By the Way

Celebrating and Sharing God's Love in Christ

November / December, 2009

Hanging of the Greens

November 29th

4:00 p.m. worship service

followed by the decorating of our church for the season.

Potluck Supper afterwards

(There is no 9:30 worship service that Sunday)

Annual Christmas Pageant

December 13th

4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Lasagna Dinner to follow.

Reservations for the dinner requested.

$5.00 per person or $20 per family

Christmas Choral Cantata

December 20th

9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th

Family Vespers Service of

Stories, Carols and Candlelight 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight and Carol Service 11:00 p.m.

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Those recently hospitalized or ill:

- † Mary Holtorf's son, Steven Flickinger
- † John Ashe
- † Irene Smith
- † LHC neighbor, Carol Stokely
- † Bremmer Miller

Congratulations to Jill Muno and Brian Rodis on their marriage on November 14th.

Please pray for God's protection of our troops and HIS wisdom for their commanders.

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.

Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.... Amen

One of the things we learn as young children is to hold hands when we go out into the world. Holding hands is a symbol of friendship, touching is a symbol of love.

In the Grail stories, in Tolkien's Fellowship of the Ring, and other stories, there is healing in the hands of the king. The miracle comes, the sick are healed, the blind see, the lame walk, the impossible becomes possible. We are blessed.

To bless means to make or call holy, to be whole, to ask God's favor for, to bring happiness or good fortune to, to praise or glorify. A healing, helping hand, a hug, a word of hope and love are all blessings. To have a faith that fashions our thoughts and forms our acts is to be blessed.

Macrina Wiederkehr[1] tells of when she was a young girl, standing in a valley, watching the sun set on the hills above, and asking her mother, "What does it mean to bless?"

"To bless," my mother answered, "is to put a bit of yourself into something. It is to make holy, to change something for someone because of your presence. Words, although lovely, are the least important part of a blessing. What is more important is your leaning forward with love, your being there."

To bless another is to give a part of oneself, to "lean forward," to be there for the other, but it is only the divine blessing that enables us to bless.

To bless is to love. A good man asked God to grant him one wish. The man requested that he would like to do good without knowing it. The wish was granted. Then with great wisdom God thought that it was such a good idea he would grant that wish to all persons. And so it was.

Thanksgiving is a day of love and giving thanks for the abundance God gives us. The Christians faith affirms that we are loved by God and in that grace we are liberated, energized, and blessed.

Grace happens to us when we encounter others in the spirit of love. Every encounter with another is an opportunity to edify or demolish. We are called to be candles in a lighted room.

So remember when you go out into the world be sure to take God's hand and receive God's blessing.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving

Ron

[1] Religion Teacher's Journal, February, 1982, Macrina Wiederkehr

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November & December Worship Schedule

November 15 Stewardship Sunday
A Service of Commitment Guest Speaker ~ Rev. Sue Ebersold

November 22
Sermon: "Buried Bones on the Way to Jerusalem"
Scripture: Mark 14:6-9; Matthew 13 (selected verses)
Theme: Thankful Giving

November 25 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 p.m.
A Cooperative Service with Immanuel UCC
Message: "Render Thanks to Almighty God for the Blessings We Enjoy"
From an Early American Proclamation

November 29 Fifth Sunday Afternoon Worship
and Potluck Dinner
Theme: Hanging of the Greens Service at 4:00 p.m. ~ "Great Expectation"
Decorating the Church, Children's Activities and Potluck Supper.

December 6 Second Sunday in Advent
Holy Communion and New Member Recognition
Sermon: "What If God Were One of Us"
Scripture: Philippians 2:1-12
Theme: The Incarnation

December 13 Third Sunday in Advent
Sermon: "…A Fleeting Glimpse of Joy." (from J.R. Tolkien)
Scripture: Luke 1(selected verses)
Theme: The Presence of Angels

December 20 Fourth Sunday in Advent
The Christmas Choral Cantata ~ "Ceremony of Candles" by Joseph Martin

December 24 Christmas Eve
Family Vespers at 5:00 p.m. with Stories, Candlelight and Carols
Service Preceded with a Musical Recital beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship at 11:00 p.m. with Candlelight, Carols
and the Christmas Message
Preceded with a Musical Recital

