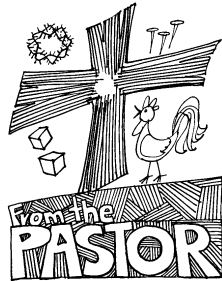


Dear Partners in Ministry,



January begins the liturgical season of Epiphany which lasts until Lent begins in February. During this season we celebrate the ways in which the message of Jesus and the person of Jesus were revealed to the world. It begins with the wise men who came from places outside of Judea and who carried the story of the birth of the Messiah out into the world. Each Sunday we hear another scripture that reveals the good news to ever broadening circles.

This year, as we hear how Jesus was made known, we will also hear how the work of the church is carried out in our Global Ministries. Global Ministries is a combined effort of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ and is active in over 90 countries. This organization supports missionaries who work to train lay leaders and pastors, support schools, bring health care and community development and assist refugees. Working in relation with local church partners they help to bring healing and hope to places of great need. Part of our giving to One Great Hour of Sharing and to Our Churches Wider Mission supports Global Ministries.

As we lead up to the collection of our special One Great Hour of Sharing offering, we will see how miracles of hope are happening all over the world in the name of Jesus Christ. Sometimes we get so caught up in our own financial problems that we forget that there is a great need and that people are doing amazing things with just a little bit of financial help. This Epiphany, as the light of Christ spreads into the world, we will celebrate our participation in spreading that light.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Sue

Thank you to George Brand, Don Siewing, Carl Philips, Jim Caldwell, Mike Shelton and Bob Leber. Many hands made light work of putting up the manger scene on the front lawn. If we forgot anyone thanks to you too.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Greetings in Christ Jesus,
Thank you for once again sharing God's love and blessings with us and those we serve in our Lord's name. May God bless and keep you always.

Much love,
(signed) Johnniest Henry
St. Johns UCC Community Service Ministry

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A special thank you to Charles Zikes, who cut his old guttering up and donated it to our aluminum recycling program. It netted an additional \$30 to our funds. Our cans and the guttering amounted to \$50 total. Many thanks, Charlie.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thank you for your gift of individually wrapped bags of candy, gloves and hats to benefit the children and families served by ECH. Because of your generosity, the children we serve can live, learn and grow. They can heal from the hurts of their past. Most importantly, they can receive the care needed to help them save and loved.....(see bulletin board for more information.)

(signed) Michael P. Brennan, Executive Director
Evangelical Children's Home

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thank you choir for singing so well. Thanks to the children for doing well. It all was wonderful.

Eula

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Hanging of the Greens – the lunch, the decorations, the crafts, etc. All put together it made a fun-filled day for everyone. Virginia

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS



Walt Miller (shut-in) and Mary Lou Farrow and Matt Lawler on the death of their mother.

WELCOMING TEAM

Starting this month (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.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

Starting in January and ending with an International Potluck Luncheon on February 14th, we are going to learn about the Global Missions of the United Church of Christ. Pastor Sue will include stories and information during her sermons. We will also have short audio visual presentations produced by the National Church included in the worship services. If there is an interest, Bible study material is available. On Sunday, February 14th, we will have an international guest, collect the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, hosting an information table about Global Missions and enjoy an International Potluck Luncheon. Sign up sheets for the potluck and recipes (if you would like to try your hand at making an international dish and need a recipe), will be in the gathering space toward the end of January. Several of our members went to Jamaica on a mission trip and plan to prepare Jamaican food. The Outreach Ministry hopes that you will enjoy learning about our Global Missions.

LYDIA'S HOUSE

Once again St. Philip's provided both a huge selection and a huge amount of food for Lydia's House community meal in

November. They really appreciate all you do! Thanks to Mary Lou Farrow, Dorothea Holdener, Kathy Shelton, Nancy Krenning, Joan Schumacher, Sue Leary, Shirley Nottelmann, Pat Siewing, Sharon Jackman, Frances Kalbfleish, Joy Lopez, Alice Hillyard, and Hilda Leonard. Thanks also to the person who provided the spaghetti and meatballs but didn't add her name. I was told the kids really loved it!

The next community meal that St. Philip's provides will be on February 3rd. Watch the bulletin board for a signup sheet as the date approaches and thanks again for helping in this worthwhile cause.

COOKIE EXCHANGE

Many thanks to the bakers and the buyers and a double thanks to those who did both! We netted a whopping \$356.00 that went into the general fund to help with church expenses. As usual, the cookies were great!

A special note of appreciation goes to the following elves who packaged and weighed the cookies the morning before the sale: Dorothea, Joan H., Lou, Shirley N., Ardelle, Betty and Nancy. Good job elves!

BOOK OF ROMANS BIBLE STUDY

After the holidays Bob Leber will be ready to start this 8 week series...We have the material needed all ready to go...This is a "Disciples Bible Study" class that will meet for one session per week, for 8 weeks....There is a work book needed by each participant that costs \$10.00. The study guide is printed in that book....The book becomes your personal property – a notebook of the study with a lot of good information to reflect on in the future. There is a short reading assigned from the book of Romans for each day...and a brief summary of it. You read from the Bible and the guide daily for six days then come to class on the 7th day. We watch a brief video of a scholar's thoughts on what we read. We also listen as some lay folk like ourselves share their thoughts on the readings. We generally discuss what we thought about it all with each other. There will

also be some questions about how the scripture might cause us to think about our life, our habits and behavior and we take those thoughts home with us to process as we prepare for next weeks study with the new weeks daily readings. These Disciples Bible Studies are great....some of the best we have ever seen. The way they are structured allows us to slowly immerse ourselves in reading and understanding the Bible a little at a time. A session takes about one and a half hours per session. Bob tells us that he is prepared to do:

ONE SESSION DURING THE DAY

and/or

ONE SESSION DURING THE EVENING

and/or

ONE SESSION EARLY SUNDAY MORNING (before
worship)

There is a preference/sign-up sheet on the bulletin board so we can see how many are interested for the different times. Bob is prepared to do all three of these sessions (**Day, Evening, Sunday before worship**) each week if need be. He will work with as few as one and as many as twelve persons each session. Don't be bashful. Allow yourself to dive in and explore the Book of Romans with your brothers and sisters in faith here at St. Philip's. Be sure to indicate your preference on the sign-up sheet and we will pick times and days based on input when we think all of the response is in. Sunday School is not just for kids it is a life long thing. We just call it Bible Study when adults participate in it. Hope to see a good turn out.

