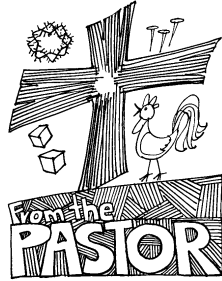


Dear Partners in Ministry,

Sometimes we just have to let the seasons of the year and of our lives speak for themselves. Sometimes we just have to silence our internal voices and let God speak to us. In other words, sometimes we just have to relinquish control and let the beauty and blessing of the day fill us with wonder and gratitude.



This time of year can be especially difficult. We have visions of warm family gatherings, of bountiful Thanksgiving dinners and glowing festive Christmas parties and gifts. Reality usually doesn't match our fantasy. The loss of loved ones haunts us, some families don't get along. There are financial worries and health worries and all sorts of worries to consume our energy and time.

It's easy to say get over it. It's easy to say stop thinking about yourself. It's easy to blame the one in pain. Instead, let the season of love and thanksgiving and promise speak to and through you. Invite someone, call or send a card. Give to those in need. Express your gratitude for the everyday blessings of life.

Don't let Hallmark and movies and other people's Christmas fantasy define your season. Read the "Tis the Night Before Christmas" poem included in this Crier and remember what Christmas is really about. God bless you and bring you all the peace and hope you need so that you can share peace and hope in His name.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Sue

To Pastor Sue and the many, many members of our church family a big thank you for your prayers and many cards expressing your sympathy on the death of my beloved "Moe."

To the men who set up the tables and chairs and the women who prepared the lovely luncheon a big thank you.

Your thoughtfulness and concern will always be remembered – and although it is a sad and difficult time, it is made easier by the love and caring of family and friends.

Sincerely,  
Lou Mohesky

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I want to thank the members of St. Philip's for their cards and prayers during my illness. Also for Pastor Sue's visits to the hospital.

Ruth Ann Nuelle

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Walt Miller and our service men and women who are away from their families at this special time of year.

**MUSIC NOTES**



Children's Choir is working on Advent music now. They will sing December 20<sup>th</sup> with the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir.

**VENDOR NIGHT/SPAGHETTI DINNER – A BIG SUCCESS !**

The Vitality Committee is Pastor Sue, Nancy, Sandy and Virginia. We will have different fundraisers and projects at different times. One of these was the Vendors/Spaghetti Dinner.

Shirley sent flyers to churches, put an ad in the Call paper, made tickets and sold tickets. We sold these two Sundays before the dinner.

Chris Armistead made flyers to be distributed to businesses, etc. Andrea – Youth distributed flyers at church to be handed out to friends and neighbors and took flyers to neighbors two different times.

Carole Armistead placed in ad in the Journal; organized all the vendors, set up and cleaned up. Vendors netted us \$340.00

Tom and his crew set up and took down all the tables and chairs.

Jan Freese organized all the dining room volunteers and people to serve food and drinks. Dorothea and Jackie wrapped silver. Pam and Patty were in charge of the salad and bread. Gail washed a lot of silver. Jim Caldwell cooked the spaghetti and toasted the bread. Joan Schumacher and her volunteers were in charge of cutting the cakes. Dinner netted \$779.00.

Mike and Kathy Shelton were in charge of the raffles. Dawn Williamson sold tickets. Raffles netted \$539.00.

Nancy was in charge of carry outs and outside signs.

Many thanks to everyone who made cakes, bought tickets, had a good time and thought it worthwhile – give each other a big applause.

A JOB WELL DONE – SOLD 171 ADULTS AND 21 CHILDREN. The big number we made is \$1658.00.

This is the idea that the Vitality Team want to convey: to designate jobs and let person/persons get volunteers to help. This is what involves the whole church.

### **HANGING OF THE GREENS**

Be sure to stay after church on November 29<sup>th</sup> for Hanging of the Greens. We will have crafts for all to do; sun catchers, small wreaths to make, clothespins to decorate for the cap and mitten tree, and a Christmas group project. Decorating the church is always fun to do – Congregational Life will serve lunch. An Advent activity will be given to each Sunday School boy's and girl's family. Come and have good fellowship and a good time.

### **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS DINNER**



Don't forget our Christmas Candlelight Dinner on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. It isn't too late to sign up. See the easel in the gathering space and indicate how many will be coming and what you will bring.

### **CHRISTMAS MITTEN TREE RETURNS THIS YEAR !**

An old St. Philip's custom is returning this year! Starting on the first Sunday in Advent, (November 29<sup>th</sup>), you will see a small tree in the gathering area. Help us "decorate" it with warm mittens, hats and scarves for children and adults at St. John's Community Service Center. According to Johnniest Henry, the director, many of her clients cannot afford warm winter clothing, and the items will be greatly appreciated.



Barbara Barnes  
Outreach Committee

### **BATTLE OF THE AISLES**

Wow! Another successful Battle of the Aisles! Thanks so much to all who participated and, even though the results aren't as some of us had wished, it was a great response to a great cause.

