



THE AMBASSADOR

December 2010

From the Pastor's Pen

A "STRESS-LESS" CHRISTMAS

As I write this month's article, my calendar tells me that it is November 18th. That means I have lots of time to think about all the preparations that come with another Christmas season. Someone should tell that to my neighbors who have their tree up and decorated a week before Thanksgiving! (I'm all for getting into the Christmas spirit, but you know, some of us just need a little more time....) Perhaps a bit more subtly, I couldn't help but notice that advertisers are now running commercials that include snow in them. (I am *so* not ready for snow!) To help get holiday shoppers in the mood to think about spending, Barnes & Noble serenaded me with its yearly rendition of *Santa Baby* playing on the loudspeakers as I browsed their shelves.

Indeed there is so much to prepare for as Christmas comes once again to us. There are people to see at parties, gifts to buy, treats to bake, and trees to decorate. It's all so much to do in so short a time! That is why I want to offer you a gift this Christmas that I am giving to myself as well: A "Stress-Less Christmas." (Some of you may be thinking, *I really do need less stress this Christmas....*)

Of all the traditions of Christmas, there is one that I always prepare: putting out the nativity display reminding me of the reality and meaning of what Christmas is really all about. Without God, we would have no Christmas.

When we look at how God prepared for the first Christmas, he didn't seem too stressed out about it. He was ready with time to spare. In fact, he had been preparing for Christmas years ago! The people who became part of the story though may beg to differ: Elizabeth and Zechariah were senior citizens who just wanted to enjoy their golden years in peace and quiet. Joseph and Mary were young lovers getting ready for a festive, Jewish wedding ceremony. Each of them got babies from God! (Talk about adding some stress to your lives for Christmas!) And what of the wise men, King Herod, and shepherds?

So, each week we'll look at the people, places, events, and families who made up the first Christmas and how God broke through the stress of their bustling, busy lives and brought them the gift he knew they needed most. Maybe in the same way, he might break through to you and me as well.

In the midst of your planning and preparations, I so look forward to spending time with you as members of our church family, relaxing, celebrating, eating, worshiping, and most especially enjoying the gift of a Savior this Christmas season.

Gratefully yours and His,

Pastor Steve



Coming in worship this December

In the life of the church, there is hardly a more joyful, uplifting time of year than the Advent and Christmas Season. In a variety of ways we will be reminding of the glorious message of the coming of Christ once again this year. Each week's worship will remind us of all that God had in mind as he prepared to send the gift of his Son into the world. Come enjoy the sights, sounds, and celebration with us this year.



Advent Candle Lighting Families

We express our thanks and appreciation to the following individuals and families who will bring the light of Christ into our services this holiday season:

November 28 – Rev. Lupina and Abel Stewart with Pedro and Elizabeth

December 5 -- Rod and Heather Rose with Skyler, Mia, and Zoe

December 12 – Donna and Katie Martin

December 19 – Frank and Robin Lipinski with Shamar, Jamel and family

Sermon Series: A Stress-Less Christmas

November 28	“Joy in your Golden Years”	Luke 1:5-25
December 5	“Peace for your Future”	Luke 1:26-45
December 12	Children’s Christmas Celebration in Worship	
December 19	“Hope for your Fears”	Matthew 1:18-25
December 24	“Love for your Lives”	Luke 2:1-20



Have a New Kid by Friday

Parents of toddlers through teens – do we have a great 6 week treat for you! Dr. Kevin Lemman blends a healthy dose of common sense, humorous insights, and Biblical wisdom to help us become more godly parents. A DVD curriculum with take-home study sessions, Have a New Kid by Friday is both entertaining and instructive. Gather your friends, spread the word, and come join us Sunday, January 9 at 9 a.m. for a time of learning and laughter. Remember, Kid's Club for the children at the same time (they have a great time too).



Going Caroling

**December 12th
6 P.M.**

Calling all singers to join us for Christmas Caroling! We will meet at church and share our Christmas joy with our homebound friends. We will warm up after singing with hot chocolate and cookies at the Galton's home.

175TH ANNIVERSARY ORNAMENTS

We still have some ornaments/sun catchers left from our 175th Anniversary celebration last year. We would like every member to have one. For a donation of your choice, they will be available for you to take one during our Fellowship Time after the worship service until the supply runs out. Or you may stop in at the church office during business hours and pick one up.



Shoebboxes for kids

MISSION NEWS

You have outdone yourselves once again. Operation Christmas Child was a huge success again this year. We delivered 110 shoeboxes filled with toys, candy, hygiene items and love! Over \$500 was also collected and sent to fill other boxes and to help with shipping costs. Thank you so much to all who donated and touched many children's lives by your gifts. Our congregation is AMAZING!



