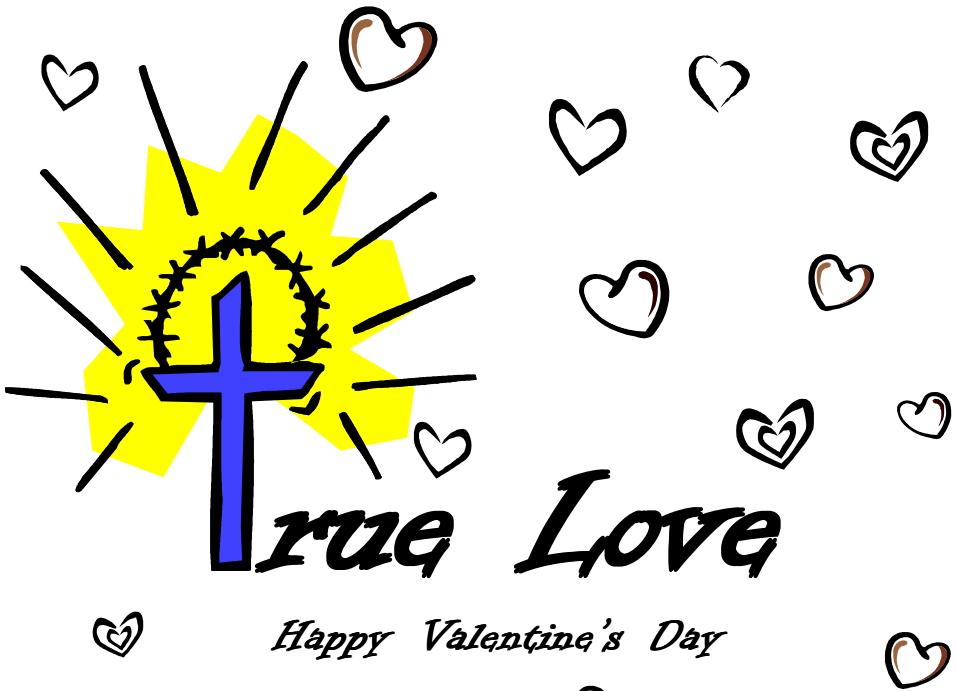




Volume 10 Issue 2

February 2010 newsletter of  
First United Church of Christ, Easton  
27 North 3rd St.

(Mailing address: 229 Church St., Easton, PA 18042)  
e-mail: [firstucc2@verizon.net](mailto:firstucc2@verizon.net) • [www.firstucceaston.org](http://www.firstucceaston.org)



February 2010

Join us Sunday  
mornings for...

Adult  
Sunday School at  
9:35 a.m.

Worship & Kids  
Sunday School at  
10:30 a.m. in our  
Sanctuary

Sunday School begins  
at 10:30 a.m. with the  
children joining us for  
the beginning of the  
worship service &  
proceeding to their  
classes after the  
announcements.

Wed., Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> is  
Ash Wednesday.  
We will hold our  
Pot-Luck Supper at  
6:30 p.m. & our  
Communion  
Service will begin at  
7:30 p.m.  
All Are Welcome!

## Pastoral Care

If you or someone you  
know is in need of  
Pastoral Care, please  
call Rev. William  
Wightman at  
610-252-8316.

Everyone is invited to  
all our worship  
services!  
(And bring a friend!)

## When Serving God, Listen to Your Heart

(From: *The Purpose Driven Connection*  
by Rick Warren)

*A man's heart reflects the man.*  
*Proverbs 27:19 (NIV)*

The Bible uses the term “heart” to describe the bundle of desires, hopes, interests, ambitions, dreams, and affections that you have. Your heart represents the source of all your motivations — what you love to do and what you care about most. Even today, we still use the word in this way when we say, “I love you with all my heart.”

The Bible says what is in your heart is what you really are, not what others think you are, or what circumstances force you to be (Proverbs 27:19). Your heart is the real you. It determines why you say the things you do, why you feel the way you do, and why you act the way you do.

Physically, each of us has a unique heart-beat. Just as we each have unique thumbprints, eye prints, and voiceprints, our hearts beat in slightly different patterns. It's amazing that out of all the billions of people who've ever lived, no one has ever had a heartbeat exactly like yours.

