership circle.

### Reflect on the Current Leadership

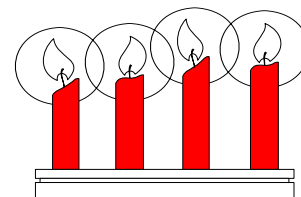
Begin with the current leaders. Reflection on church leadership is often left to a nominating committee, but there is work that precedes recruitment. Take your current leaders on a one-day prayer retreat built around the following three inquiries.

1. First, ask the leaders to reflect on what serving as a congregational leader has meant to them. Has it changed their lives? Why do they do it? What skills did they come with? What skills did they need? How would being a congregational leader enrich someone else's spiritual journey? How can current leaders share what their service means to them with the congregation and let members of the congregation know what they need from them?
2. Next, consider the leadership circle. Who is included? Who is missing? Look to see how well the genders and various age groups, viewpoints, and ethnicities are represented among the current leadership, as well as length of membership and ways of living one's faith.

Lastly, use your findings to create a plan to expand the leadership circle. Consider, for instance, what avenues the congregation provides for education and enrollment into leadership roles and who is best positioned to do this work or needs to be positioned to do this work.

### Make Leadership Visible

Keep in mind that people will not volunteer for what is invisible to them. When church school teachers talk and write about why they find spiritual renewal in a class of second graders, more people sign up to teach. When clergy speak about what is sustaining in ministry, others consider their call. When congregational leaders make visible ways to be engaged in congregational life, people step up to leadership. So take some steps to increase the visibility of the congregation's leadership: Publish testimony in the church's newsletter about what it means to be a congregational leader, and include these testimonials and "how-to-get-involved" information in your newcomer packet. Ask congregational leaders to speak at new member classes, at church dinners, and at other gatherings, and encourage them

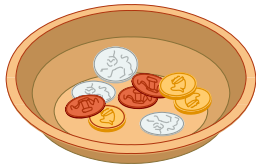


### Advent Activities:

- Dec. 2 WELCA Christmas Cookie Exchange
- Dec. 3 Advent Begins
- Dec. 10 Congregation Budget Meeting following worship
- Dec. 17 Cantata "The Gifts of Christmas"
- Dec. 19 WCS Program (10:00 am)
- Dec. 24 9:15 Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

## FINANCE MATTERS

PEG GERNAND



A sincere thanks goes out to everyone involved with the planning of Consecration Sunday and all of the Council members for their help with the Celebration Dinner. Our speakers, John Taylor, Virginia Klemens and Patty Cress, were all wonderful and gave their own unique definition of giving because God has blessed us with so many wonderful gifts. The risk you run in repeating a stewardship program two years in a row is that people get tired of the same message. In my opinion, the message of giving back to God what he has so freely and generously given to us is never an old message; it is always timely.

All of the members of Faith Lutheran are to be praised and patted on the back for their participation in this

year's stewardship program. I know that time and talents weren't talked about a lot, but in the coming months during the time we are calling our new pastor and in the time right after we welcome a permanent pastor, your time and talents will become very important. It takes all of us doing whatever we can to keep our church ministries going strong and in the meantime, we appreciate Pastor John's leadership and direction. Out of the possible 83 contributing households on our active list of members, 62 households made a pledge for 2007, amounting to \$171,550. Out of the re-

maining 21 households, 12 households are projected to contribute \$13,957, giving us a grand total of \$185,507 in projected income for 2007. That is an amazing number!!! Thanks to all of you for all of your past and your present contributions to the ministries at Faith Lutheran Church in Jeffersonville, IN.

Please look for statements of contribution after the last Sunday in November and again after the end of 2006. As always, if there is anything on your contribution statement you don't understand or doesn't look right, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

The Call Committee has received paperwork on a candidate and is in the process of setting up an interview.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.

### Finance Recap Year to Date October 31, 2006

Receipts (less designated)	\$144,933.70
Income required to meet budget	<u>151,140.00</u>
Total year to date income to budget	(6,206.00)
Interest from CD	<u>1,198.00</u>
Total above (below) budget	(\$ 5,008.30)

## PJ'S JOTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

to share the value of their leadership experiences in conversations with other members.

