

THE AMBASSADOR

December 2009

“Holy Interruptions”

Just the other day I found myself out enjoying lunch at a nearby restaurant. As I was finishing my meal, I couldn't help but be reminded of the season we are in. A local radio station had interrupted its normal format to become one of those continuous Christmas stations who seem to begin earlier and earlier each year. Mixed in with favorite sounds of the season from Bing Crosby and Gene Autry were songs of a Savior and the birth of the Christ child. I found it interesting and somehow ironic that the world you and I live in chooses to interrupt its normal rhythm and routine to be reminded of its search for meaning in our lives.

In some ways though, the story behind the first Christmas wasn't too much different. Christmas itself is perhaps the greatest interruption in all of human history. A tiny village in Bethlehem becomes center stage for God's most glorious gift to the world. All the while, the lives of ordinary people are being interrupted without warning. Consider how many times angels intervene as the story unfolds: Zechariah and Elizabeth, an older couple strong in their faith become parents in their “golden years.” Mary, a young teenager at best, finds herself pondering the gift of not only bearing a son, but giving birth to *the Son*. Joseph, a carpenter by trade, just wanted his marriage to Mary to be a quiet affair. The angel's visit to his doorstep dashed any dreams that future would be anything but “normal.” Fatherhood was fast approaching and there was no time to waste.

What of the shepherds? Relegated to the sleepless nights under the stars, no one would have ever imagined that *they* would receive an invitation to the birth of a King. An otherwise quiet night soon become anything but silent as sights and sounds of angels lit up the sky with songs of praise. Yes, the story of Christmas brought many of its own holy interruptions even then.

My hope and prayer is that this Christmas season might bring us all some of our own holy interruptions – moments when the nearness of God fills our hearts and stirs our souls with wonder and amazement. Watch and listen as the songs of angels and the sights of the Savior come once again this Christmastime.

Peace and joy,

Pastor Steve

Sermon Schedule: December 2009

Series: Advent and Christmas Season

Scripture Lessons: Matthew and Luke

Theme: The Question of Christmas: "Why me, God?"

December 6: Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon Title: Why Me God? – Mary

Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Holy Communion – passed in pews

Advent Candlelighting Week #2

Handbells

As someone no older than a teenager, the privilege and responsibility that God gave to Mary would have been overwhelming for any woman even twice her age. Yet, Mary's reply to the angel tells us that she is indeed a woman far beyond her years.

December 13: Third Sunday of Advent

Children's Christmas Program

Advent Candlelighting Week #3

This week we celebrate the story of Christmas through the voices of our children here at Waterville UMC. Come enjoy the message told in this special day of story and songs.

December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sermon Title: Why Me God? – Joseph

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Advent Candlelighting Week #4

Praise Band

Often forgotten in the cast of characters at Christmastime is Joseph. Like the others he had his "Why me?" moment with an angel. In his own way Joseph provides us with a beautiful understanding of grace and mercy so very much needed when life brings interruptions our way.

December 24: Christmas Eve

Service begins at 7:00 P.M.

Sermon Title: Why Me, God? – Shepherds

Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

Come join us for a service of candlelight and carols as we sing and share the story of Christmas. We conclude this year's sermon series with a shepherds' eye view of the Birth of Jesus.

December 27: First Sunday after Christmas

Sermon Title: Guest Speaker -- TBA



WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

If you haven't purchased your ticket for the Christmas Dinner on **Saturday, December 5**, contact Penny at the church office. Seating will start at 5:45 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:00 p.m. Entertainment by some of the men of our church will follow. **Ticket prices are \$15.00**. Babysitting in the nursery will be provided.

LUNCH BUNCH

Join us for lunch on Wednesday, December 16th at 12:45 p.m. at the Olive Garden on Reynolds Road, Toledo. Call Tehya Collinsworth at 419-878-8616 if you need a ride. Hope to see lots of ladies there! We always have a good time along with great food.

