

The Parish Portrait

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2009

From the Pastor's Desk

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and you can help. Sunday, November 29th marks the first Sunday of Advent. On the afternoon of November 29th, at 3 p.m., we invite you to gather in the sanctuary for a time of Christian Fellowship as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.

"Advent" which means, "To enter" is the Christian season which celebrates the Good News of Christ. The Lights of the season represent the Light of God that comes to us in Christ. This symbol of Light is lifted up each Sunday of Advent with the Lighting of the Advent Wreath.

On the 4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 20th, both the 9:30 and the 11:11 congregations will combine for a special 9:30 worship service which will conclude with the children's Christmas musical.

Finally, on December 24th, our Christmas Eve service will begin at 7:00 p.m. This is a very special service of Word, Music, and Light. Plan now to attend and invite your friends and family to join you.

Yours in Christ,

Greg



Finance Committee Report

As noted in our Thanksgiving letter, the finance committee has been able to cover the Church's day to day financial commitments through the weekly offerings received in the General Fund. During the warmer months of the year this has not been too much as a hardship due to the average monthly cost to run the air conditioner in the summer to cool the church and parsonage is approximately \$500 compared to the winter months where the average monthly cost to heat the buildings is approximately \$1,600. Over the summer months we have been able to maintain a balance in the General Fund of approximately \$1,000. However, with the arrival of cold weather and the increased cost of heating the church and parsonage will result in a greater amount of funds needed to pay the monthly bills.

To give you an example of how close the finances of the church are managed. During the third quarter of this year, the average weekly collection amount in the General Fund was approximately \$2,200. At the November 19, 2009 Administrative Board meeting the General Fund had an account balance of \$416.00. The church had \$4,600 in outstanding bills that needed to be paid by November 30th. Fortunately, there were two Sundays left in November to collect the amount needed to pay the bills. However, by using the average weekly collection amount of \$2,200 would result in collecting only \$4,400 ($\$2,200 \times 2 \text{ Sundays} = \$4,400$) of the \$4,600 needed to pay the outstanding bills leaving a balance of \$200 ($\$4,600 - \$4,400 = \200) of the bills to be disbursed from the \$416.00 in the General Fund

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United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women meet the first Wednesday of every month from September through May. They do many service projects including serving Lions Club suppers. All women are welcome to come join us. Contact current president Linda Holden for more information or incoming president or vice president Cindy Mollenkopf or Lynn Johnson for 2010 schedule.

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will have a breakfast meeting on December 6, 2009 at 7:30 A.M. in the fellowship hall. Items of topics to be discussed will include our annual Christmas project to provide Christmas presents to needy families in our area. Please join us on this morning for the fellowship and fantastic food prepared by Chef Jim Hammonds. You definitely will not go away hungry! Contact president Kevin Weisman for more information.

Youth Groups

They will be raking leaves for those who need assistance. Please sign up with a youth member or coordinator Jean Leary.

Youth Sunday will be held on December 6, 2009. They will be conducting the service that Sunday.

Junior High Youth Group

Junior High Youth Group performed a Puppet Ministry at the Convoy Care Center on November 15, 2009 at 9:00am before church.

The Puppet Ministry will next be performed during youth Sunday December 6th.

Contact coordinator, Jean Leary for more information

Joyful Noise

Practice is held Wednesdays after school. Transportation and snack provided

Administrative Board

Beginning in January, meetings are held the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. All are invited to attend and voice your concerns. Administrative Board Chairman, Rick Mollenkopf

Trustees

Trustees meet every third Thursday of each month in the Adult Fellowship Class Room. 2009 - Glenn Gehres, Randy Bullinger, Marilyn Elder 2010 - Jeff Gleckler, Nikki Beougher, Ted Kiehl

Contact chairman, Ted Kiehl for more information

Christian Education

Church School...A.K.A. Sunday school begins as soon as the Church service is over at approximately 10:30 A.M. and lasts until 11:30. Classes are offered for all ages.

Questions can be directed to Tona King Education Chairman. Everyone is welcome to come join us.

The Sunday school classes will be collecting items for our troops throughout the month of November. Items sought include: Paperback Books, popcorn, bandanas, lip balm, magazines, granola bars, gum, black socks, air fresheners, individual fruit cups, t-shirts, body wash, and puzzle books

Coordinator, Tona King

Come check out our new adult class which is focusing on [30 Life Principles](#) by Charles Stanley.

Contact Lisa McClure for more information

A young adult class focusing on college age youth will be held during school breaks and recesses.

Contact Mary Ann Hall for more information

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you have any upcoming events you would like to have included in the next Parish Portrait please e-mail klpp1985@gmail.com or write it down and put it in the box marked Parish Portrait in the vestibule.