December 27 First Sunday after Christmas
Holy Communion
Sermon: "…Releasing the Heroes in Our Souls…to Face Life with Steady Eyes."
(from Arthur Gossip, early 20th Century Preacher)
Scripture: John 1:1-14; Hebrews 2:10-18
Theme: The Incarnation of Redemption

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WE NOTICED

- Our Sunday School Teachers **Mary Roach**-Superintendent, **Mary Jean Schless, Jane Shelton, Gianna Marchese** and **Jen Gatsch** have donated many hours providing our children with a sound biblical background on which to build. We have a larger Sunday school attendance this year than we have had in the recent past. Our children are our future. Thank you dear teachers.

- **David** and **Kathryn Karwowski** in addition to providing Fellowship goodies for us after the Blessing of the Hounds, also provided cider and cookies under a tent for our neighbors and visitors. What a nice welcome and thanks to **Bob Kaska** for setting up the tent.

- Many thanks to **everyone** who helped with the Rummage Sale. Wishing we could name each individual without danger of leaving someone out, alas that is not possible. So let me just mention that we enjoyed the busy hands and many smiles of volunteers from those 10 years old to 88.

We thank you all for all you do!

Suzanne Setlock
Moderator

Poinsettias will once again be part of our Christmas Sunday (December 20th) decorations. If you are interested in helping to provide plants for worship please let the church office know. This year we will offer red, white and marble poinsettias. These beautiful plants will certainly enhance our worship space during the holiday season and may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service. The cost of each plant is $10 and payment is due with your order. You may also indicate whether you plant is in honor of or in remembrance of someone special or in celebration of someone or some special event. There will be order forms in the Sunday bulletins or you can call the Church office. The deadline for orders is December 13th.

POINSETTIAS

GIVING TREE

We will once again be partnering with Wayne School to help provide gifts to those identified as less fortunate. See Tim Haben after church to sign up. The gifts are due WRAPPED on the day of Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 13th.

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Reflections on the UCC Fox Valley Association Fall Meeting 2009

On Saturday Oct 25th, several of us attended the Fall Meeting, which was held at the First Congregational Church in Glen Ellyn. The day began with registration and a Worship service in the sanctuary. We then broke out into workshops.

Art Zwemke attended a Treasurers session "Managing Your Church's Budget in Good Times and Bad" in the morning and came away with some good tips he will share with us.

Ralph Daehn attended a Christian Ed session "Worming your way into a Child's Mind" session in the morning and "It's Not Just For Kids" session in the afternoon. Ralph said both of his workshops were excellent and he too came away with ideas.

I attended a Moderators workshop in the morning and learned some things I will try out on council in the coming months. I also attended an afternoon session on "Establishing & Sustaining an Effective Pastoral Relations Committee". I learned a lot about the function and responsibilities of this team and gathered much written information to share with our new Pastoral Relations committee members.

Everyone I spoke with thought the sessions were excellent and the day was well spent. We thank the UCC for sponsoring this yearly training and LHC for sponsoring us.

Suzanne Setlock
Moderator

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Thank you to all who donated a Thanksgiving food basket to the Feeding Northwest DuPage food pantry. You helped make a wonderful Thanksgiving to those less fortunate in these trying economic times. In the same vein, The Little Home Church has committed to providing 45 Christmas Dinners for the food pantry. Tim Haben will have the sign up sheets along with the shopping list. The food items need to be turned into Resurrection on Saturday, December 19th between 8 a.m.— 9 a.m. at Resurrection Parish located at Rt. 59 and Army Trail Road. There will be helpers in the parking lot so you don't even have to get out of your car! See Tim Haben or after church to sign up or call the Church Office.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Karen Ashe	November 3
Tim Haben	November 4
Ro Montgomery	November 7
Liz Haben	November 8
Dave Hochstetter	November 11
Jared Winquist	November 11
Anne Haben	November 12
Steve Maril	November 15
Steve Prang	November 15
Liz Thorne	November 18
Hannah Tanis	November 19
Susi Winquist	November 20
Abrielle Kapoor	November 21
Kathy Haben	November 24
Sullivan Kaska	November 27
Gladys Stevenson	December 3
Jon Christiansen	December 5
Kristen Thornton	December 9
David Sterner	December 10
Charlie Karwowski	December 11
Todd Boisselier	December 12
Valeri Baldwin	December 13
Christopher Thornton	December 18
Janice Christiansen	December 19
Ty Wilson-Muno	December 19
Dante Queen	December 20
Karen Benson	December 21
Rebecca Garside	December 23
Jane Price	December 27

A Note from Larry

The choir will be singing Thanksgiving Eve. Plan to come celebrate with us.