In the same way, God has given each of us a unique emotional “heartbeat” that races when we think about the subjects, activities, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively care about some things and not about others. These are clues to where you should be serving.

(Continued on page 10)

## Upcoming February Events...

**Sun., Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> - "SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" Soup Pot Collection, FOOD BANK SUN. & SCOUT SUN. ~ MORNING WORSHIP in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. Please bring a nonperishable food item or other household need to help restock ProJeCt's Food Pantry.**



**Our Youth will be at the doors following the service with Soup Pots to collect "Souper Bowl of Caring" donations for our local Soup Kitchen.**

**Please be generous!**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** with children & youth meeting in the Sanctuary for the beginning of worship at **10:30 a.m.**

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** at **9:30 a.m.**

**Nominating Committee Meets** following morning worship.

**Mon., Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> - Consistory meets at 7:30 p.m.**

**Sun., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> - Valentine's Day ~ MORNING WORSHIP in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** with children & youth meeting in the Sanctuary for the beginning of worship at **10:30 a.m.**

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** at **9:30 a.m.**

**DEADLINE for ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**



**Mon, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> - President's Day ~ DEADLINE: March Steeple News**

**Wed., Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> - ASH WEDNESDAY ~ Pot Luck Dinner in the Parlor - Gathering at 6:00, Super at 6:30, followed by our Communion Service beginning at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome at the Lord's Table & ours.**



**Sun., Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> - THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT ~ MORNING WORSHIP with Holy Communion, in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. DEADLINE for Daffodil Sun. orders**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** with children & youth meeting in the Sanctuary for the beginning of worship at **10:30 a.m.**

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** at **9:30 a.m.**



(February events continue on pg. 4)

(February events continued)

**Sun., Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent ~ Friendship Sunday ~ MORNING WORSHIP in the Sanctuary at 10:30.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** with children & youth meeting in the Sanctuary for the beginning of worship at **10:30 a.m.**

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** at **9:30 a.m.**

**FRIENDSHIP SUN.** fellowship & refreshment following the service.

**Wed., March. 3<sup>rd</sup> - CHRISTIAN WITNESS** meets **7:30 p.m.**

**Sat., March. 6<sup>th</sup> - Men's Club PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER**  
**4:30-7 p.m.**

## January Joys ...

On Sunday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, prior to morning worship, **Zachary Kristofer Sandt** was baptized. Please pray that the Lord will watch over, guide & protect him & his family & that he will grow to be strong & healthy physically & spiritually & be a beautiful blessing to this world & God's kingdom.



On Sunday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, we also welcomed two new members to our First Church Family - **Thelma Neely & Kay Fitzgerald**. We pray that their lives are blessed by being a part of this Church Family.



**In Case of Inclement Weather...** If we experience bad weather on a Sunday morning, we will make every effort to put an announcement about services on the church answering machine (610-258-3361). This can be done remotely & does not require someone to physically be at the office, so if there is a question, please call the office & listen to the message. If there is no message indicating services are cancelled, please assume that services will be held.



# “Souper Bowl” of Caring “Souper” Luncheon on Sun., Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> “Souper” Bowl Collection on Sun., Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>

We celebrate the Superbowl with 2 “Souper Bowl Sundays”!!!

**First...Our Annual “Souper Bowl of Caring” luncheon was held on Sun., Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>** following morning worship. We fed quite a few hungry & chilly souls with some warm soup & warm fellowship. We also collected numerous cans of soup, thank you all!

**Second...On the day of the Superbowl...Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>...we will hold our “Souper Bowl of Caring” collection.** The youth of our Congregation will again be participating by standing at the back doors of the Sanctuary with those large pots!! Hoping to fill them with your monetary donations. Please remember that ALL monies raised through these two Sundays goes directly to our local soup kitchen at Trinity Episcopal Church! Please be Generous!

***OH! Don't forget that it is also Food Bank Sunday on Feb. 7 so bring along a non-perishable food item or other household need (laundry detergent, toilet paper, etc.) to help re-stock ProJeCt's Food Pantry***



## Join us for Scout Sunday ~ Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Scout Sunday is February 7<sup>th</sup>. **All Scouts, whether Cub, Boy, Girl or Leader, are asked to wear their uniforms to church.** Some of our Scouts will speak a few words about their Scouting experience...what Scouting means to them... how they plan to continue in Scouting...or anything else they may wish to share! Please join us!