WOMEN'S HOBBY DAY

Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, February 6th**! We are planning a hobby day from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Come and spend the whole day or whatever time you can and do whatever you want. You can bring your own craft/hobby or we will have other projects for you to work on. Lunch and dinner will be provided. Look for more information next month.

LUNCH IS BEING SERVED

The Women's Ministry will be serving lunch after worship on December 13. Stay and enjoy lunch of soup, hot chicken sandwiches and dessert before heading out Christmas shopping or on to your next Christmas activity. A free will offering will be taken with all proceeds going to the New Building Fund.

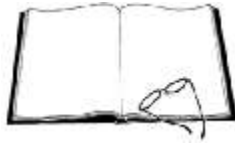


FRIENDLY CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are in need of Christmas gifts for the Friendly Center Christmas party. The age range of gifts is up to 12 years old, boys and girls, with a price range from \$10 - \$15. Although any age is appreciated, they do have an over abundance of gifts for 4-6 year olds and a very short supply of gifts for 10-12 year olds. Suggestions for the 10-12 age group would be gift certificates to Best Buy, fast food or something along that line. 10-12 year old girls also like jewelry, purses, etc. Please bring your new wrapped gifts to the church by Dec 15th. Packages need to be marked appropriate age and gender. A box will be located in the hallway to drop off your gifts.



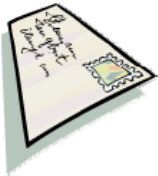
We will also collect new mittens, gloves, hat and scarves for Friendly Center. Please bring your items by December 15 and place on the mitten tree located in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your willingness to give to the less fortunate at Christmas. They are so appreciative of our churches and our giving spirits.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Plan now to attend one of the two new ABF classes which will begin January 10 at 9 a.m. Experience the words and images of scripture in a whole new way as we travel to the Holy Land with Ray Vander Laan's series, Faith Lessons. With our own personal tour through Israel, we will come to better understand Hebrew culture and the significance of God's Word for today. The two new studies are entitled "God Hear Their Cry" and "The Early Church." Both volumes are five weeks, are DVD curriculums, and require no homework. Please join us for these informative and inspiring studies.

The Prayer Team will continue to meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at the church. Those dates are: January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, and June 8.



The Card Ministry meets quarterly the third Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. on January 19, April 20, July 20, and October 19 at the church.



STATISTICS

DATE	WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	MISSIONS	SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
Nov. 1	147	\$4,635.00	\$ 764.00	\$ 5.00	29 - C
Nov. 8	191	3,315.00	18,877.04	145.00	22 - C 20 - Adult
Nov. 15	147	4,671.00	11,541.50	55.00	33 - C 24 - Adult
Nov. 22	201	2,750.00	1,475.00	205.00	37 - C 25 - Adult

Our Christmas offering, along with our Thanksgiving Offering, this year will go into our Emergency Fund. This fund is used to help our members and friends of the church when a dire situation arises. In these economic hard times, our emergency fund is being used to help others quite frequently. If you are aware of someone who needs financial help, please contact the church office. Christmas envelopes are included with your offering envelopes and can also be found by the entrances to the sanctuary. We thank you in advance for your generosity to help others in need.



Grace Russell



Christian Hope and Sympathy to:

Julie Croy and family upon the death of her Step-Mother, Bonita Scheidel, Nov. 22;

The Selders family upon the death of their family member, David Lohmeyer, on Nov. 19.

Youth Alive! 2009

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! John 14:6 We are Alive in Jesus!

- December 6 - That Sunday Thing, 9:00 am
Youth Alive, 6:30 pm - Why Jesus? #2
- December 13 - No That Sunday Thing
Practice for Christmas Program, 9:00 am (for any youth participating)
Children's Christmas Program, 10:30 am - During the church service
White Elephant Gift Exchange and Pizza, 6:30 pm
- December 20 - No Youth Alive or That Sunday Thing until January 10
Have a wonderful Christmas break!
- January 10 - That Sunday Thing, 9:00 am
Youth Alive, 6:30 pm - Why Jesus? #3
- January 17 - That Sunday Thing, 9:00 am
Melva, Jerry, and Delores' Diner, 6:00 pm
Movie and Popcorn
- January 24 - That Sunday Thing, 9:00 am
Youth Alive, 6:30 pm - Why Jesus? Conclusion
- January 29 - **Theater for the World Production**
Lasagna Dinner Youth Fundraiser
- January 30 - No Youth Alive
- February 5-6 Blaze Conference in Columbus
You don't want to miss it! Contact Adam for a ticket.

