



Volume 10 Issue 1

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

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January 2010

## **Weekly Worship Schedule**

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**Join us Sunday  
mornings for...**

**Adult  
Sunday School at  
9:30 a.m.**

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**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.**

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**Sunday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</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 Rev. William  
Wightman at  
610-252-8316.

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

## **Christmas...Strange Isn't It?**

Christmas - it's the day that Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior, the Messiah, the King. Even nonbelievers get in on the secular side of Christmas. The gifting, the parties, etc.

Some folks have trouble accepting Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> as the true birthday of Jesus. There is historical evidence that indicates it most likely is not actually the day of Jesus' birth. I don't know if that matters to God, if we have the correct date or not? When hearts are filled with that special joy, is the date so important? It's not a joy to be reserved only for Christmas anyway, is it? Everytime we realize the magnitude of the love of God within that one tiny baby headed for the cross & the resurrection, our hearts should just overflow.

When we really think of the whole thing...the God of the universe coming to earth as one of 'us', it is a strange plan isn't it? A certain young couple used to sing a song on Christmas Eve at St. John's, "A Strange Way to Save the World". There was another song I heard this year with some of the words "there have been many babies that became kings but only one King that became a baby." Indeed, it does seem an odd way to go about saving us when God has every possible thing in creation to use for His purpose eh?

But, from the beginning of time it was & is 'The Plan'. I have read that the chance of all of the prophecies about the Messiah made throughout the Old Testament coming true in one man (Jesus) is the equivalent of painting a quarter red & putting it in a pile of quarters 5 ft. high, covering the entire state of Texas & being able to find it on the first try. Pretty steep odds.

But, nothing can convince me that Jesus is the Messiah more than what He has done to my heart, in & with my life. Happy Birthday Jesus!

## Upcoming January Events...

**Fri., Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> - HAPPY NEW YEAR ~ Have a blessed 2010!**

**Sun., Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> - EPIPHANY ~ MORNING WORSHIP with the  
Sacrament of HOLY COMMUNION in the Sanctuary at  
10:30 a.m. FOOD BANK SUNDAY.**

**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.**

**CAROLING** meet here at **3 p.m.**



**Sun., Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> - MORNING WORSHIP** 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.**

**Mon., Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> - Consistory** meets at **7:30 p.m.**

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

**Sun., Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> - MORNING WORSHIP** 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.**

**Mon., Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> - MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. Birthday  
National Holiday**

**Sun., Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> - MORNING WORSHIP** 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.**

**Sun., Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> - MORNING WORSHIP** at **10:30 a.m.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** at **10:30a.m.**

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

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

Sign up to bring something!

# Caroling Rescheduled for January 3<sup>rd</sup>!

The Caroling Party to our shutins, originally scheduled for Sunday, December 20, has been rescheduled for Sunday, January 3, Russian Orthodox Christmas. Mike and Kathleen will host the party, and urge all able bodied members to join in the visiting and singing to our shutins, mostly in nursing homes in the area. This visit always means so much to our members who are no longer able to attend church, and we would like to have a large group to sing, so they know they are not forgotten. Please join us for this wonderful evening, and don't forget the reindeer noses, Christmas hats, and stuffed holiday animals! Meet at church at 3pm, and lets all be jolly!



## 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.



## Our Children Shine!

On Sunday, December 13, our young people gave us all a real treat under the direction of Sharon Ashton. They presented a video about the wonderful work they have done to help others this past year. The video



followed the group as they worked around the church, served at the Soup Kitchen and the Thanksgiving Dinner, and raised money for mosquito netting for mosquito infested countries.

Interspersed with scriptures and prayers, the service was not only entertaining, but inspiring for all attending. Old photographs of the kids from years ago reminded us of how beautifully these youngsters have grown in Christ over the years, and made us count them as blessings to our church family. It was truly a Christmas program to be remembered!



## First Ladies Christmas Party!

On Friday, December 4, a jolly group of church ladies met at the Amore home to kick off the Christmas season with good food, and even better fellowship. This year, we are happy to report that there were four new faces to the First Ladies party in the crowd, Shirley Galante, Wendy Wandersee, Molly Parry, and Irene Stotz, who all decided to join us, and had a wonderful time, so they said, and promised to return next year.

Kris again outdid herself with the games and had us all in stitches, especially with the "Reindeer Poop" game.....you just HAD to be there!