The official count, performed by the superb team of Lois and Roger Decker, Tammy and Chuck Knoll and Bob Leber, is 108 items for the right side, 120 for the left side, 179 for Pre-School, and 224 for the choir. What an amazing comeback for our talented, yet somewhat devious, friends in the choir!

The 631 items collected will be distributed to Feed My People, Joint Neighborhood Ministry, and St. John's on North Grand. Many people will benefit from our "mock" rivalry and a huge thank you goes to each of you who contributed.

## WELCOMING TEAM

Starting in January the Welcoming Team schedule will be for one or two week(s) commitment. Please see the bulletin board to sign up for the week(s) you might want to serve as a greeter (welcoming team). The Team appreciates all the help you have given this past year.

Also the liturgist and children's time sheets for January, February and March are posted on the board as well.

## FORMER STUDENT PASTOR TO BE ORDAINED

Abby Mae Hodges, our student pastor in the year 2006-07 is going to be ordained on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at Veradale United Church of Christ in Spokane, Washington. Abby has been called to serve as Pastor of New Haven Congregational Church in New Haven, Vermont.

## COMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

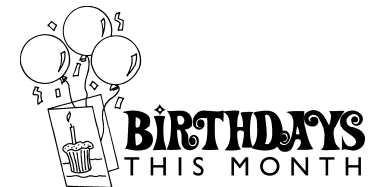
- 1 Bell Choir 7 pm
- 2 Lydia's House Meal  
Choir 7 pm
- 3 Yoga Class 6:30 pm
- 4 Candlelight Christmas Dinner 6 pm
- 5 Christmas Cookies due at church for packaging
- 6 New members received  
Christmas Cookie Sale  
Birthday Sunday
- 7 Bible Study 9 am  
Council Meeting 7 pm
- 8 Bell Choir 7 pm
- 9 Free Lunch – noon at Sandy's  
Choir 7 pm
- 10 Yoga Class 6:30 pm
- 12 50+ Christmas Luncheon – noon at  
Helen Fitzgerald's Restaurant  
Parent's Night Out 5:30 – 10 PM
- 13 Youth Christmas Play



- 14 Bible Study 9 am
- 15 Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon at Roberto's  
Restaurant  
Bell Choir 7 pm
- 16 Outreach Ministry Team 10 am  
ECC Board Mtg. 7 pm  
Choir 7 pm
- 20 Music Sunday
- 21 Bible Study 9 am  
Crier articles due
- 23 Choir 7 pm
- 24 Communion  
Christmas Eve Services 7 and 11 pm  
Office closed
- 25 Office closed - Merry Christmas
- 28 Bible Study 9 am
- 31 Office closed – Happy New Year

## BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER

- |    |                                 |                     |
|----|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1  | Vernon Hornung<br>Gail Knoll    |                     |
| 2  | Alex Balzer                     |                     |
| 3  | Julie Gross                     |                     |
| 5  | Linda Kotthoff                  | 18                  |
| 6  | Madeline Gutjahr                | 19                  |
| 7  | Nicholas Balzer<br>Kim Tangeman |                     |
| 9  | Sarah Witte                     | 23                  |
| 11 | Carla Moran                     | 24                  |
| 15 | Robyn Mikusch                   | 26                  |
| 16 | Desiree Wodicker                | 28                  |
|    |                                 | 30                  |
|    |                                 | Madeline Williamson |
|    |                                 | Ryan Holdener       |
|    |                                 | Eula Dilthey        |
|    |                                 | Ken Faerber         |
|    |                                 | Chloe Armistead     |
|    |                                 | Karen Nickel        |
|    |                                 | Katie Eason         |
|    |                                 | Scott Stevenson     |



**LITURGISTS, USHERS, ACOLYTES AND CHILDREN'S TIME  
FOR DECEMBER**

**Liturgists**



December 6	Jennifer Larsen
December 13	Ellen Disseler
December 20	Sandy Stevenson
December 27	

**Welcoming Teams**

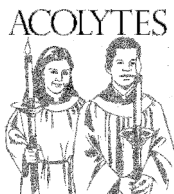
December 6 and 13	Jim and Connie Caldwell (13th), Bob and JoAnn Leber
December 20 and 27	Joy Lopez (20 <sup>th</sup> ), Susan Cochran, and Dolores Zikes

**Children's Time**

December 6	Andrea Moran
December 13	Sunday School Play
December 20	
December 27	



**Acolytes**



December 6	Carley Nickel
December 13	Sarah Witte
December 20	Alex Balzer
December 27	Rachel Fischer

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### ***'Tis the Night Before Christmas***