The 2011 **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.



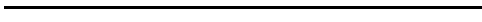
HOSPITALIZED IN NOVEMBER

Jeff Combs
John Nicholson
Priscilla Schlingman

Jeff Combs
Tom Overmyer



Remember to let us know if you or a loved one is hospitalized.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

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 13** 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.)

Youth Alive

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

Leaf Raking Fundraiser will continue throughout November. Please contact Adam Shelton if you would like to support the youth mission trip and have the youth rake your leaves.

November 7 - Youth Alive - Gospel Journey #2, 6:30-8:30 pm
Music Challenge Drawing!!!!

November 14 - Youth Alive - Gospel Journey #3, 6:30-8:30 pm

November 21 - Melva, Jerry, and Delores' Diner, 6:00 pm
Game Night

November 28 - No Youth Alive - Happy Thanksgiving!

December 5 - Youth Alive - Gospel Journey #4, 6:30-8:30 pm

December 12 - Melva, Jerry, and Delores' Diner, 6:00 pm
White Elephant Gift Exchange, 6:30-8:30 pm

Upcoming Events:

February 4 & 5 - Dare2Share Columbus Conference - "UN" Tour

June 19-24, 2011 - Mission Trip to Pittsburg, PA

Events and Dates may change. Please check weekly postcards for the most updated information.

WOMEN'S NEWS

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

If you haven't purchased your ticket for the Christmas Dinner on **Saturday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m.**, contact the church office. Seating will start at 5:45 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:00 p.m. Entertainment by the men will follow dinner. We will then enjoy a dessert bar. **Ticket prices are \$15.00.** We hope all the women of the church will be able to join us and have a wonderful start to the Christmas season.



THE LUNCH BUNCH will meet on **Wednesday, December 15** at Café Marie on Dussel Drive, Maumee. Come join us for a delicious Christmas lunch.

The "Lunch Bunch" of the Women's Ministry would like to invite all the animal lovers of WUMC congregation to help and support them in a project near and dear to their hearts:

"Put Yourself in Their Paws" is an ongoing program of the Toledo Area Humane Society. If you are not ready to adopt a pet of your own, the TAHS has put together an *"Animal Wish List"* for the approximately 235 homeless animals they house. For quality of life of the animals, all the items are needed on a day-to-day basis for their care and upkeep. Besides cats and dogs, there are various other kinds of animals like guinea pigs, hamsters, reptiles, etc. that have become homeless that they take in mostly because of the hard times and people cannot afford to keep them any more..

It was decided at our last luncheon, the Lunch Bunch would like to collect items from December 5th through December 20th and take the donated items to the Humane Society on December 21st. Some of the items include: cat litter, dental bones or harvest chews, dog or cat treats (soft treats & small dog bones), (**NO** dog or cat food), empty cereal boxes, canned tuna fish, laundry soap (high efficiency), paper towels, plastic garbage bags, bath towels (new or gently used), distilled water, Ziploc sandwich size bags, new plastic spray bottles, baking soda, 9 volt & AA batteries, etc. A full complete list is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you would like to donate any item, there will be a collection area downstairs in Fellowship Hall. To learn more about this project or if you have any questions, please contact Tehya Collinsworth at 419-878-8616. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support and any assistance you can give.



The quilt raffle was won by our own Donna Martin. The Women's Ministry was able to donate \$500 to the Building Fund due to your support of this project. Thank you to all that helped.

FRIENDLY CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY



Christmas is right around the corner and it is time again to show our church's giving spirit. Brighten the Christmas of inner city boys and girls in North Toledo by wrapping a gift for the Friendly Center Community Center. Their Christmas party is December 20th, so we will need to **have our gifts to the church by Friday, December 17th**. Age ranges are kindergarten - junior high. Gift ideas are - for boys: basketballs, footballs, cars, games, action figures. For girls: dolls, jewelry, hair accessories and games. Clothing for both: socks, sweatshirts. Gift cards are also a great idea. Put a tag on the gift with boy or girl and age appropriate.

Please be sure to decorate our mitten tree with hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. They also go to the Friendly Center. The tree will be located in the Fellowship Hall.