Mark your Calendars:

June 13-18, 2010 Mission Trip to Nashville, TN

Events and dates may change so please check the weekly postcards for the most up-to-date information.



December 2009 Birthdays

Day Adults

1	Christopher Ramlow
3	Karen Caldwell
4	Doug LaRue
4	Annette Swanson
5	Matt Plassmann
7	Daniel Box
7	Doug Box
7	Pat Morrison
7	Tom Overmyer
8	Millie Hires
10	Ann Dalton



10	Jim Page
12	Ali Welker
14	David Morrison
15	JoAnn Lucas
16	Rob Deardurff
17	Penny Greenlese
19	Neil Westfall
23	Charlotte Pritchett
27	Logan Colyer
27	Anne Stevens
28	Eric Varner

Day Youth

1	Luke Kirby
4	Anna Brown
4	Lily Croy
16	Fiona Ellison
17	Austin Cox
20	Freddy Anderson
27	Victoria Marshall



*Baptized
in the name
of the Lord*



Baptized on November 8, was **ETHAN VICTOR KREFT**. Ethan is the son of Nicholas and Rachael Kreft and Great-Grandson of Bill and Mary Ann Parker.



The 2010 Altar Flower calendar is now posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please sign up for the dates you want to be responsible for. Cost of the flowers is \$25.00. You may also indicate who you would like to dedicate the flowers to, or a person or event you wish to honor with a remembrance.

You may take your flowers home after the worship service. Remember to return the green liner to the church or Cooper Florist.



Merry Christmas, Gentle Savior...the CD

Are you looking for **the perfect Christmas gift** this year? Would you like a gift that gives in more ways than one? Give the gift of music and help out the A.W. Food Pantry with your purchase. Our praise band has completed the CD recordings of the songs featured in last year's benefit concert. This disk is a blend of traditional and contemporary Christmas tunes. The CD will be released on December 5th for \$10.00 and for those wishing to give it away as a gift (3 for \$25.00). Disks will be available during fellowship in December as well as in the church office. Please make checks payable to W.U.M.C. with CD Project in the memo line. **All proceeds will go directly to the A.W. Food Pantry.** Special thanks to Ted Myers and everyone involved in creating this disk. May God bless our efforts and help those in need in the coming year.



Thank you to Dick and Jean Warner for all the time they have spent raking the leaves at church. Also to those who raked on the church work day.

A huge thank you to Jim Page for painting and laying the carpet in the women's restroom. It looks great!

Dear Friends, thank you so much for the blanket. I use it all the time. Thank you for being so thoughtful. Dorothy Gullett

During a time like this we realize how much our family and friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. Peace and love from our hearts to yours. Amy, Rex and Hope Childers



XYZ – EXTRA YEARS OF ZEST

Come to the XYZ "**A Christmas Story**" party and take a nostalgic journey back to the Christmases of your childhood.

Party activities will relate to the classic movie, "**A Christmas Story**", based on the book, "**In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash**".

Of course everyone will be bringing something to snack on, so this promises to be a delightful evening of food, fun and fellowship.

Oh yes, there are a couple of items of homework before the party: **(You might win a "major award"!)**

1. We want you to write **a theme.**

Please consider writing a short paragraph or two, in the style of you, when you were ten years old (or so). The subject should be about what you wanted for Christmas that year. (Well, let's just say for sometime before you turned sixteen years old.)

2. We heartily recommend that you view (or review) the movie, "**A Christmas Story**" before the party. It will do you good (and a refresher might lead to advantage :)

The party will begin at **7:00 PM on Saturday, December 12th** at the home of Elaine & Keith Colyer. The address is **6273 Morgan Marie Ct. in Whitehouse.** (Morgan Marie Ct. branches off Rupp Rd and is very near Fallen Timbers Middle School.)

