

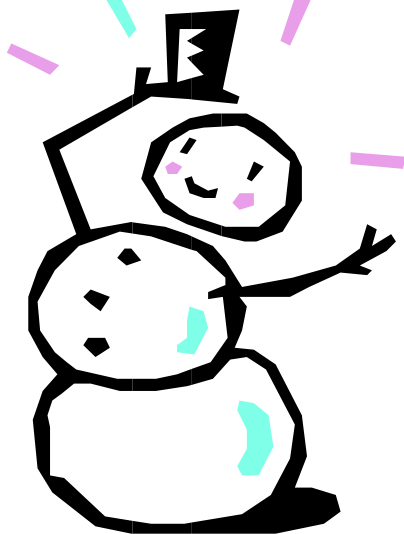


Volume 8, Issue 1

January 2008 newsletter of First United Church of Christ, Easton  
27 North 3rd St.

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**HAPPY  
New Year!**



**January 2008**

## Weekly Worship Schedule

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Join us Sunday  
mornings for...

Adult  
Sunday School at  
9:15 a.m.

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

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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.

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Sunday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> we  
will celebrate  
Epiphany with the  
Sacrament of Holy  
Communion

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## Pastoral Care

If you or someone you  
know is in need of  
Pastoral Care, please  
call the church office at  
610-258-3361.

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

## The Coffee or the Cup!



*(Received via e-mail from various sources)*

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.



When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: 'If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups...And then you began eyeing each other's cups.'



Now consider this: life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of life we live. Some-

(Continued on page 10)

## Upcoming January Events...

**Tues., Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> - HAPPY NEW YEAR ~ Have a blessed 2008!**

**Sun., Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> - EPIPHANY ~ MORNING WORSHIP with the Sacrament of HOLY COMMUNION 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 9:15 a.m.**

**Sun., Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> - 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 9:15 a.m.**

**Mon., Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> - Consistory meets at 7:30 p.m.**

**Tues., Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> - Steeple News Deadline**

**Sat., Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> - FIRST LADIES “BAH-HUMBUG TO WINTER” PARTY/BRUNCH at 10 a.m. at Barbara Dailey’s home.**

**Sun., Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> - 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 9:15 a.m.**

**Mon., Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> - MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. Birthday National Holiday**

**Sun., Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> - 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 10:30a.m.**

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL at 9:15 a.m.**

**“SOUPER BOWL OF CARING” Luncheon after worship**

# Sunday School Christmas Program

Many thanks go out to Sharon Ashton, Kris Skillinge, Janice Hilsenbeck and Doreen Arnold for the great work they did on the our Sunday School Christmas program on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Despite the threat of bad weather, the church was full, and everyone enjoyed not only the presentation of Christmas Around the World, but also the Food from Around the World reception which followed. These four ladies arrived at church at 8 am, and worked until 1 o'clock making sure that everyone enjoyed the day, so next time you see them, be sure to say "thanks for a job well done"!



Our fearless choir director Sheila Cooke, also did an awesome job with the orchestra, which continues to grow each year, bell choirs, church school students, and choral groups.

In spite of some nasty colds and viruses going around, which caused absences in the program, Sheila managed to do a wonderful job on all the music, and should be commended.

Thanks to all for a very special Sunday Christmas celebration!



## Sunday School "Subs" Still Needed!

Hallelujah! Having Sunday School begin with the children joining us in worship at 10:30 seems to be a hit with our students and their families! After a short breakover Christmas which allowed our families to worship together for the entire service, we are returning to our 10:30 Sunday Morning Sunday School schedule.

We are looking for volunteers "Subs" to help out with teaching Sunday School so our dedicated teachers can attend church services one in a while. The lessons can be planned for you and are very easy to follow. Anyone interested can check out the calendar in the hallway by the Arts & Crafts Room to sign up for a day. All age groups are available. Thanks for your support!

# ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS! Church "Business" News

After our original budget meeting was postponed due to inclement weather, our proposed 2008 budget was passed by the Congregation on Sun., Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We are now preparing for our Annual Congregational Meeting in March. Please watch the bulletins & newsletter for information about the upcoming slate of officers & other info about the meeting.



## First Ladies "Bah- Humbug to Winter Party/Brunch"

The First Ladies will party (yet again!) as we hold our **second annual "Bah-Humbug to Winter" party/brunch at the home of Barbara & Tom Dailey on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.** ALL females at first UCC, young and young at heart, are automatically First ladies, so lets see some new faces for our brunch and fellowship time. See the sign up sheet in Memorial Hall for more details. **ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS AT FIRST UCC ARE FIRST LADIES**, so join us!