STATISTICS

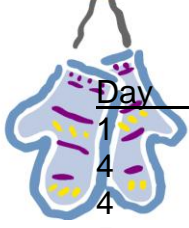
DATE	WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	MISSIONS	SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
October 31	170	\$3,257.50	\$ 552.50	\$ 55.00	28
November 7	160	5,276.05	630.00	190.00	27
November 14	172	6,736.00	1,729.00	235.00	37
November 21	157	2,501.00	6,809.00	45.00	31
November 28	166	4,371.10	1,624.92	70.00	43

Our Thanksgiving and Christmas Offerings have been designated to the A.W. Food Pantry. Along with monetary donations, we will also continue to collect food items. The pantry is located at Zion UMC in Whitehouse. They provide help to those in the Anthony Wayne area, not only at holiday time but throughout the year. Boxes for you to place your nonperishable items are provided by the entrances to the Sanctuary.

2011 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

If you have not turned in your Pledge Card and Service Commitment form to the church, there is still time to do so. We still offer direct contribution through your bank to save you from writing a check each month. You can also have your quarterly statements e-mailed to you, which helps to save the church money on stamps and paper. Contact either Tom Wiggins or the church office to get started with both or either of these services.

December



Day Adults

1	Christopher Ramlow
4	Doug LaRue
4	Annette Swanson
5	Matt Plassmann
7	Doug Box
7	Daniel 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

2010 Birthdays



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Day Youth

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



Congratulations to Brandon and Alissa (Landis) Chase upon the arrival of their son, **WYATT CHARLES CHASE**. Wyatt was born on November 15 in Kentucky. Proud Grandparents are David and Cathy Landis.

Christian Hope and Sympathy to the family of **Lea Brown**, who passed away recently. Lea, along with her husband Richard, were members of Waterville UMC for many year and had lived in the Cincinnati area the past few years. Richard passed away in 2008.



A NOTE OF



Penn and I want to thank you for your cards, your calls, your visits and your gifts of food. You overwhelmed us with your kindness. But most of all your prayers, we felt your love and concern throughout Penn's illness. Thankfully, he is better and received a good report from the doctor. You truly are a "church with a warm heart". Thank you.

In God's Love,

Penn and Charlotte

Friends:

Words are truly inadequate to fully express my thanks and appreciation for your many kindnesses, cards, and gifts during both Pastor Appreciation Month and my birthday. Your encouragement is a great strength in allowing us to share in God's work together, and for that I am eternally grateful.

Thank you for indeed being "the church with the warm heart!"

Gratefully yours and His,

Pastor Steve

Free Election Day Lunch

On November 2nd, twenty-five very "enthusiastic" people joined together to prepare and serve lunch to our church and our community. From the cooks, the bakers, the servers, the clean up crew, we served over 85 people. The real prize was, we all had a great time. Without so many willing to help, we could not have offered this ministry. Outreach committee wants to thank each of you for sharing your time and your talents in making this possible. Thank you Waterville United Methodist Church.



For those of you who are lucky enough to go to warmer climates, don't forget to give the church office your winter address. We don't want you to miss any news from home. Bulk mail is not forwarded. We are charged for every mailing that is not able to be delivered while you are away.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ANGER MANAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

An Anger Management Support Group has been formed and will meet at Zion Lutheran Church on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Join them for fellowship and support as they help each other manage anger and learn to identify the triggers that lead to anger actions. There is no charge for this group. Contact Ken at 419-878-2559 for more information.

COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Zion Lutheran Men's Club in Waterville will hold their monthly pancake breakfast on Dec. 4 from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$5.00 per person, \$4.00 for 12 year olds and younger. Zion is located at 22 N. Second St. in Waterville. The proceeds of the breakfast will go to the Food for thought Food Bank. Weather permitting, an NHRA Dragster will be on display in Zion's parking lot.



BROWNING MASONIC COMMUNITY PRESENTS BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 4th at 9:30 a.m.
Adults \$5, children \$2.50

Includes a continental Breakfast, visit and color picture with Santa, a "Love Animal" presented to every child and a Story Teller!
Call Sharon at 419-878-4055 to make your reservations.



MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS



Waterville Playshop will present A Holiday Concert: "Home for the Holidays" on Thursday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Waterville. Admission is a donation to the Anthony Wayne Food Pantry. The Juke Box Saturday Night Singers & Friends and the Centre Spotlight Chorus will perform seasonal music and there will be a rendition of "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

The Lourdes College Music Department Presents "Celebrate The Season!" Sunday, December 5, 7:30 p.m. at the Franciscan Theatre and Conference Center of Lourdes College. Music to celebrate the Reason for the Season, Holiday standards performed by The Lourdes Choirs and The Maumee Community Band. A Christmas Carol sing-along finale. Admission is free!