We "*double dog dare you*" to miss this party. :)

Hope you can attend,

Keith & Elaine Colyer



“CLEAN UP” YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST with a knitted dishcloth made by Karen Longnecker. These would make excellent Christmas gifts! She is asking \$2.00 for each one and the proceeds will go toward our Building Fund. They will be for sale following worship in the Fellowship Hall.



This recipe from Jean Warner has been requested by many of you.

CASHEW SALAD

- 1 head lettuce
- 1 pkg. fresh spinach
- 4 or 5 apples, chopped
- 1 lb. Swiss cheese
- 12 oz. cashews

DRESSING (more than for one salad)

- 1 cup salad oil
- 1/3 cup vinegar
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. chopped green onion
- 1 1/2 tsp. poppy seeds



Mix salad together. Blend dressing ingredients together in blender. Pour over salad when ready to serve.





Get your voices ready for caroling on **Sunday, December 13th**. We will meet at church at 6:00 p.m. and share our Christmas joy with our homebound friends. After caroling we will go to Lisa and Kyle Galton's home to warm up and have refreshments .

MISSION NEWS



Once again Operation Christmas Child was a huge success this year. We delivered 75 shoeboxes filled with toys, candy, hygiene items, and love. Over \$500 was also collected and sent to fill other boxes. Thank you so much to all who donated and touched many children's lives by your gifts. Our congregation is AMAZING!

We are changing our mission moments during worship service. We will present the next month's mission project on the last Sunday of the month (instead of the first Sunday) so you will be informed before the month begins.



As in the past, we plan to grace the Chancel Area for the Christmas Service with poinsettias. Your name and the person(s) to whom you wish to make a dedication will be listed in the Christmas bulletin. You may also make a separate donation to the New Building Fund. Please **return the form below to the church office** by **December 15** if you wish to participate.

I would like to purchase _____ red Christmas poinsettias @ \$7.00 each.

I would like to purchase _____ white Christmas poinsettias @ \$7.00 each.

I would like to donate \$_____ to the New Building Fund.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Enclosed is a total of \$_____

Signed _____ (as you want your name printed in the bulletin.)



Scripture and Prayer Calendar



*"...you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."
Luke 2:12*

SCRIPTURE		DEC	PRAYER
Ezekiel 37, 38, 39	Psalm 120	1	Mr. Lowell Steusloff
Ezekiel 40, 41, 42	Psalm 121	2	The Dan Stevens Family
Ezekiel 43, 44, 45	Psalm 122	3	Mr. Fred Stover & Barbara Korecki
Ezekiel 46, 47, 48	Psalm 123	4	Mr. & Mrs. Streven Suchocki
Daniel 1, 2, 3	Psalm 124	5	Mr. & Mrs. Todd Swanson
Daniel 4, 5, 6	Psalm 125	6	Ms. Deb Thomas
Daniel 7, 8, 9	Psalm 126	7	Mrs. Joyce Thomas
Daniel 10, 11, 12	Psalm 127	8	Mr. & Mrs. Ed Thompson
Hosea 1, 2, 3	Psalm 128	9	Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Utz
Hosea 4, 5, 6	Psalm 129	10	The Craig Varner Family
Hosea 7, 8, 9	Psalm 130	11	The Eric Varner Family
Hosea 10, 11, 12	Psalm 131	12	Mr. & Mrs. Dick Warner
Hosea 13 & 14	Psalm 132	13	Mrs. Loraine Welker
Joel 1, 2, 3	Psalm 133	14	The Wendell Welker Family
Amos 1, 2, 3	Psalm 134	15	Mrs. Helen Welsh
Amos 4, 5, 6	Psalm 135	16	The Neil Westfall Family
Amos 7, 8, 9	Psalm 136	17	The Tommy Wielgopolski Family
Obadiah 1	Psalm 137	18	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wiggins
Jonah 1, 2, 3, 4	Psalm 138	19	Mr. & Mrs. Gene Williams
Micah 1, 2, 3	Psalm 139	20	Mrs. Delores Young
Micah 4, 5, 6, 7	Psalm 140	21	Mrs. Lindsay Young
Nahum 1, 2, 3	Psalm 141	22	Mrs. Lucile Young
Habakkuk 1, 2, 3	Psalm 142	23	Squire Young & Chris Major
Zephaniah 1, 2, 3	Psalm 143	24	Rev. & Mrs. James Caldwell
Haggai 1 & 2	Psalm 144	25	Rev. & Mrs. Dave Hogg
Zechariah 1, 2, 3	Psalm 145	26	Rev. & Mrs. Robert Linter
Zechariah 4, 5, 6	Psalm 146	27	Rev. & Mrs. Roland Perkins
Zechariah 7, 8, 9	Psalm 147	28	Rev. & Mrs. Robert Quick
Zechariah 10, 11, 12	Psalm 148	29	Rev. & Mrs. Jim Stewart
Zechariah 13 & 14	Psalm 149	30	Rev. & Mrs. Robert Versteeg
Maachi 1, 2, 3, 4	Psalm 150	31	Rev. & Mrs. Warren Wilson
			Rev. & Mr. Marla Brown
			Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Ough
			The Jeff Sheldon Family