## First Ladies Book Club Date Change! Monday, January 21st

We are beginning a new spiritual book club. The first book we read will be by Jan Karon, and is called, "**Shepherds Abiding**". It is a story about a Mississippi pastor, Father Tim, who discovers the best gift anyone can give at Christmas, the gift of one's heart. **If you ordered or need a copy of the book please see Nancy Amore or Kris Skillinge**, the books have arrived. The book may also be purchased at Hackman's, Walden Books, and Barnes and Noble for \$13.95. **Join us at the home of Janet Caka for our first meeting on Mon., Jan. 21st.**

# Musical Notes

## Senior Choir

Our Senior Choir is a small group but we have lots of fun. If you are interested in joining, no experience is necessary, please see Sheila. Everyone is welcome!



## 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!

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



## Unsung Angels at First UCC

This month we would love to offer special thanks to some of our “Angels”...Bev. Lambert (flowers), Doris Fowler (bulletins) & Naomi Protyniak (greeters, readers, ushers, acolytes). These ladies work the phones each month coordinating sponsors for flowers & bulletins & lining up members to read Scriptures, to serve as ushers, greeters & acolytes each week. It isn't always easy & they often have to accommodate last minute changes &, God bless them, they handle it all with grace & determination.



Just imagine one of our services without flowers, bulletins, greeters, ushers, readers or acolytes...We thank them for their dedication to make our Sun. services a fitting tribute to the glory of God!

# Puppies for sale ~

A farmer had some puppies he needed to sell. He painted a sign advertising the 4 pups. And set about nailing it to a post on the edge of his yard. As he was driving the last nail into the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down into the eyes of a little boy.

"Mister," he said, "I want to buy "one of your puppies."

"Well," said the farmer, as he rubbed the sweat off the back of his neck, "These puppies come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money."

The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then reaching deep into his pocket, he pulled out a handful of change and held it up to the farmer. "I've got thirty-nine cents. Is that enough to take a look?"

"Sure," said the farmer. And with that he let out a whistle. "Here, Dolly!" he called. Out from the doghouse and down the ramp ran Dolly followed by four little balls of fur. The little boy pressed his face against the chain link fence. His eyes danced with delight. As the dogs made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed something else stirring inside the doghouse. Slowly another little ball appeared, this one noticeably smaller. Down the ramp it slid. Then in a some what awkward manner, the little pup began hobbling toward the others, doing its best to catch up....

"I want that one," the little boy said, pointing to the runt. The farmer knelt down at the boy's side and said, "Son, you don't want that puppy. He will never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would."

With that the little boy stepped back from the fence, reached down, and began rolling up one leg of his trousers. In doing so he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg attaching itself to a specially made shoe.

Looking back up at the farmer, he said, "You see sir, I don't run too well myself, and he will need someone who understands."

With tears in his eyes, the farmer reached down and picked up the little pup. Holding it carefully he handed it to the little boy.

"How much?" asked the little boy. "No charge," answered the farmer, "There's no charge for love."

The world is full of people who need someone who understands.

## January Bulletins

- 6<sup>th</sup>** - Mark & Tara Cooke in loving memory of Mark's grandmother, Mary Cooke and Tara's aunt, Margaret Mustard.
- 13<sup>th</sup>** - Mrs. Mary Gardner in loving memory of her husband Robert, for his January 12<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- 20<sup>th</sup>** - Mrs. Bessie Earnhart in loving memory of her husband Gerald on the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his passing, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1987.
- 27<sup>th</sup>** - Carolee & Gordon Lowe in honor of the 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday of Carolee's mother, Mrs. Bessie Earnhart.

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.

## January Flowers

- 6<sup>th</sup>** - Carl Lunger in memory of his wife Ethel.
- 13<sup>th</sup>** - The Hay Family in memory of Aunts, Martha Seifert and Joyce E. Hay.
- 20<sup>th</sup>** - Rev. & Mrs. J. Michael Dowd in memory of their parents.
- 27<sup>th</sup>** - Carolee & Gordon Lowe in honor of Carolee's mother, Bessie Earnhart, on her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

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

## January Anniversaries

**January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1966**  
Sid & Doris Fowler

## PLEASE NOTE:

If we have omitted a birthday, anniversary or other special day from our newsletter, please call the church office & let us know. We may not have your special date in our records!