Christmas Bazaar at Maumee United Methodist Church, December 4th from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Homemade candies and pies. A Cottage Inn, crafts and many handmade items. Lunch served from 11:00 – 4:00.



Scripture and Prayer Calendar



SCRIPTURE	DEC	PRAYER
Ezekiel 37, 38, 39	Psalm 120	1 The Craig Robertson Family
Ezekiel 40, 41, 42	Psalm 121	2 Mr. & Mrs. Russ Robertson
Ezekiel 43, 44, 45	Psalm 122	3 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Robinson
Ezekiel 46, 47, 48	Psalm 123	4 Mr. & Mrs. John Rose
Daniel 1, 2, 3	Psalm 124	5 The Rod Rose Family
Daniel 4, 5, 6	Psalm 125	6 Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Russell
Daniel 7, 8, 9	Psalm 126	7 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Schifferly
Daniel 10, 11, 12	Psalm 127	8 The Russ Schifferly Family
Hosea 1, 2, 3	Psalm 128	9 Mrs. Priscilla Schlingman
Hosea 4, 5, 6	Psalm 129	10 The Brian Schultz Family
Hosea 7, 8, 9	Psalm 130	11 Jeremy Selders Family
Hosea 10, 11, 12	Psalm 131	12 The Adam Shelton Family
Hosea 13 & 14	Psalm 132	13 The Jay Sheridan Family
Joel 1, 2, 3	Psalm 133	14 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Sheridan
Amos 1, 2, 3	Psalm 134	15 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Shoemaker
Amos 4, 5, 6	Psalm 135	16 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Simpson
Amos 7, 8, 9	Psalm 136	17 The Doug Smith Family
Obadiah 1	Psalm 137	18 Mrs. Katherine Smith
Jonah 1, 2, 3, 4	Psalm 138	19 The Brian Snyder Family
Micah 1, 2, 3	Psalm 139	20 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Spsychalski
Micah 4, 5, 6, 7	Psalm 140	21 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Stafford
Nahum 1, 2, 3	Psalm 141	22 The David Stafford Family
Habakkuk 1, 2, 3	Psalm 142	23 Mrs. Richard Stafford
Zephaniah 1, 2, 3	Psalm 143	24 Mr. Robert Stearns
Haggai 1 & 2	Psalm 144	25 Mr. Lowell Steusloff
Zechariah 1, 2, 3	Psalm 145	26 The Dan Stevens Family
Zechariah 4, 5, 6	Psalm 146	27 Fred Stover & Barbara Korecki
Zechariah 7, 8, 9	Psalm 147	28 The Steven Suchocki Family
Zechariah 10, 11, 12	Psalm 148	29 Mr. & Mrs. Todd Swanson
Zechariah 13 & 14	Psalm 149	30 Mrs. Deb Thomas
Malachi 1, 2, 3, 4	Psalm 150	31 Mrs. Joyce Thomas

*"The child to be born
will be holy;
he will be called
Son of God."*

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
			Dec 1	2	3	4
	ALTAR FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER 5 - Dick & Sue George 12 - Margaret Hayes 19 - open 24 - Shawn & Carolyn Myerholtz 26 - open		 9:30am M&Ms to Seagate Food Pantry 5:15pm Kinder Choir Practice 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Worship Committee Meeting	7:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice		6:00pm Women's Christmas Dinner 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00am Adult Bible Fellowship 9:00am Kid's Club 10:30am Worship Service w/ Children's S. S. 6:30pm Youth Alive!	6:00pm Open Guitar Class 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #101	2:00pm Bible Study at Browning Complex 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	5:15pm Kinder Choir Practice 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm SPARC Ministry Implementation Meeting	7:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Clergy Cluster Meeting 6:00pm Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice		11:00am Christmas Program Rehearsal 
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00am Adult Bible Fellowship 9:00am Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service w/ Children's Christmas Program 6:00pm Christmas Caroling 6:00pm Youth Alive!	6:00pm Open Guitar Class 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #101 7:00pm Contemporary Worship Planning Meeting	2:00pm Bible Study at Browning Complex 6:00pm Trustee Meeting 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Building Committee Meeting	12:45pm Lunch Bunch 5:15pm Kinder Choir Practice 6:30pm Handbell Practice	7:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00am Adult Bible Fellowship 9:00am Kid's Club 10:30am Worship Service w/ Children's S. S.	6:00pm Open Guitar Class 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #101	Deadline for The Jan. Ambassador 2:00pm Communion at Browning Complex		7:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Band Practice 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice	7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service 	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10:30am Worship Service		10:30am Prayer Quilt		7:30am Men's Bible Study	