On Sunday, December 20th, the Adult Choir will present "A Ceremony of Candles" by Joseph Martin. The piece will feature the choir, soloists, and selected readings to tell the story of Advent and Christmas in song.

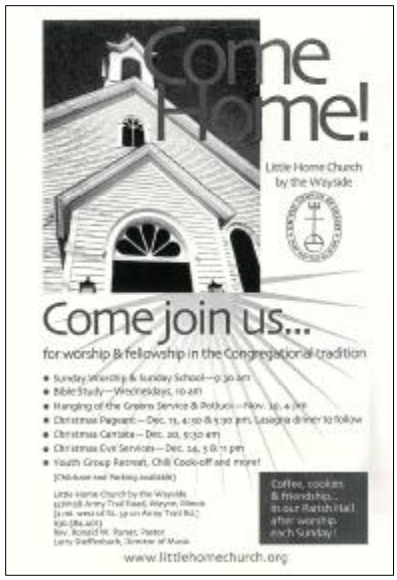
We will need readers, and soloists for our prelude/recitals before each of the Christmas Eve services this year. Please see me if you're interested.

Have a glorious holiday season!

Larry

COME HOME!

You might have noticed the little 5" X 7" flyer that was inserted in this newsletter. This is the latest in our Coming Home flyers. This particular flyer makes special mention of all our holiday happenings! Our Evangelism Ministry is trying to spread the word about our lovely church and can use your help. Please consider giving one to a friend, neighbor or family member and invite them to join us anytime for worship during!



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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

November 2009						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

November 1	All Saint's Sunday
Novmeber 8	Pancake Breakfast after worship
November 9	Fall Blood Drive
November 10	Church Council Meeting
November 15	STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY Evangelism Meeting after church
November 21	Thanksgiving Food Baskets Due Resurrection Church 8 a.m.—9 a.m.
November 25	Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service 7:00 p.m.
November 26	HAPPY THANKSGIVING
November 27	Feeding Northwest DuPage Fundraiser "Rock Against Hunger" 7:30 p.m. Arcada Theater in St. Charles
November 29	First Sunday of Advent HANGING OF THE GREENS

December 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

December 6	New Member Sunday
December 8	Church Council
December 11	January BTW Deadline
December 13	Christmas Pageant 4:30 & 5:30 Lasagna Dinner to follow Presents for the Giving Tree are due
December 19	Christmas Dinner Drop Off 8:00—9:00 a.m. @ Resurrection Parish
December 20	Christmas Choral Cantata 9:30 a.m. Special Christmas Fund Offering
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship at 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

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Little Home Church by the Wayside
United Church of Christ
32W128 Army Trail Road
Wayne, IL 60184

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Wayne, IL
PERMIT No. 6

DATED MATERIAL
Please Expedite

Join us for Worship:

9:30 Sunday Worship and Children's School
Childcare provided from 9:00-11:00
630-584-4013
fax: 630-584-4824
lhchome@aol.com
www.littlehomechurch.org
www.ucc.org

Along the Way...

The Feeding Northwest DuPage food pantry continues to seek donations.
The Little Home Church has committed to provide disposable diapers and toilet paper.
Pick some up next time you're at the store.
Drop them off in the Parish Hall and we'll deliver them to the food pantry.
Thank you for all that you do!

Little Home Church by the Wayside

Pastor
Rev. Ron Purser

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Don Heinrich

Minister of Music
Larry Dieffenbach

Moderator
Suzanne Setlock

Moderator-Elect
Bob Kaska

Office Manager
Lori Prang

Custodial Services
Odie Perry

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