### Clarify Your Invitation

Before inviting members to serve as leaders, clarify what it is you are asking of them. Why is this an important activity for them to be involved in? What is the vision or possibility for this leadership task? What will be different if there are excellent people leading? What important change will it make? Keep in mind that potential leaders will respond more positively if you provide them with a clear description of what the job has

been in the past, how much of the leader's time it took, and what the current goals are. They may choose to do it all differently, but without some framework it will be hard for them to say yes to a request to lead.

### Support the New Leadership

Once you've found new leaders, take care of them. Provide them with a firm foundation through written guidelines and an orientation session, which provides a chance for leaders to meet one another, get a sense of who might partner on particular projects, and to share their hopes for their ser-

vice. It's also an opportunity to share the goals and focuses of the congregation as a whole.

In your written guidelines, consider covering topics such as how to monitor committee budget expenditures, how to keep the staff and the congregation in the loop, how to manage differences, and how to advertise a program for maximum participation.

Excellent leadership teams do not just happen, but with intention, coaching, support, and gratitude they can soar!

## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

DICK KLEMENS

Since the Call Committee was formally organized this past spring, we have received three candidates to consider.

After reviewing the first candidate's credentials and proceeding with a conference call, the committee and the candidate agreed that Faith was not the appropriate call for that candidate.

The second candidate was

invited to visit Faith, met with the committee and, while the committee was actively seeking the candidate, the candidate chose not to pursue the call to Faith.

The mobility papers for the third candidate were very delayed in receipt to the Synod office and the Call Committee has just met to review those documents and proceed

with scheduling an interview.

We are grateful for the spiritual and administrative leadership of Pastor Hawkins in the interim.

We are supported by the continued ministry of the people of Faith in the interim.

We ask for your continued prayers and support during this interim period.

The reflections of ministry in the congregation by the people of Faith continue to be a sign of our commitment to serve the people of God in this place.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the process of calling a pastor to join us in our ministry, please contact Marsha Woods, Council President, or Dick Klemens, Chairman of the Call Committee.

## PJ'S JOTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

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ing attribution: Source: *Alban Weekly* © 2006 The Alban Institute, Inc.

With a personal thought: Cathy and I would like to wish all a blessed celebration of the Birthday of our Sav-

ior, Jesus Christ and joyous beginnings to the oncoming new year, 2007.

## OWLS (OLDER WISER LUTHERAN SOCIETY) NANCY FALKENSTEIN

As the newsletter article must be submitted two or more weeks before the next month, last month, in October, I wrote an article for the November Newsletter, describing two OWLS events, a Halloween party for seniors at the Ken Ellis Center, and a Halloween party for OWLS, at the home of Edwina and Art Anderegg. I described both events in glowing terms, even though they had not yet occurred. Our OWLS group at the Andereggs had already read the article before the party. Am I psychic? No way! It is a mat-

ter of faith in God working through our wonderful OWL group! They always come through!

Our first event this month is on December 1st. We are meeting at Big Hopps Restaurant on Market Street in Louisville at 4:30 P.M. for dinner, then we are driving a few blocks to the Scottish Rite, where we will enjoy a tour of the facilities led by our own Jim Vogt, and a recital of the newly refurbished pipe organ, at 7:00 pm. Yes, I know we will have a good time!

On December 3rd, we are inviting any and all mem-

bers of Faith to join us in visiting, calling, or sending cards to our shut-ins, elderly, and members that we would like to see more often.

We are pursuing a project to obtain stained-glass window hangings for our church. We may be able to receive some hangings from Incarnation Lutheran Church, which are being stored at First Lutheran Church in Louisville. Otherwise, we have several leads to craftsmen who can create such hangings. A committee of OWLS, by the time you receive this newsletter, will have vis-

ited First Lutheran, looked at the hangings, and have a better idea of whether they might work for us. Whatever the results, we will make a report to the Council in early December. In the middle of December, we may enjoy a Christmas lunch together and visit our shut-ins with a Christmas surprise. Still in the works! Check our "bulletin board" at church for more details. A blessed Christmas to all of our Faith family from the OWLS!!