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

The January order date has closed. **Jan. distribution date is Fri., January 25<sup>th</sup> - 6:30-8 p.m.**

**(orders for Feb. can be placed on distribution night)**

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

**Please note that the price for the regular unit is now \$30.**

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!

**February** order dates are:

**Wed., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> - 4-6 p.m.**  
**Sat., Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> - 9 a.m. til noon**  
**Sun., Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> - 10:30 a.m. til 12:30 p.m.**

**Feb. distribution date is Fri., February 29<sup>th</sup> - 6:30-8 p.m.**

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

## Supplies for our Soldiers



We need individually wrapped hard candy or lollipops for the men to hand out to the Iraqi children also puzzle books, snacks and letters & notes.

Each box costs \$8.95 to ship, no matter the weight, so if you would like to donate towards shipping costs, please talk to Nancy Amore.

Josh Dailey was just re-deployed to Iraq on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. Please keep all our soldiers in your prayers & pray for peace.

Tom Parry is back in the states, stationed now at Camp LeJeune. His new address is: LCPL Thomas Parry  
2AA BN2 Marine Div.  
A Co. 2 PLT BB260  
Camp LeJeune, NC 28542



## Caroling "Snowed Out"

Our planned Caroling excursion for Sun., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> wound up being "snowed out". Unfortunately the next option was Sun., Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, the weekend before Christmas, but 90% of our carolers had already made plans for that day so we were unable to make our yearly rounds to share our Christmas greetings with our shut-in folks.

# January Greeters, Readers & Ushers

## **January 6<sup>th</sup> - Epiphany with Holy Communion**

**Greeters** - David & Kim Kmetz

**Ushers** - David & Kim Kmetz and David & Wendy Wandersee

**Reader** - Daelyn Corr

**Acolyte** - Lauren Skillinge

## **January 13<sup>th</sup> -**

**Greeters** - Irene Stotz & Molly Parry

**Ushers** - Irene Stotz, Molly Parry, Agnes Carhart & Elaine Hrymack

**Reader** - Kathleen Dowd

**Acolyte** - Leslie Kmetz

## **January 20<sup>th</sup> -**

**Greeters** - George & Susan Beling

**Ushers** - George & Susan Beling and Bill & Ferne Turner

**Reader** - James Wright

**Acolyte** - Kelsie Hilsenbeck

## **January 27<sup>th</sup> -**

**Greeters** - Tim & Pam McGinley

**Ushers** - Tim & Pam McGinley and Michael & Vikki Cowell

**Reader** - Linda Wright

**Acolyte** - Megan McGinley



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

(‘The Coffee or the Cup’ continued from page 2)



times, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us.’ God brews the coffee, not the cups..... Enjoy your coffee!

‘The happiest people don’t have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything.’ Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

# God's Answering Machine

I have learned to live with the answering machine as a necessary part of modernization. But I have often wondered - What if God decided to install an automated answering machine?

Imagine praying and hearing this - "Thank you for calling My Father's House. Please select one of the following four options: Press 1 for requests. Press 2 for a thanksgiving. Press 3 for complaints. For all other inquiries, press 4.

What if God used the familiar excuse: "All the Angels are helping other customers right now. Please stay on the line. Your call will be answered in the order it was received."

Can you imagine getting these kinds of responses as you call on God in prayer? "If you'd like to speak with Gabriel, press 1. For Michael, press 2. For any other Angel, press 3." "If you'd like King David to sing a psalm for you, press 6." To find out if your relative is here, enter his/her date of death and listen for the list that follows." For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, and where Noah's ark is, wait 'till you get here!" "Our computers show that you have called once today already. Please hang up immediately." "This office is closed for the weekend. Please call again Monday."

THANK GOD YOU CAN'T CALL HIM TOO OFTEN! YOU ONLY NEED TO RING ONCE, AND GOD HEARS YOU. BECAUSE OF JESUS, YOU NEVER GET A BUSY SIGNAL. GOD TAKES EACH CALL AND KNOW EACH CALLER PERSONALLY.

*"Then you will call and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and He will say: Here am I."* Isaiah 58:9 NTV

## Prayer Request...

Rev. Blake Heffner, from St. John's on Morgan Hill, is leaving for a mission trip to India on Jan. 5 & returning on Jan. 23. He & a small group of other local Pastors (from the Rock Church & from Greater Shiloh Church) will be in need of prayer for their safety & blessings on their work there with the emerging Christian churches in India.