## Ash Wednesday ~ Pot Luck & Service Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>



Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Lenten season, is on February 17, and as always, we will be holding our Potluck supper before worship at 6:30. Bring a generous covered dish or dessert to share, and plan on joining us. Worship will follow at 7:30.



# Musical Notes

## Senior Choir



Our Senior Choir is a small group but we have lots of fun. **We practice 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings.** If you are interested in joining, no experience is necessary, please see Sheila. Everyone is welcome!

### Bell Choir

Our Bell Choir is now preparing for Easter & **beginning on Thurs., Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> we will be practicing at 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings.** Please see Sheila if you are interested in joining our Bell Choir. We will be happy to teach you how to do it!

### Praise Choir

Praise Choir (Gospel & Contemporary music with guitars) is practicing on Sundays after morning worship. Our **approximate 20 minute practices will be held immediately following morning worship at 11:30 a.m.**

This is a great, informal group, especially for our Youth members so please consider coming out for Praise Choir. It's great fun!

## We WILL be going Easter Caroling...

Please watch for the date & time announcement about it soon!



*Everyone is invited to join any of our choirs, no experience is necessary. Please see Sheila Cooke for more info.*

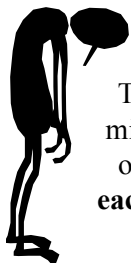


### Christian Witness News

**The Christian Witness Committee will meet on Wed., March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** Everyone is invited to participate in the committee's work of "doing good".

### 2009 Food Bank Donations

Through the generosity of this church family, we were able to donate \$1860 worth of food PLUS \$73 in cash to ProJeCt's Food Bank. This totals \$1933. Many thanks & God bless all you generous hearts!



## Haitian Relief Efforts...

The devastation is so overwhelming & the need is so great it is mind boggling how to even tackle this disaster. But, in the words of Mother Teresa..."**We can not do everything but we can each do something.**" And the First Church Family, young & not as young are all doing something...

## Youth Energized to Help Haitians in Need!

Watch your bulletin for news about how our young people are springing to the aid of the victims of the Haiti earthquake. On Sunday, January 17, with the help of Pastor Mike Smith, Doreen Arnold, and Jerry Strohl, the kids expressed a desire to raise some money, and they proceeded with a brainstorming session, with lots of really great ideas coming out of this class. You will all remember how they raised money this past year to buy mosquito nets for Africa, to help protect the people from malaria, under the direction of teachers Sharon Ashton, Kristen Skillinge and Doreen Arnold, and their tradition of caring continues. Some of their ideas were a bakesale, Carnival and Family Game Night, a real entertainment knockout I would say! Watch for more information and dates, and PLEASE, come out and support these wonderful youth. They are our future.

## And..It's Not Only the Youth That Are Reaching out...

Proceeds from our Men's Club Pork & Sauerkraut dinner are going to our Haitian relief fund as well as the proceeds from our Annual Meeting luncheon by the First Ladies who will serve "Hoagies for Haiti".

**All of the donations made for Haiti Relief will go to "Habitat for Humanity" & their rebuilding efforts there.**



## Host Needed for Friendship Hour, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>

Friendship Hour will be held on Sunday Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> following the worship service, and we need a group or family or two to make and serve some food . Can you help? If so, see Denise Cardinalli.

# Our Heartfelt Sympathies...



Our First Church family has lost a dear member as well as a member of our “extended” family in recent weeks. Please keep these families in your prayers, that they will be comforted by our love & the promises of Jesus...

The family of **Mary Crozier** who passed on Tues., Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>. Surviving are daughter Susan Beling & her husband George; brother Donald R. Roseberry grandchildren Steven Beling, Dr. Karen Beling & Larissa Bartlett & husband Todd; two great-grandchildren, Olivia Beling & Alexandra Barlett along with nieces & nephews & many dear friends.

**Wendy Wandersee’s father Lester Wilson** passed away in Michigan on Sun., Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. Wendy, David & Carl are comforted in knowing he passed away quietly & quickly when his heart just stopped. We pray they are also comforted by their First Church Family as they deal with travels & finalizing things long distance.