## PRAYER REQUESTS, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

We ask God's special healing for:

**Dot Clerici**  
**Betty Condra**  
**Hallie Kusch**  
**Patti Smith**  
**Kay Winn**  
**Roger Rice**  
**Barbara Morris-Nix**  
**Lisa Peter**  
**Walter Clive**  
**Betty Trusner**  
**Dennis Yellina**  
**Ron and Marilyn Thoreson**  
**Chuck Dolejs**

**Ron Barr**  
**Lu Wright**  
**Bob Deitrich**  
**Natalie Lane**  
**Val Polk**

Our prayers of comfort and support are with Roger Rice and his family as Louise entered eternal life November 7.

Our prayers are also with Mary Winn and her family at the passing of her mother, Rosa-Lee Eckert, in Houston on Nov. 7.

Our prayers join those of Steve, Kyle and Ashley Thoms that they find God's peace and comfort at the passing of Steve's mother, Frieda, who entered eternal life November 8.

Scott Wykoff and his family are also in our prayers at the passing of his grandmother, Marion Carpenter, November 4.

Our prayers for support and guidance continue for the members of the Call Committee as they con-

tinue the search for our new pastor.

If you are in need of the comfort of prayer please contact Pastor Hawkins at 812-282-6993 or one of the prayer chain leaders: Betty Condra (282-2102), Vivian Smith (288-8531) or Nancy Vogt (282-2014).



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY

*God's blessings to these December birthdays:*

Nichodemus Durham	12/4
Cassie (Lane) Berry	12/6
Will Cooke	12/8
Patty Cress	12/10
Tom Neathamer	12/10
Kay Winn	12/13
Trish Perry	12/13
Edwina Andregg	12/14
Betty Trusner	12/15
David Mitchell	12/16
Amy Holaday	12/17
Cheyenne Miller	12/17
Dawn Bye	12/18
Dana Glaab	12/18
Don Smith	12/21
Tami Czerwonka	12/22
Jake Zimmerman	12/23
Fred Czerwonka	12/25
Becky Hall	12/25
Carol Taylor	12/25
Tyler Winn	12/26

*We celebrate with these couples having December anniversaries:*

Kevin & Becky Hall	12/03
Mike & Donna Baugh	12/21
Travis & Nancy Arbuckle	12/27

If information is missing or incorrect on this list, please let Patti Smith know.



*Thanks to all my Faith family for your prayers, calls, cards and concern during my recent hospital stay.*

*God bless,  
 Barb Morris-Nix*

### Congregation Meeting to Adopt 2007 Budget

The meeting to adopt or adapt the budget for 2007 being proposed by the council will be held at the end of worship on Sunday, December 10.

Please make a note of this change of address for Roger Rice:

Riverbend  
 2715 Charlestown Pike  
 Jeffersonville, IN 47130

Thanks to the Hegenbarths for donating the rotating display for the name-tags and quiet bags.

## WELCA NOTES

### “Hope in God in Times of Suffering”

Remember to join us for our monthly Bible studies. Both circles are continuing to use the Bible studies found in the Lutheran Woman Today magazine that focus on how Christians deal with suffering.

### December Meeting Schedule:

**Joint Quarterly Meeting and Cookie Exchange** at Carrie McCoy's house 10 am on **Saturday, December 2.**

**Sunshine Circle** will meet **Wednesday, December 13,** at 10:00 am

**Wheadon Friendship Circle** meets at 7 pm **Tuesday, December 19,** at church.

### Loaves and Fishes Serving Dates:

Saturday, December 9

Please mark your calendar to help support this important community service project.



The holiday season is upon us and WELCA is busy supporting various activities this holiday season. We have agreed to sponsor several CLM baskets this year. You can help out CLM as well by bringing food to donate to these baskets. We also have our annual cookie exchange in which we prepare baskets of goodies for Faith's sick and shut-ins. There are Bible studies to attend, as well as the quarterly meeting. We hope to see you at some or all of these events!