Honestly, we are all so busy with our lives, and at church on Sunday morning, there just isn't enough time to catch up, so it was wonderful to spend some time together. If you missed this event this year, we do it every year, so plan on coming next year. Its a really fun time for all.



## Thanks to the Faithful

Thanks to Carl Cooke and his helpers for having the church in such great shape after the snow on December 20. When I got there early that morning to place the poinsettias on the altar, the sidewalks and parking lot were safe and clean, and he and Mike nearly had all the flowers placed beautifully on the altar already, so there was nothing for me to do. Kudos to the faithful who made it to the church that day to celebrate the Christmas season, and special thanks to the 6 choir women, who managed to provide a beautiful anthem, and to Kathleen and Belva, whose duet was an inspiration to all who attended on that snowy day. Neither rain, nor snow, nor dark of night, or something like that, can keep our First UCC members home at the Christmas season!

Thanks. *Nancy Amore*

# 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. We practice on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

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**Don't forget Caroling on Sun., Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>!**

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## Special Christmas T hanks!

Special thanks should go out to all of our choirs, Senior, Praise, Bell, Junior Bell Choirs for the beautiful music they provided for us during the Advent season.

Under the direction of our Musical Director, Sheila Cooke, all of these groups practiced for many hours to make our services more meaningful for all the congregation. The First UCC Orchestra provided wonderful music for the Sunday School Christmas Program, and did a beautiful job, so thanks to all of our talented members who worked so hard to make our holidays “merry and bright”. God bless you all.



## Praise & Bell Choir T ake a Break!

Our Praise Choir (Gospel & Contemporary music with guitars) & our Bell Choirs will take a well deserved break in January. Our practice schedule for February, leading up to Easter will be announced soon. Thanks to all of our ringers for their dedication & hard work.

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

# "Souper Bowl" of Caring "Souper" Luncheon on Sun., Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>

Please mark your calendars for our Annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" luncheon to be held on Sun., Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> following morning worship. So gear up your appetite & bring along your family & friends too!

**There is no sign up to attend but PLEASE sign up if you'd like to make some soup or bring bread or a dessert.**

If you have a special recipe, or a new one you'd like to try...feel free to look for the sign up sheet in Memorial Hall.

Please remember that this is a fund raiser & ALL monies raised go directly to our local soup kitchen at Trinity Episcopal Church!

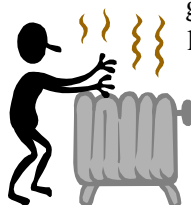
## Overwhelmed!

I cannot express to you all the depth of my thanks or my love for all the blessings I received from this church family in many ways through various sources – from individuals to groups, monetary & material – you have just showed me & my family so much love & care! You are a beautiful example of Christ's love in action. I am so very thankful & blessed to be serving the Lord through First Church. Thank you for having such faith in my faith. I am truly "blown away!"

~ Marg. (your First Church secretary)

## 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
- Termination of utility service

# Small but Energetic Group Hangs the Greens!

It was a small group that gathered to decorate the church following worship and lunch on December 6. We have no clue where everyone was, but despite the lack of helpers, we finished putting up three trees and decorating them, having crafts for the children, hanging wreaths outside and inside, and placing the nativities around the building. Our new helpers, who really pitched in to help were the Rush family, who are new members. All four of them were instrumental in getting us done around 3:30.



PLEASE. Next year, the first Sunday in December, mark those calendars, and give us a hand with decorating the Lord's house for the holidays. There are jobs for young and old, retired and working, women and men, and grinchers and revelers. Many hands make light work, so please, join us next year.

## A "Greens" Thank You!



Thanks you to all who contributed towards the beautiful decorations for our church this year & to all who came out & participated in our Pot-Luck luncheon & "Hanging of the Greens"!

~ Mae Rapp

## January Flowers

3<sup>rd</sup>- Carl Lunger in loving memory of his wife Ethel.

3<sup>rd</sup>- *Single Arrangement* ~ Brian, Jackie & Melissa Lunger in loving memory of Ethel Lunger in celebration of her January 7<sup>th</sup> birthday.

10<sup>th</sup> - The Hay Family in loving memory of Aunts, Martha Seifert and Joyce E. Hay.

17<sup>th</sup> - Rev. & Mrs. J. Michael Dowd in loving memory of their parents.

24<sup>th</sup> - Gordon & Carolee Lowe in honor of Carolee's mother, Bessie Earnhart, on her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday.

31<sup>st</sup> - Don, Linda, Donnie & Matt Rush in celebration of their many new friends at First U.C.C.