*May our departed loved ones rest in God’s peace.*



(‘Listen to Your Heart’ continued from page 2)

Another word for heart is passion. There are certain subjects that you feel deeply passionate about and others that you couldn’t care less about. Some experiences turn you on and capture your attention, while others turn you off or bore you to tears. These reveal the nature of your heart; listen for inner promptings that can point to the ministry God intends for you to have.

When you were growing up you may have discovered that you were intensely interested in some subjects that no one else in your family cared about.

Where did those interests come from? They came from God!

God had a purpose in giving you these inborn interests. Your emotional heartbeat is a key to understanding your shape for service. Don’t ignore your interests; consider how they might be used for God’s glory. There is a reason that you love to do these things.

Listen for inner promptings that can point to the ministry God intends for you to have.

# Church Women United

Church Women United will hold their annual **Tuesday Lenten Meditations at St. Paul's 3rd Lutheran Church on Newberg Rd., Palmer Twsp.** beginning on **Tues. Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> & continuing on March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30<sup>th</sup>.** Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. & the program will begin at 11:15 a.m. Please bring a brown bag lunch, dessert & beverages will be provided.

C.W.U. will hold their **World Day of Prayer program on Fri., March 5<sup>th</sup>** at **Faith Lutheran Church, 2012 Sullivan Trail, Forks Twsp.** Registration begins at 1 p.m., the program, prepared by the W.D.P. Committees of Cameroon & USA is titled **"Let Everything that Has Breath Praise God"**, will begin at **1:30 p.m.** **Everyone is invited!** Please contact Irene Stotz for more info.

## O.G.H.S. March 14<sup>th</sup>

"Do you love me?" Jesus asked Peter. "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. (John 21:15-17) That is the theme of this year's O.G.H.S., "Feed My Sheep."

With the recent disaster in Haiti, funds are being depleted quickly so please give prayerfully & generously!

## March Steeple News Deadline

Our **March Steeple News** will contain info about our Lenten & Holy Week services so **if you have any planned events** (Dinners, Meetings, Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Breakfast, etc.) **please get the info into the church office by Mon., Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.** Thanks!



## First Ladies News...

**Anyone Notice Anything?..**The last time you passed through the Parlor, did you notice anything new? Thanks to our First Ladies, we now have brand new curtains, valances and rods to cheer up the room. The cost was about \$500., and we have Ken Amore to thank for hanging those pretty new rods.

Keep watch for new window treatments in Memorial Hall soon, and when you see a First Lady, thank her for the update to our facility, and keep eating those cranberries and nuts! It all goes toward our mission, both in house and in the community.

**“Daffodil Days” order DEADLINE is Sun., Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>**

A.C.S. “Daffodil Sunday” is **Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**, (see article on pg. 15) **BUT...Your orders and money, or check made out to the American Cancer Society, must be turned in by Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>.** Any orders received later than that can not be honored. Your payments can be given to Nancy Amore, or Pastor Dowd, or sent to the office.

**Watch for info...**Watch the bulletin for the next *Bookworms* selection, and thanks to Janet Caka for hosting the group on January 20 at her home.



**Also...** watch the bulletin for our latest First Ladies group, *The Dinner Dames*. We will be meeting several times a year to have dinner together at a local restaurant, and share some stories and good times. Hopefully, our first outing will be in February, so keep your eyes peeled. Good friends make for good times!



## Free & Low Cost Health Screenings

The Allentown Health Bureau offers free cancer screenings for the most common forms of cancer AND... **Women** age 40 or over with no health insurance, insurance that does not cover mammograms or have a high deductible are eligible for **free mammograms & gynecological tests.** **You do not have to live in Allentown** to receive these services.

**Telephone: 610-437-7513** between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. for infoabout this program & the other testing that is available.