Both circles will continue using the Bible study found in Lutheran Woman Today magazine titled *Hope in God in Times of Suffering*. Please do not worry if you do not have a subscription, there are always enough copies to share.

If you are interested in a subscription, please feel free to ask Carrie McCoy how to go about subscribing. As always, all ladies are welcome. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend one of the dates shown on the left.

With regard to our cookie exchange, please bring two dozen cookies or treats with you. We will use most of the treats to prepare goodie bags for Faith's sick and shut-ins, and share some among ourselves. There will be a short business meeting on this date as well. We will need to decide how to continue to support current projects, ensure we have altar guild volunteers for 2007, and discuss ideas for upcoming projects. We will need to start planning for the Lenten dinners as well. A

CARRIE MCCOY

light brunch will be served, so hopefully you have signed up to join us. It should be a great time to share fun, fellowship, and service with other women.

The Loaves and Fishes project continues to be supported by WELCA, though we would not be able to commit to this project without additional volunteers from the congregation. We are very grateful and appreciative for all your support of this worthwhile project. There is one more opportunity to volunteer this year. If you have not had the chance to volunteer yet, please keep Saturday, December 9 in mind.

## YOUTH NEWS

SARAH RIFE

**Big Thanks**, to everyone who helped prepare, serve and eat the food at our annual Turkey dinner. We fed 113 people, and we raised more than \$500!

The youth will be starting to sell t-shirts soon. The cost is \$10, and the colors are carolina blue, and light pink. The front design will be a cross with Faith Lutheran written across it, and the back design is a picture of the church. The money raised from the t-shirts will help fund the angel tree children that the

youth sponsor.

On December 10 the youth will be wrapping up all the angel tree gifts. On December 17 we will be ice skating at Iceland.

### Getting to know your youth

Jordan Emily is the son of Roger Emily and the late Cyndi Emily. He has an older brother, Josh, who teaches at Utica Elementary and an older sister, Jennifer, who lives in Texas and works as a journalist. He's 15 years old,

and is a big fan of basketball (especially IU). He's from Charlestown, Indiana, and his favorite food is fried rice.

Stephen Fox is a new member of the youth group. His parents are Harry and Sharon Fox, and his younger sister is Caitlyne. Stephen is 12 years old and is from Pennsylvania. He enjoys playing video games, and his favorite color is bluegreen. The thing he enjoys the most about church is being an acolyte.

## WEEKDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

CAROL TAYLOR



The children in weekday will be busy learning about the birth of Baby Jesus and acting out the story of his birth for their parents at 10:00 am on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. All of the classes will be planning a program of music and the story of Jesus birth. This will be the last day of school for 2006.

Immediately following the program there will be a birthday party for Baby Jesus complete with birthday cake and a candle. There will also be punch and presents for each of the children in the program.

During the month of December the children will learn the joy of making gifts for Mom and Dad in all of the art classes.

They will even make the wrapping paper for these gifts. While we were setting up for the turkey

dinner the other day, I overheard two fathers of our teens talking about the little log pencil holders their children had made while in pre-school. They were all proudly admitting that these simple Christmas gifts still had a place on their desks. What a neat way to continually tell a child that he is very important in your eyes and in his family.

Isn't this what Christmas is really about, the fact that God gave us the first great and wonderful gift, His Son Jesus, because of His love for us. Out of this loving gift we have learned to show our love to others by giving gifts to them. Hopefully we can help the children understand that the joy of Christmas is also in the giving as well as the receiving of Christmas gifts.

While reading an article

in a magazine the other day I ran across an article helping parents "deal with" Christmas. The article praised a parent who included God in the Santa story. She said, I tell my child that God is Santa's helper. He looks down and reports to Santa who is good and who does not deserve presents this Christmas. What could be further from the truth? This mother is turning a God who said, "Let the children come to Me" into a policeman for the season. I hope we can do better than that, and remember the gift God has given us this season and not teach children about a revengeful God, out to catch them being bad.