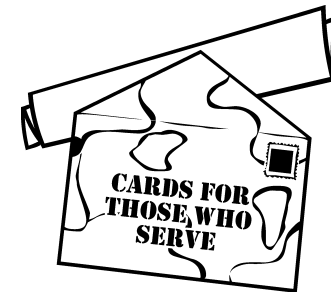
*By CPT Kelly Parker*

'Tis the night before Christmas; we are so far from home,  
But our hearts are with family wherever we roam.  
We try to accommodate and put up a tree,  
But our hearts are all aching for family we won't see.  
Christmas in a combat zone, just doesn't seem right,  
It sure isn't the normal, Christmas Eve night;  
There are a million places we'd all rather be,  
Like, back in America...the home of the free;  
For God, duty, country we all take a stand,  
But Christmas is tough, in a faraway land;  
Our families and friends are all happy and gay,  
But for the American Soldiers, it's another work day.  
But as we briefly pause and reflect on the season,  
The birth of a King is the ultimate reason.  
And with that in mind, we can turn to all others,  
And celebrate Christmas, as sisters and brothers.  
We are Soldiers in arms, in a far away land,  
All serving our country and lending a hand;  
We hail from all over; different in every way,  
But with shared experience, a family we'll stay;  
So turn to your comrades, and draw them near,  
Look to this new family for solace and cheer;  
Our differences vanish when this flag we don,  
And make us stronger, as we Soldier on;  
Now go wish every Soldier, a happy holiday season,  
And just for good measure, mention the reason;  
A King was born to guide our way,  
And faithful to His purpose, we are reminded to stay;  
Without our families and normal holiday fun,  
Doesn't mean we should forget, God's only Son.  
And though we miss family and other distraction,  
It allows us to focus on the ultimate attraction;  
He came from Heaven, not the North Pole,  
And He doesn't bring presents, but cleanses your soul;  
Now remember your family, both old and new,  
For both really love you for all that you do;  
You're an American Soldier serving with pride,

Your faith in God, you should never hide;  
So much for Santa and the story of his deer,  
For Christmas is a story of hope and of cheer;  
Christmas is really not about where you are,  
Or whether your family is near or is far;  
Christmas is about loving friend and stranger,  
Like God loved you with a babe in a manger;  
Remember your buddies, who are feeling low,  
And comfort them and let them know;  
Christmas comes but once a year,  
And we can make the best of the time we're here;  
A kind word shared so all can hear it,  
Is a great expression of the Christmas spirit;  
Gifts are not needed, but friendship we treasure,  
And friendship is valuable, beyond all human measure;  
So celebrate Christmas, as the family you are,  
While never forgetting your family afar;  
As you go forth, during this holiday season,  
Always remember Christ is the reason.  
So comrades in arms, who share in the fight,  
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a goodnight."

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all sent a Christmas Card to:

A Recovering American Soldier  
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20307-5001



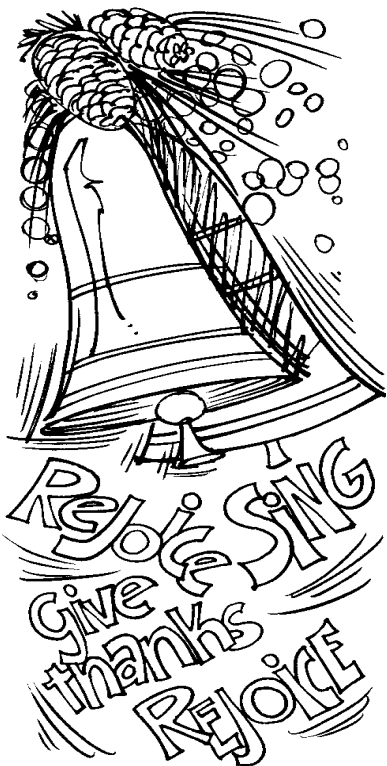
# THE CRIER

St. Philip's U.C.C.

843-5100

[www.stphilipsucc.com](http://www.stphilipsucc.com)

November 24, 2009



The ringing of the church bells,  
The folks who kneel and pray,  
Remembering the Christ Child  
Born on this Christmas Day.

That His peace and love may ever  
Within our glad hearts ring,  
That we may share with others  
The joys that Christmas brings.

**May you have a Merry Christmas**

**and a blessed New Year !!!**

**Your church staff –**

**Pastor Sue**

**Eula**

**Andrea**

**Shirley**

**Theresa**

## Christmas Poinsettias



Again this year there will be an opportunity for you to help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas with poinsettias. You have a choice of red, or white. The cost of the flowers will be \$9.25 each. Please let us know if the flower/s is given in memory or honor of someone.

Please fill out the order form below and place it in the offering tray or give it to Shirley Nottelmann in the church office. Money needs to be in by Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please make the check out to Walter Knoll Florist.

Thank you.



I/We \_\_\_\_\_

Would like \_\_\_\_\_ red poinsettias

\_\_\_\_\_ white poinsettias

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to Walter Knoll Florist.**

**Place in the offering plate or give to Shirley Nottelmann in the church office by Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.**