# February Greeters, Readers & Ushers Will Be

**February 7<sup>th</sup> -**

**Greeters** - Irene Stotz & Molly Parry

**Ushers** - Irene Stotz, Molly Parry, Ferne Turner & Beth Bonney

**Reader** - Barbara Dailey

**Acolyte** - Jack Rothermel

**February 14<sup>th</sup> -**

**Greeters** - Brenda Lisinichia & Kristen Skillinge

**Ushers** - Brenda Lisinichia, Kristen Skillinge,  
Don Rush, Sr., & Matthew Rush

**Reader** - Linda Rush

**Acolyte** - Lauren Skillinge



**February 21<sup>st</sup> -**

**Greeters** - Dolores Thomas & Janet Caka

**Ushers** - Dolores Thomas, Janet Caka, Gary Rapp & Dan Redington

**Reader** - Beverly Lambert

**Acolyte** - Henry Rothermel

**February 28<sup>th</sup> -**

**Greeters** - Bob Lynch & Al Keubler

**Ushers** - Bob Lynch, Brenda Guffy and Scott & Sharon Ashton

**Reader** - Stewart Wolbach

**Acolyte** - Kelsey Hilsenbeck



**ATTENTION PARENTS!** If you have children interested in serving as Acolytes, please contact the church office at 610-258-3361.

**ATTENTION GREETERS!** Please bring your biggest, friendliest smile & plan to be in position to meet & greet those attending services on Sun. morning, by 10:10 a.m.

## February Bulletins Are Sponsored by...

7<sup>th</sup>- Mr. & Mrs. Fred Finken, Jr.  
in memory of their son,  
Gary F. Finken, who passed  
away Jan. 12, 2009.

14<sup>th</sup> - Linda & Bill Arnold in  
loving memory of Bill's  
father, W. Karl Arnold, Sr.

21<sup>st</sup> - Scott & Chris Caka in  
loving memory of their dad,  
Richard Caka.

28<sup>th</sup> - Carol & Barrie Fournier in  
memory of loved ones.

If you would like to sponsor the  
bulletins for one of our services,  
please contact the church office  
at 610-258-3361.

If you sponsored bulletins this  
year & have not paid for them,  
please drop your payment in the  
collection plate or mail it in, note  
that it is for bulletins. If you are  
not sure about a payment, please  
call the church office.

## February Flowers Are Sponsored by...

7<sup>th</sup>- Agnes Carhart in loving  
memory of her husband  
Fred in celebration of his  
February 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

14<sup>th</sup> - The Matilda Butz Chidsey  
Circle of Kings Daugh-  
ters in memory of those  
women who served their  
King so faithfully, and in  
honor those still serving,  
celebration of the 119<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of the found-  
ing of the circle.



21<sup>st</sup> - Brian, Jackie & Melissa  
Lunger in loving memory  
of brother, Robin.

28<sup>th</sup> - David Freytag in loving  
memory of his parents Mr.  
& Mrs. Frank H. Freytag.

If you would like  
to sponsor altar flowers,  
please contact the church office at  
610-258-3361.

## Heartfelt Thanks...

Our family would like to express thanks for the thoughts, prayers and many acts of kindness shown to our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, **Mary Crozier**, during her lifetime and following her death on January 5<sup>th</sup>. She loved her church family and enjoyed her many visits from Reverend Wightman and the contacts with each of you.

~ The Todd Bartlett and George and Steve Beling Families





## First Ladies are Sponsoring Daffodil Days Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

On **Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**, the altar will again be a blaze of yellow, as you will have a chance to honor someone with a bunch or two of glori-

ous daffodils. (Please see the order form enclosed with this newsletter.) You can dedicate one bunch for \$10., a mini-pot of daffodils for \$12, a vase with a bunch for \$15 or a Bear and a bunch for \$25. The bear is a collectible Boyds bear which is just adorable, and will bring a smile to any face.



**Your orders and money, or check made out to the American Cancer Society, must be turned in by Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>.** Any orders received later than that can not be honored. Your payments can be given to Nancy Amore, or Pastor Dowd, or sent to the office. Think of someone special in your life who has had, or has cancer....someone you would like to honor for their battle, and dedicate flowers in their honor. What a beautiful thing to do .Lets all join together to lick this deadly disease which affects so many of our friends and families.

Thank you,  
Nancy Amore



## Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner Sat., March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

The First UCC Men's Club will be hosting a Pork n' Sauerkraut Dinner on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be available between 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM and, our First Ladies will naturally be providing the des-erts.