School will continue on Thursday, January 4, 2007

Please note this  
new phone number  
to reach Council  
President Marsha  
Woods  
502-645-4725

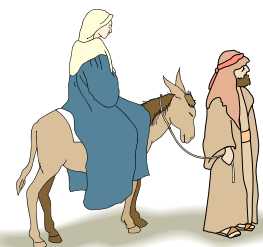
## The Christmas Story

Preschool Program

Tuesday, December 19, 2006

10:00 am

Followed by a birthday party for Baby  
Jesus



### LIBRARY NEWS

In November I attended a couple of this year's Festival of Faith's programs. For several years many faiths have gathered together in Louisville to share their various beliefs and traditions with others. This year's subject was death and dying. Although certainly not a cheerful topic, it's one that more people are talking about more openly than before.

The first program I attended was given by the best-selling author, Mitch Albom. Several of you have enjoyed reading *Tuesdays With Morrie* and *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. He has recently come out with another book titled *For One More Day*. It explores the question of what you would do if you could spend one more day with a lost loved one. Having read the other two, I look forward to reading this one too. A signed copy is available for

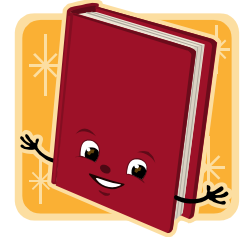
checkout in the Library.

The second program was an all day conference called "Saving a Dying Planet: A Call to Action". I listened to various people talk about the mounting problems of global warming, dwindling energy and available food resources, mountaintop removal, and loss of wildlife. It was alarming to hear Tom Barnes, UK professor and internationally published author, state that even though the United States covers only one fifth of the earth's surface, we use a third of all the electricity, which is way more than any other country in the world. Much of that electricity comes from cheap coal derived by leveling mountains, leaving behind a virtual desert. I don't think that was what our Creator had in mind when He created such beautiful landscapes. An author, a poet and a journalist present at the meeting, each told of how their lives were forever

NANCY THOMPSON

changed after touring some of these affected areas. Carl Pope, head of the Kentucky Sierra Club, summed up the day's discussion by saying that we now have the knowledge and the know-how to fix these problems. What we lack is the moral vision to do something about them.

This moral vision is where faith comes in. If churches of all faiths would join together to work on solutions, things could change for the better. I couldn't help but be encouraged as I sat there, watching and listening to representatives of all the major religions: Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and Native American. Each of them spoke of the differences and similarities of their belief systems, but with tremendous respect for others at the same table. What a wondrous thing it would be, if this same thing would happen all around the



world! Would there be something we could do here at Faith?

In the October issue of the Indiana-Kentucky Lutheran is an article about addressing social issues such as these. It recommends the book by Craig Nesson called *Give Us This Day: A Lutheran Proposal for Ending World Hunger*. I plan on purchasing a copy for the Library. If you are interested in reading it, let me know and perhaps we can get a group going for study and discussion.



### Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias will adorn the altar Christmas Eve.

To order, please complete this form (or one inserted in the bulletin in upcoming weeks), and place it along with your payment in the offering plate by December 10.

\_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias @ \$15 each

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of/In memory of

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Meijers and Kroger Rewards Programs

Did you know that Faith participates in rewards programs at both Meijers and Kroger? Those members who purchase from these stores can help raise funds for Faith by signing up for the programs.

The programs work differently, so please take time to inquire about them the next time you visit these stores.

If you have questions, especially with Kroger, see Edie Maas

It can really help!



## THRIVENT MAKES GIVING SIMPLE

If you're one of those people who find it easier to have your monthly payments automatically deducted from your checking or savings account, you're in for a treat! Thrivent's *Simply Giving* program allows EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) of your financial gifts to Faith Lutheran! You don't have to be a member of Thrivent to participate. You have complete control over the amount, the frequency and the date(s) your pre-authorized withdrawal is transferred to Faith's account.

The *Simply Giving* program is a reliable, safe way to share your gifts through planned giving and acti-

vates your generosity into ongoing stewardship. Because your gift is given consistently, you won't need to play "catch-up" at year end or worry about forgotten checkbooks or missed Sunday offerings. Your congregation benefits from a steady, more predictable revenue stream throughout the year, more efficient bookkeeping and greater confidence in meeting our financial commitments

Faith is given a report of each donation and it will be tracked on our computer system just as it is now.