GREETINGS FROM ABBY

Back in May of 2009 I went to the "Convocation" at Eden Seminary. I only went for a day to attend a lecture by two world renowned scholars. After about 10 minutes I realized that Abby Hodges was sitting in front of me. During the break we talked. Someone at church a week or two earlier has asked me if anyone ever hears from her? I hadn't. I asked for her e-mail address and she gave it to me to pass on to the newsletter. She said she would enjoy hearing from any of us who want to e-mail. At that time she was graduated from Seminary, living in

Vermont. She was not serving as a Pastor yet, but was trying. Since then I heard she had a call to serve a church in Vermont and Pastor recently announced she was ordained now and serving as a Pastor.

Unfortunately, when I got home from that convocation I put my note papers away in a reference and forgot my promise to her about getting her e-mail address to Shirley to put in the newsletter. A week or so ago, I got those notes out to look up some information and found her e-mail address written on the back of one of the pages. You might know the feeling I had when I saw that. Well, here is her address:

abbymaehodges@hotmail.com

Hope you take her up on her invitation to write...but please don't tell her about the forgetful old man who recently confessed (publicly) for forgetting to keep a promise made in May.

Take care,

Bob Leber

TO THE ST. PHILIP'S UCC FAMILIES

Merry Christmas from the Early Childhood Center! We wanted to express our sincere appreciation for the support you've all shown during a difficult year for us. From volunteers helping keep things running to a friendly smile and warm hello when you are in the building, we thank you for your love.

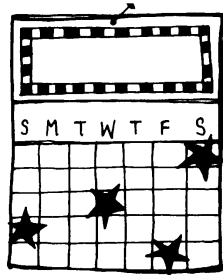
We also wanted to thank our maintenance company, EMS Inc., for blessing us with a most incredible Christmas gift of buffing and waxing our floors at no cost. It really improves the appearance of the building and helps us all take more pride in our program. EMS Inc has also expressed the possibility of buffing and waxing the remaining floors in the building at a later date. What a blessing! This is a gift that does not come cheaply to them and we are very grateful.

Thank you all again! We wish you the merriest of Christmases and a very Happy New Year!

Theresa King and staff

COMING EVENTS IN JANUARY

- 1 Office closed – Happy New Year !
- 3 Communion
- 4 Bible Study 9 am
Church Council Mtg. 7 pm
- 5 Bell Choir 7 pm
- 6 Choir 7 pm
- 10 Birthday Sunday
- 11 Bible Study 9 am
- 12 Bell Choir 7 pm
- 13 Free Lunch – noon
Choir 7 pm
- 16 50+ Group Planning Meeting
- 18 Bible Study 9 am
Crier articles due
- 19 Women's Fellowship planning meeting
- 20 Outreach Ministry meeting 10 am
Choir 7 pm
- 25 Bible Study 9 am
- 26 Bell Choir 7 pm
- 27 Choir 7 pm



DATES TO
REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY



- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Joel Knoll | 18 | Jeff Stevenson |
| 2 | Charles Zikes | 19 | Jane Eason |
| 3 | Walter Knoll | 22 | Dan Kammerer |
| | John Mikusch | | Jeremy Decker |
| 4 | Carl Schillinger | 23 | Marilynn Eason |
| | Jamie Jackson | | Mackenzie Wodicker |
| 5 | Chassidy Wodicker | 24 | Nick Harvey |
| 7 | Caylie Armistead | 28 | Lois Decker |
| 8 | Gary York | 29 | Beth Hickman |
| 12 | Andrew Knoll | 30 | Harold Adams |
| 14 | Jordan Gross | | Lester Krenning |
| 17 | Hannah Schillinger | 31 | Joyce Brand |
| | Lynn Bippen | | Andria Brym |
| | Robin Knoll | | |

COMMUNITY EVENTS (see bulletin board)

Feb. 1 and 8 – St. Johns Mehlville – Workshop on Autism
Spectrum Disorders 7 – 8:30 pm

LITURGISTS, USHERS, ACOLYTES AND CHILDREN'S TIME FOR JANUARY

Liturgists



January 3
January 10 Harry Jennings
January 17
January 24
January 31

Welcoming Teams

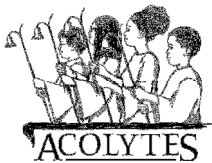
January 3 Nancy Krenning, Al and Mary Lou Farrow
January 10 Joy Lopez
January 17 Joy Lopez
January 24
January 31

Children's Time

January 3 Harry Jennings
January 10
January 17
January 24
January 31



Acolytes



January 3 Madeline Williamson
January 10 Harrison Fischer
January 17 Jordan Lewis
January 24 Scott Karcher
January 31 Ashley Kulich

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE BRICK

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?"

The young boy was apologetic. "Please, mister....please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do," he pleaded. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop..." With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. "It's my brother," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up."

Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. "Thank you and may God bless you," the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of his message: "Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!" God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not.

REMEMBER THIS IN THE YEAR AHEAD – HAPPY NEW YEAR !