Advance ticket sales can be made following church services on Sunday starting in February, or by contacting the church office. Ticket pricing is \$7 adults / \$3 Children. **Proceeds will benefit Haiti mission efforts.** Hope to see you there....and bring a friend!



# Volunteer Opportunity

For a challenging and stimulating volunteer job, find out how to work with adults who are learning the English language or studying for the G.E.D.

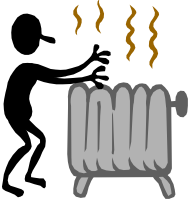
Tutors are people who are curious, open-hearted and willing to find a whole new learning experience for themselves and for the adult students they meet.

Positions include one-to-one tutoring and English conversation groups for people learning the language, as well as tutoring adults who are improving their reading and math skills.

ProJeCt. of Easton's literacy program is accepting applications for its next tutor orientation and is looking for people over 18 with a high-school education or more.

Volunteers receive several hours of training and then devote 4 to 6 hours a week with a student(s) and in lesson preparation. Training and materials are tailored to each tutor's needs. And no foreign language expertise or teaching background is required.

Please contact Judy Rittenhouse at [jrittenhouse@projecteaston.org](mailto:jrittenhouse@projecteaston.org) or 610-258-1100 x14 with any questions or for an application.



## Need Help With Heat?

There are **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** energy grants to help low income families pay for heat. You need not have unpaid bills to receive this assistance nor do you have to be in the Cash Assistance program - a family of four can qualify with an income up to \$33,075.

**The LIHEAP program accepts applications from Nov. 2, 2009 through March 15, 2010.**

You can apply **on-line through COMPASS**, contact the local County Assistance Office or the **LIHEAP hotline at 1-866-857-7095**.

**Crisis Grants are available Jan. 4, 2010** for emergency situations or you are in danger of losing your heat, including... Broken heating equipment, Lack of fuel or Termination of utility service



## What's Up at First Church?

- Copies of the new Constitution are available in the Narthx for anyone who would like one.
- The First UCC Consistory will meet on Mon., Feb. 8th at 7:30

p.m. All are welcome for this meeting too!

- **The First UCC Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday March 14, with a snow date of March 21.** Copies of the budget and new Constitution will be available in Memorial Hall. As a member, it is of the utmost importance that you attend this meeting, so mark those calendars, and plan to join us for lunch in the Parlor, followed by the meeting.
- **First Ladies will be supplying the Annual Meeting lunch,** and tickets will go on sale a few weeks before. They will be serving **“Hoagies for Haiti”** to raise money for our poor brothers and sisters in Haiti. We will have hoagies, chips and dessert for \$5., and there will be a sign-up sheet on the board in Memorial Hall.
- In order to get the **Annual Report** out & have it available two weeks prior to the meeting as stipulated in our Constitution & By-laws. All Committee chairs are expected to have their reports to the secretary by **Sun., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>**. You can e-mail it, bring it on a disk, use US Postal Service mail, put a copy in the collection plate or leave it on the secretary's desk to get it to her by Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>.

## 2010 Offering Envelopes

Our 2010 Offering envelopes have been distributed.

**Please NOTE:** We have renumbered the envelopes & we may have missed a few folks. So, if you would like envelopes but did not receive them, please call the church office & we will arrange to get you a new number & box of envelopes.

# Angel Food Ministries at St. John's on Morgan Hill

The **Feb. 2010** menu is available in our narthex, in the office or on-line at:  
[www.stjohnsmorganhill.org](http://www.stjohnsmorganhill.org).

If you have been financially blessed & don't have to watch your pennies, perhaps you know of a family that could use a food box? With additional heating costs now, AFM can be a special blessing. Buy a box & give it away!

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**February** order dates are:

**Wed., Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> - 4-6 p.m.**

**Sat., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> - 9 a.m. til  
noon**

**Sun., Feb 14<sup>th</sup> - 10:30 a.m.  
til 12:30 p.m.**

**Feb. distribution date is  
Fri., February 19<sup>th</sup>  
between 7-8 p.m.**

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**Cash, Money Orders or  
Food Stamps are ac-  
cepted.** (Food Stamp orders  
must be placed in person at St.  
John's.)

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**Cash orders can be taken  
by Margaret in the church  
office by Fri., Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, or  
call her with any  
questions.**