There is no charge to participate for either members or Faith Lutheran. This

service is being offered as an option and a convenience to our members.

For more details, or to enroll, please contact Peg Gernand.

### December CLM

#### Focus:

SWEET POTATOES

PEARS

PEACHES

CRANBERRY SAUCE

PEANUT BUTTER

JELLY

STOVE TOP DRESSING

MACARONI & CHEESE

### CLM

In December the focus is all about our Christmas Basket Project. The mission is to provide food for a holiday meal and clothing and toys for needy families in Clark County.

We estimate that applications will be close to 600 family units this year. Many churches, businesses, and organizations ask CLM for referrals.

This year Faith's WELCA volunteered to take six of those Families and provide

their food. The children in those families and 20 other children from applications from CLM will be on our own Angel Tree here at Faith.

Thank you for your generous support and help in providing food, children's clothing and toys for those in need in Clark County.

### SUE NEATHAMER



Please return your gifts for the Angel Tree children by December 10, unwrapped. Please be sure to pin your angel to an item in the bag so it doesn't become separated from the gifts. Your support of the Angel Tree program to benefit CLM families is appreciated!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CAROL TAYLOR

Sunday school attendance has been holding steady, but we have not had any increase in the children's classes. We have had 5 different children in the youngest class, but never more than 2 or 3 at any one time. There have been 4 children in the k-4<sup>th</sup> grade group, but again the same thing. They never all get there on the same Sunday so in their eyes it seems as if they are still the only ones in class. It would be so great to find a way to solve this problem. Junior High averages 7 to 9 each week and the high school got as high as 10 students one week. Lyle Gernand is back teaching the No Experience Necessary class for the adults and average 17 or 18 most weeks. I sure wish more of those adults had some younger children!

The Christian Education Committee met in late November to plan an advent event in lieu of a children's program for this year. The choir asked for children to volunteer to help them with the cantata. Since many of the children will be involved in this it has been decided to not try to do another program involving the children in a second program.

We have a problem that we need help to solve. After church or other events at church there has been damage to some of the toys in the pre-school area. Several of the dolls have had their faces destroyed because someone drew mustaches on them with permanent magic marker. We have tried everything anyone has suggested, but nothing seems to remove the marks. We could look

at this as a one time event, but several weeks later the marker was used on a teaching poster and on the children's wreath on the pre-K door. Then on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> we found the doll high chair broken, splintered. These toys are used by the Weekday children twice a week, by the Sunday school children on Sundays, and by any child who is waiting for a parent who is in a meeting. These toys belong to all of you, but you would not like it if someone came into your home and did this. You would be upset. We as God's family are upset that it is happening in God's house. We need everyone's help. If you have seen destruction going on please tell them to stop. If you are a parent please check on your child periodically, and explain

to the children that we must share these toys and not destroy them. If your children have been playing in an area that might be affected, please make sure they put the items away before they leave. If we all keep our eyes open, it should put an end to this destruction. Thanks for your help and understanding.

The VBS writers are still at work. We have picked a water theme for next summer's program. There is still room for anyone who wants to help. The next group meeting will be held at 5:30 Wednesday, December 6. Some of the stories will include Noah and his Ark, Jesus choosing his disciples, Jonah and the whale and the creation story. It is shaping up to be a fun and educational week.

### Calling all Committee Chairs!

Committee Reports for the Annual Report are due by Sunday, December 31, 2006.

Please turn them in to Marsha Woods in hard copy or by email to [marshamw@msn.com](mailto:marshamw@msn.com)

Thanks!

### Christmas Eve Schedule

9:15 am    Sunday Church School  
10:30 am    Worship  
10:00 pm    Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MARSHA WOODS

As the calendar year comes to an end, the church year is just beginning, appropriately enough, with the season of Advent. This time of preparation takes on multiple meanings. Not only are we preparing to celebrate the birth of our savior, but we are also preparing ourselves as a church for the work we plan to undertake in the next calendar year.