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



## Heartfelt Thanks...

I would like to thank Rev. Wightman for the comfort he gave my mother, Fran, with his many visits her last years and especially her last days. I thank him also for the beautiful funeral service that brought great comfort to me.

I also want to thank my many friends at First Church for the caring thoughts, cards and prayers at this difficult time.

God bless you all,  
~ Linda Bassett



## Renumbered 2010 Offering Envelopes are Here!

The 2010 Offering Envelopes are available in Memorial Hall. Due to the spread of numbers that we have been managing for many years, **we have renumbered everyone** so that we would be able to cut down on the quantity of envelopes we need to purchase.

So, **please be careful to look for your name**, not your number. There is an alphabetical list to help you find yours!

Please contact Margaret in the church office or see Scott Ashton if there are any questions or problems. Thanks!

## Check Out the Parlor!

The next time you are in the Parlor, check out the new window treatments provided by First Ladies. Ken Amore installed 7 new decorative rods, and removed the old broken rods that we purchased about 20 years ago, or maybe more. It was when the Sterners were here, so you know that was in the ancient past! Nancy then hung new semisheer curtains, and pretty red valances to spruce up the room and make it more up to date.

Thanks to all the First Ladies who helped choose the new window decor, but also worked so hard this past year to raise money for these special projects. In the next month, new curtains and rods will also be hung in Memorial Hall, so watch for that too.



## "Bookworms" News...

Attention all Bookworms! We will be meeting in January, weather permitting, to discuss the book "Between Sundays", by Karen Kingsbury. Watch your bulletin for the date and place.

Anyone want to volunteer to host the gathering? See Nancy if you can help.



# January Greeters, Readers & Ushers

## January 3<sup>rd</sup> - *Epiphany with Holy Communion & Caroling afterward*

**Greeters** - Jill West, Ross Forsythe

**Ushers** - Jill West, Gary Rapp and Warren & Daelyn Corr

**Reader** - Warren Corr

**Acolyte** - Brad Corr

## January 10<sup>th</sup> -

**Greeters** - David and Carl Wandersee

**Ushers** - David and Carl Wandersee, Ferne Turner and Beth Bonney

**Reader** - David Wandersee

**Acolyte** - Jack Rothermel

## January 17<sup>th</sup> -

**Greeters** - Kristin Skillinge and Ken Amore

**Ushers** - Kristin Skillinge, Ken Amore, Bob Arnold & Brenda Guffy

**Reader** - Beverly Lambert

**Acolyte** - Lauren Skillinge



## January 24<sup>th</sup> -

**Greeters** - Agnes Carhart and Doris Fowler

**Ushers** - Janice Hilsenbeck, Agnes Carhart, Matthew and Donald Rush, Sr.

**Reader** - Dan Redington

**Acolyte** - Kelsie Hilsenbeck

## January 31<sup>st</sup> -

**Greeters** - Val & Tony Bubba

**Ushers** - Val & Tony Bubba, Kerri Rapp-Tolan and Steve Protyniak

**Reader** - Linda Wright

**Acolyte** - Brynn Hilsenbeck

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

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

**ATTENTION READERS!** Your Scripture readings will be sent to you via e-mail if we have an e-mail address for you. If not, they will be sent via the U.S. mail.

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

The **Jan. 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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**January** order dates are out of our normal sequence so please note the Sat., Sun., Wed. sequence:

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

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

**Wed., Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> - 4-6 p.m.**

**Jan. distribution date is Fri., January 22<sup>nd</sup> - 7-8 p.m.**

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**Cash, Money Orders or Food Stamps are accepted.**  
(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 Mon., Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, or call her with any questions.**

## January Bulletins

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - Tara & Mark Cooke in loving memory of Tara's grandfather, William Reinhart, and her aunt, Margaret Mustard.

**10<sup>th</sup>** - Mrs. Mary Gardner in loving memory of her husband Robert, for his January 12<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**17<sup>th</sup>** - Mrs. Bessie Earnhart in loving memory of her husband Gerald on the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of his passing, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1987.

**24<sup>th</sup>** - Carolee & Gordon Lowe in honor of the 104<sup>th</sup> birthday of Carolee's mother, Mrs. Bessie Earnhart.

**31<sup>st</sup>** - Sid & Doris Fowler in loving memory of their parents, Mabel & Earl Fowler and Viola & Fred Baty.

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 \$15 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.