Following each daily Scripture Reading are the names of the families and individuals for our daily prayer list. Please read your Bible and pray for these persons for the month of December. If you have a prayer request, please feel free to call the Prayer Chain: Pam Plassmann 419-878-9432 or e-mail plassmb@accesstoledo.com: Mary Williams 419-878-5554 or e-mail margewill@toast.net.

December

WATERVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

102 NORTH FIFTH STREET

WATERVILLE, OHIO 43566

REV. STEVE RATH, PASTOR

CHURCH OFFICE: 419/878-3645 or 419/878-5225

E-MAIL: watervilleumc@embarqmail.com

FAX: 419/878-4222

PASTOR'S CELL: 419/419-8396

WEB SITE: www.watervilleumc.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		December 1	2	3	4	5
		7:00pm Building Committee Meeting 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Committee	9:30am M&M's to Seagate Food 5:15pm Kinder Choir Practice 6:30pm Handbell Practice	7:00am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Band Practice 7:00pm Praise Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice		10:00am Children's Christmas Program Practice 6:00pm Women's Christmas Dinner
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00am Bible Fellowship 9:00am Kid's Club 9:00am TST for Jr/Sr Hi 10:30am Worship Service w/ Children's SS 6:30pm Youth Alive	6:00pm Boy Scout Troop #101	11:00am Prayer Team 6:00pm Trustees Meeting 7:00pm Building Committee 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	9:30am M&M's 5:15pm Kinder Choir Practice 6:30pm Handbell Practice	7:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Clergy Cluster Meeting 6:00pm Band Practice 7:00pm Praise Band 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir		8:30am United Methodist Men's Meeting
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00am Bible Fellowship 9:00am Practice 10:30am Worship Service w/ Children's Christ. Program 6:00pm Caroling Party 6:30pm Youth Alive	6:00pm Boy Scout Troop #101	7:00pm Building Committee Meeting 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	9:30am M&M's 12:45pm Lunch Bunch 5:15pm Kinder Choir Party	7:00am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Band Practice 7:00pm Praise Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00am Bible Fellowship 9:00am Kid's Club 10:30am Worship Service w/ Children's SS 6:30pm Youth Alive	DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY AMBASSADOR 6:00pm Boy Scout Troop #101			7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	 MERRY CHRISTMAS	
27	28	29	30	31		
9:00am Bible Fellowship 9:00am Kid's Club 9:00am TST for Jr/Sr Hi 10:30am Worship Service	10:00am Heartland of Waterville Care Service 6:00pm Boy Scout Troop #101	10:30am Prayer Quilt Ministry				

Altar Flowers

Dec. 6 - open
13 - open
20 - open
24 - Bob & Millie Hires
27 - open