You will find enclosed with this newsletter the budget for 2007 proposed by council for adoption by the congregation. The line items were prepared with the input from the various committees. This vote will take place at a meeting at the end of worship on Sunday, December 10. Please plan to attend this meeting. One of the benefits of the stewardship program we have recently completed is that we actually have an estimate of the income to expect in the coming year. I remember *many* years when we planned the budget literally on a wing and a prayer without any real idea of what our income might be. We always manage to make our budget, but the benefit of having actual numbers to work with is two-fold: it obviously allows for better planning, but more importantly, it says to anyone

who may be thinking of becoming a member or any candidate who may be thinking of coming here as our pastor that we are serious about our mission.

There may be a couple of items in the budget that raise a question or two. First, there is a line item to pay child care for the nursery. We have had several families visit with young children who have expressed disappointment that there is someone different in the nursery each week. They are concerned that their children are uncomfortable being left with someone whom they don't know. I have called around to several area churches and found that most are paying a nursery staffer along with a volunteer staffing their nurseries. This item was suggested by the Christian Education committee.

Another item is a new sound system in the worship center. Gordon McCall has done a yeoman's job trying to keep the current one going, but it isn't cooperating well. The system we are recommending comes from a credible source, offers longevity in terms of future use, including additional benefits such as the ability

to record a service and burn it to CD to take to our homebound members and assistance for the hearing impaired. It has the flexibility to allow the use of additional microphones for the choir, soloists, programs that involve the children, etc. There are funds in the Millie Hallman memorial that were to be used for capital improvements which can be used to pay for the system. If you have any questions about the budget before the December 10 meeting, please feel free to talk with me or any council member.

December 17 is the annual Cantata. This year we will add still life portrayals of the stories woven throughout the cantata. Thanks to Arlys Johnson for organizing this and to all those who are participating. Thanks, too, to Barb Brewster and all the choir members for their hard work and dedication to enhance our worship experience.

This year we will hold our regular Sunday morning schedule on Christmas Eve. In addition, we will have a 10 pm Candlelight Service.

We begin 2007 by preparing for our Congregation Annual Meeting, to be held Sunday, January 21, 2007.

The annual reports will be ready for distribution the week before so you can read over them before the meeting. We will act on the proposed bylaws at this meeting, elect five new council members and new church officers.

After reading the article Pastor shared in this issue, I began thinking about the challenge to share what serving as a congregational leader has meant to me. I can't even remember how many times I've served on council, and probably began as a member because no one else wanted to do it! I do know it's been a tremendous growth experience for me. I've called this church home since the mid-1970's and have been blessed to have made many dear friends and to have felt the love and support of my church family through life's peaks and valleys. Serving on council feels like a good way to show gratitude for my blessings by helping care for my Faith family and to do my part to ensure that we continue as a family focused on our mission.

Thank you all, and may God bless you warmly during this Advent and Christmas season!

DECEMBER

2006

# NEWSLETTER



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## SERVING AT FAITH WORSHIP SERVICES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

**USHERS: DENNIS JOHNSON, JOHN TAYLOR, RICK AND TERRI BARR**

**ALTAR GUILD: BARB BREWSTER AND MARSHA WOODS**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: SCOTT RIFE**

### WEEKLY ASSISTANTS:

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>ASSISTANT</u>	<u>ACOLYTE</u>	<u>CRUCIFER</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>SOCIAL</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
3	Katie Scott	Katie Rife	Sarah Rife	Vivian Smith	Taylors	Holmans
10	Marsha Woods	Matt Craven		Patti Smith	Thrivent	Andereggs
17	Cantata	Jordan Searcy	B. Searcy	Scott Rife	Fox	Campbell/ Zimmerman
24 (10 am)	V. Rife			Cathy Holman	Steaban	volunteer
25 (10 pm)	Harry Fox	Sammi McCoy	K. McCoy	volunteer	n/a	volunteer
31	Carol Taylor	Tyler Landis	J. Landis	?	Ed Peters	?