

January 2017 Newsletter



Remembering an Epiphany Past

CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP 10:45 AM

***336 Barnett Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268 – 0288***

(717)762-4113

***Website: www.apostlesucc.com
E-mail: ApostlesUCC@gmail.com***

From the Pastor's Study

Another Christmas day and season is over and a New Year begins. If you are like me, you have not fully recovered from too many activities squeezed into one day, too much food and especially too many sweets. But Christmas is a time of overdoing and over indulgence. We let loose and celebrate with friends, family and loved ones like no other time throughout the year. It does us good to break away from our usual schedules and the repeated routines of our days. It is good that during this season we take the time to remind those we love and care about just how much we love them and care about them with our cards, gifts and time spent together.

Our Christmas Eve candlelight service was the most attended Christmas service in seven years. It was good to see so many people, so many children, worshiping and celebrating together, to hear so many voices come together as one voice during our readings and hymns. It was good to hear laughter and applause and to see smiles when our young people shared their gifts of music. **For me, one of the highlights was the children's choir, only a week old, singing "Joy to the World". Their relaxed, confident assembly in front of the sanctuary,** most coming together for the first time to sing was a joy to see and hear. Their sweet voices an expression of the joy of the season I think we all felt during the service.

No worship service was held on Christmas day so that all of us could spend time with friends and family, as important a part of Christmas as any. I along with the remnants of my family; my nephew, his wife and my three year **old great niece, along with a cousin and my father's new lady friend spent time** with my father in the early afternoon at the assisted living facility where he **lives. Because of my father's limited use of one arm, my niece eagerly offered** to help un-wrap her great- **grandfather's gifts for him. We listened to** Christmas records on a phonograph, fussed over his cat Puss, and talked about times past and what was going on in our current life. Afterwards two more visits to elderly aunts and a final stop at my house for some more unwrapping of gifts and some food. By evening I was exhausted but happily so.

We have all heard it said and perhaps have said it ourselves that ***“Christmas is for children.”*** What most people mean when they say that is that the joy, excitement, the magic, the wonder of Christmas is most felt by children. It implies that most adults no longer experience Christmas the way a child does. If that is true perhaps it is because the harsh realities of the world we must live in everyday have darkened our view of everything. Our lives have become pessimistic, bitter and joyless. It has been suggested in these days of uncertainty we all live in that all of us are living with great anxiety over the future. We must strive to not allow the circumstances of the world we live in to distinguish the light of Christ that still burns in the world despite how it may appear. You and I are responsible for keeping that light burning by living lives that are Christ-like. We must not succumb to the darkness of this world.

It is most often our children who are the brightest lights at Christmas as well as throughout the year. My three year old great-niece Skyler in her red velvet, sequin trimmed Christmas dress, red tights and boots was the center of joy for our family gathering. Her joy and laughter brightened our day. **The children singing for us on Christmas Eve, their interest in the children’s message, their participation in the lighting of candles, and reading the nativity story, their very presence heightened the joy of the service.**

As we begin a new year with all its uncertainty we can be assured that there will be challenges ahead. But we can also be assured that the light of Christ still burns brightly in this world. And if you have trouble finding it look to our children who, whether they realize it or not, are some of the brightest lights of Christ; take time to look to them, and guide them, for they are the light that will lead us into the future.

Happy New Year, In Christian Love
Pastor Michael



Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who made this Christmas season special; to those who decorated, helped set up our huge Christmas tree (and helped to keep it standing!), strung lights, hung wreaths, Christmas caroled, made deliveries to those in need, who lit candles on Christmas Eve, donated hats and gloves, and volunteered time to do all the many things that needed to be done. It takes many hands to create a memorable Christmas season and we had them.



The many Christmas gifts and cards I received from individuals and from the congregation as a whole was much appreciated. I am always touched by your generosity.

Pastor Michael

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the congregation for your generous Christmas gift. God bless you all.

Jim Heefner

Thank you so much for your generous staff gift to both of us. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Dan & Linda
Ritchey

Social Seniors



Social Seniors will be meeting on Monday, January 9 from 2 until 4:00 PM at Trinity Waynesboro. Please come and enjoy the fun, fellowship and food. Hope to see you there.

Church Staff & Committees



Pastor: *Michael Cromer* Home: 717-776-7612
Cell: 717-816-2940
Email: mcromerm@aol.com

Church Office: 762-4113 Email: apostlesucc@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 8:30 AM – 3 PM

Secretary: *Linda Ritchey* 762-1789

Volunteer Financial Secretary: *Judy Fitz* 762-4028

Treasurer: *Linda Ritchey* 762-1789

Choir Director:

Organist: *Jim Heefner* 765-9534

Consistory President: *Mary Lou Misner* 717-749-3839

Vice-President: *Jean High* 762-7794

Altar Guild: *Danny & Laurie Deavers* 717-655-5078

Archive: *Linda Ritchey* 762-1789

Christian Education:

Christian Outreach:

Lay, Life, & Work:

Outdoor Ministry: *Bob Benchoff* 749-5202

Property: *Bruce Barr* 301-824-2849

Spiritual Council: *Julia Cramer* 717-658-9603

Stewardship & Finance: *Donna Haugh & Jean High*

***Birthdays
&
Anniversaries
in
January***



2 Arianna Taylor
4 Gretchen Baumgardner
24 Amy Dingle
24 Danny Deavers
24 Robert and Betty Lynerd
25 Holly Berkey
28 Bruce and Maude Barr

**Calendar of Events
January**

1	Worship	10:45 AM
8	Worship	10:45 AM
8	Consistory	12:15 PM
9	Buchanan Trail Quilters	5:30 PM
15	Worship	10:45 AM
16	Y Gradale Sorority	Afternoon
17	Silver Express Delivery	1:30 PM
22	Worship	10:45 AM
29	Growth Committee	9:15 AM
29	Worship	10:45 AM



Weight Watchers meets every
Tuesday at 5 PM
and Wednesday at 9 AM

Al Anon meets every Thursday
from 8-9 PM

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

in January

The Nursery is Available if Needed.



