



Volume II, Issue I

Bethlehem Greetings

Bethlehem United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL



January 2007

From the Bethlehem Greetings' elves:

Welcome to our holiday edition of the Greetings! Enjoy the quick update and look for the full scale newsletter to return in February. The Merry Elves of 2746 N. Magnolia

FROM THE PASTOR-Rev. Wayne

The sanctuary was beautiful on Sunday, December 24th. The red poinsettias were redder than they've ever been, the white ones more vibrant. Added to the white lights and ornaments on the tree (our new pre-lit tree; a quick prayer of thanksgiving for pre-lit trees), the garland with lights and red bows strung around the choir loft, the beautiful simplicity of the Nativity scene, the red candles in the windows, the green wreaths on the walls, and the purple and rose Advent candles, the sanctuary had an abundance of color and light. How appropriate for the Christmas season!

During the service we lit our candles and held them as Gina McStraw sang "O Holy Night" (a wonderful Christmas tradition that gets the hairs on your neck standing up) and as the congregation sang "Silent Night." Even though it was daylight, we lit the candles because we needed to be reminded that the light of the season needed to shine in our hearts. We extinguished them after we sang because we knew the light of Christ had entered our hearts. How appropriate that we then sang, "Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice!"

May the light of the Christmas season continue to shine in your hearts. Long after the trees come down, the lights are put away, and the candles are extinguished, the spirit of this season will be alive. As "good Christian friends" let us continue to rejoice with heart and soul and voice!

2006 DEVELOPMENT NEWS

What an incredible year in the life of Bethlehem! Floor boards creaked weekly with hundreds of new 12 step participants, four theatre companies danced & pranced, 12,000+ restaurant quality meals prepared in the kitchen for eight Chicago social service agencies (First Slice.org), new "Youth Leader" added to consistory (Robbie Hollowell), new weekly donations of fresh flowers for services (Haisler family), seven new members joined, parking lot replaced (Hollowell family gift), new boiler installed, balcony restored (Troop #148), façade scaffolding came down, and new; web site/newsletter/stationary/bulletins designed and launched! *(Some musical person could compose a "12 months of Bethlehem" song around all these things and the many others too numerous to list here. ☺)*

If you missed being a part of 2006 with us then don't miss out on stage two of our growth and development as we launch multiple initiatives in 2007 including our new youth initiatives and outreach programs. All my best to each of you and yours as you celebrate opening another year/chapter in your lives. Sincerely, *Keven D., Dir. Development Ministry*

2006 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We were grateful for the beautiful poinsettias that graced the sanctuary during the Christmas season. Thanks to the following people who donated flowers in remembrance of loved ones

(names in parentheses): *George Berbert* (Joseph Berbert & Maria Price); *Doris Engerrand* (Gabriel H. Engerrand; William J. Dieskow, Jr.; Alma & William J. Dieskow, Sr.; Dorothea & Christian Cords); *the Gerlach Family* (Max Gerlach, Max Ullrich, Alma Gerlach, Agnes DeLong, Ruby Gerlach, Max Gerlach, Jr.); *Bettie Gierke* (Bud Gierke, Alice Gierke); *Mildred Groth* (Al Groth); *the Juengling Family* (Mr. & Mrs. William Juengling); *Esther Ihrcke Koch* (Berthold, Amanda, Flora, & Carl Ihrcke); *Edna Krockenberger* (Doris & Ernst Leibfritz); *Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lazzaro* (Charles & Anna Krause, Oscar Bergan); *Rev. Wayne MacPherson* (Eva MacPherson); *Gail Michalski* (Margaret Michalski); *Dorothy Noren* (Anna & Henry Wittig, Edwin Noren); *Ethel Schaefer* (Donald J. Greif); *Jane Schaefer* (Dick Schaefer & Loved Ones); *Ric Stoehrman* (Erna Stoehrman, Fred Stoehrman, Eleanor "Tess" Stoehrman).

MISSED MEMORIALS

In last month's listing of Memory Sunday gifts, we missed two donations: Doris Faith in memory of Edna Bailey; Al Seiffert in memory of Herb Dobberstein, Mr. & Mrs. Seiffert, Bernice Meddy and Edna Bailey. Thank you for these gifts.

DAUGHTERS OF BETHLEHEM

There is no meeting of the Daughters of Bethlehem in January. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 7th at 11:00 a.m. The Daughters did meet in December, when they were hosted by Eleanor Madsen and Kay Harnen (who both celebrate December birthdays) at Friendship Village in Schaumburg. We were served a wonderful luncheon and then adjourned to Eleanor's apartment for our meeting. The Daughters wish all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

2007 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The 7th Annual Chicagoland Ecumenical Prayer Service will be held on Sunday, January 21st at 4 p.m. at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut St., Chicago. Parking is available at the John Hancock Center, 875 N. Michigan Avenue) access from Chestnut St. and the 900 North Michigan Building (access from Rush St. or Walton St.). The preacher is Bishop Hee-Soo Jung of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/10	Sherri Smith	1/18	Ruth Beltran
1/11	Jean Fuelketti	1/18	Wayne Krauss
1/15	Raymond Hallowell	1/31	Joanne Soukup

JANUARY WORSHIP-Sundays at 10am

January 7, First Sunday after Epiphany (*The Baptism of Jesus*)

Sacrament of Holy Communion. Texts: Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 14, Second Sunday after Epiphany. Texts: Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11

January 21, Third Sunday after Epiphany. Texts: I Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

January 28, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany. Texts: I Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30