Hanging of the Greens	November 29 3pm
Youth Sunday	December 6
Lion's Club Ladies Night with the VW Boys Choir.	December 7
Men's Prayer Breakfast	December 6 7:30am
Pull together for Hunger	December 6 during Sunday school
Holiday Poinsettias are in	December 13
Danny Baksa's wedding	December 19
Joyful Noise Program	December 20
Lion's Club Supper Monday	Dec. 21st.
Candle Light Service	December 24 7pm
The Leigh's on Vacation	Dec 26 – Jan 2
Administrative Board	4 th Thursday of each month 7pm
Trustees	3 rd Thursday of each month 7pm
Lions Club Meetings	1 st & 3 rd Monday October thru May

Don't forget to check us out on the web at www.convoyumc.org for service streaming and more content about what's going on at Convoy United Methodist.

account balance. This will result in a lower General Fund balance to be carried forward to the following month and difficulty in keeping the General Fund balance in the black during the winter months.

In order to keep our General Fund in the black, we do need to increase our weekly collection amount designated to the General Fund. The finance committee is keeping the option open of designating the Christmas offering to go towards the General Fund, but doesn't want to take this option unless they absolutely have to.

To give you an idea where your General Fund church offerings are disbursed, it takes two Sundays of collections to cover the church's payroll and taxes for the minister, custodian and choir director. It also takes one Sunday offering to cover the utility bills for the church and parsonage. The fourth Sunday offering is used to disburse the remaining obligations of the church such as building insurance, Trustee Repair Fund, worship committee expenses, office expenses, pulpit supplies and Conference and District apportionments, etc.

The finance committee has always taken the outlook that our local needs should come first, and then address our outside commitments. By doing so, we have put our conference apportionments on the back burner so to speak. The only contributions made to our conference apportionments in 2009 has been the amount of weekly collections received that has been specifically designated to go towards the conference apportionments. Our church conference apportionment for 2009 is \$22,270. As to date we have remitted approximately 10% of this amount. The committee's goal is to be able to remit a respectable amount of our apportionments to the conference by the end of the year. Any help you can give us to meet this goal would be appreciated.

We realize the economic condition of the area is not the best and a lot of our church families have had to make cuts in their personal finances at home in order to get by, but any help you can give us to keep our General Fund balance in the black and to help meet our apportionment goal would be appreciated.

CHURCH NOTES TO KNOW

FLOWER CALENDAR

The new flower calendar for 2010 is on the bulletin board. The price is \$27. Please sign up for the Sunday you are that interests you.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING

If you would like to have an article published in any of the local newspapers. Please let Margaret Miller know at: 419-749-2513

Church Nursery

It will be available during the worship service. If you would be able to help out a Sunday, please contact Tina Pawlick, Nursery Co-ordinator or there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board

Helping Hands Food Pantry

The Convoy Helping Hands Food Pantry has served 102 adults and 63 children so far this year. The pantry is supported by area churches and organizations with donations of money and food items. If you know of a family that might be hungry, please offer them help at the food pantry. Jesus says, "Feed my Sheep". Donations of non perishable items may be placed in the old kitchen downstairs or call Vicki to pick up your items. Thank you to Robert & Tim Wertenberger for helping to serve. Contact coordinator Vicki Saylor for more information. *Thank you so much for all your support throughout the year with your donations.*

Prayer Concerns

Troy Hammond, Delores Ward, Bill McOmber, Ruth Hensel, Dorothy (Dale) Gleckler, Bill Pancake, Lori, Helm, Dick Burdon, Madison Ringwald, Sondra Shepherd, John Kiehl, Irene Coyne Gahrig, Alice Gehres, Annabelle Clevenger, Janice Taylor, Glenda Holloway, Mary Evans, Deb Wenninger, Missy Hale, Cheryl Hoover, the family of Jon and Judi Hall in the passing of Judi's mother, Janice Larson.

Donna Hoblet (Hearth & Home), Mary Cherry (Hearth & Home), Betty Springer (Convoy Care), Carrie Dawson (Convoy Care), Bryan Stewart. (Convoy Care), Irvin Schaadt (Convoy Care), Marvin Kever (V.W. Hosp).

Please place additions or corrections in the green basket in the vestibule or downstairs on the typewriter.

Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of righteous person has great power and wonderful results.

James 5:16



*Convoy United Methodist Church
Sycamore and Main
Convoy, Ohio 45832
419-749-2383
Enter to Worship..., Depart to Serve*

Contemporary Service

A Contemporary Service is offered every Sunday morning at 11:11 a.m. This is held at the former Hall Lumber office downtown, located along the railroad tracks east of Main Street. It's a service filled with songs and praise. It is a casual and more relaxed Service than 9:30 service. We still offer all the same sacraments.

The Service is hosted by our praise band called "Crossroads". Members include:

Guitarist Pastor Leigh
Lead Vocal Jeff Gleckler, Keyboard Laura Leigh,
Drums Fred Fegley, Bass Guitar Matt Leigh or Jon
Leigh, Female Vocalist Rita Miller

Casual dress such as jeans, T-Shirts, and ball caps are acceptable at this service. Refreshments are offered to be enjoyed throughout the service. Not on time for the beginning, not a problem. You're welcome to come in and join us whenever you get there. It's very informal, and air conditioned. You're always welcome to come join us.

ALTAR EGO by Len Jones



The first reported case of 'Mad Cow' disease.

*Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a
real blessing*

Psalms 139: 13-16

Convoy United Methodist Church
Sycamore and Main
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