Ushers & Greeters

January 1: Jean High & Bob Stum

January 8: Tony & Donna Haugh

January 15: Nevin & Sondra Monn

January 22: Judy Fitz & Donna Levick

January 29: Brian & Debbie Jacobs



Communion Assistants

January 1: Jean High & Bob Stum

CONSISTORY MEMBERS



Julia Cramer

Jean High

Mary Lou Misner

Martha Smith



Donna Levick

Sondra Monn

Nevin Monn

Brian Jacobs

Winter Book Study



We gather once again to read and discuss a new book for our winter book study group. We usually meet on Tuesday mornings at 11:00. The tentative date to begin is Tuesday January 17. The book we will read this year will be announced shortly. See Pastor Michael if you are interested.

Inclement Weather and Sunday Services

We are in the season of inclement weather that might prevent worship services on some Sunday mornings. If you are not certain as to whether or not Sunday worship is being held, please call Bob Benchoff at 377-4729.



Hoffman Homes Tour



The Christmas gifts that were donated to Hoffman Homes as well as 21 donated bibles for the children were delivered to the facility one Saturday morning last month. Our group also toured the facility and learned about the many beneficial programs offered to around 90 children who come to Hoffman Homes with emotional problems often due to abuse. Everyone left the facility with a greater appreciation of the important work Hoffman Homes does for some of the least and most vulnerable of our world.

Figgy Pudding Debate

Every year when our carolers sing, “*O bring us some figgy pudding*”, the question asked is “What is figgy pudding?” This year Pastor Michael made a figgy pudding which was received with less than enthusiasm. Although it seemed most who sampled it did not care for it, a few, however, did including Mae Kauffman who received a piece during our caroling at her house and declared it to be “very good.” She will be receiving figgy pudding next Christmas.



A Very Successful SERRV Sale

Our SERRV sale held for four weeks was the one of, if not the most successful sale we have ever had. Only a few items had to be returned. Thank you for your support of this worthy organization that helps people in other countries (as well as in the U.S.), help themselves. You will never know the difference you made in an individual's life by your purchase.

SERRV

What Difference Did We Make?

Your continuing weekly donations to the What Difference fund helped a number of families in the community during the holidays. The church was able to help a mother and son getting back on their feet with a security deposit on an apartment, help grandparents raising two grandchildren buy gifts for them, help an uncle with limited resources buy gifts for his young niece and nephew unexpectedly left in his care. In almost every case, the help we offer to those who call the church for assistance, involves one or more young children.

"...Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was overlooked or ignored, that was me-you failed to do it to me."-The Message.

"Silver Express" Food Bank

Thank you for your help to fill their
bowls!



Donations for this month
will be delivered **January 17.**



All canned/boxed food on the shelves will be delivered
each month to ensure freshness.

Thank you for allowing us to use
your beautiful Church Friday + Saturday
for our Green Bazaar. We truly
appreciate your allowing us to use it
over the years as the Community preserves
this annual Tradition.

Happy Holidays!

Thank You

Just a little note to say
have a happy day, and
thank you!

Rhonda McFarland

Ann O'Toole
2016 Co-Chair Wynnton Hospital
Presiding from Beth Engl

Nov 12, 2016

Dear Sponsors at Church of the Apostles,

Good day to all of you!

Hope you are all fine. Thank you so much for the presents you have
given to me, especially the sweets one (Candies). I really love them all.

I am always doing good in school to maintain high grades.

Christmas is fast approaching. Wishing you peace, joy, and all the best
this wonderful holiday has to offer. May this incredible time of giving and
spending time with family bring joy that lasts throughout the year.

Merry Christmas

Love,
Nelwin Adling



Dumaguete Kalsaman Center for Development

Silliman University Campus
6200 Dumaguete City
Philippines

Nov 19, 2016

Dear Sponsors at Church of Apostles,

Good day!

I already received your gift for me. I really love them all. The drawings, pictures and messages you all made for me really means a lot to me.

Thanks to our Savior that you are all fine there! Me,

I am doing well and physically fine. The kids are just like me. The idea of going there to see all of you ^{is good and exciting}. One day we may never know, I will be there to see all of you and have some good times to all of you & thank you personally.

Thank you again and more powers to all of you!

Hope to hear from all of you again

Love,
Nelwin Adling

A Christmas Card and Letter from Nelwin Adling



**THE CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES
336 BARNETT AVENUE
WAYNESBORO, PA 17268-0288**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please forward an address change to the Church office.



January 2016

MISSION STATEMENT

We are called together to worship God, united by the Holy Spirit, and chosen as instruments of our Lord's purpose to teach, support and serve all people. We witness to the church, the community and the world by showing joy in the faith and using our talents to praise God.