

Special points of interest:

December 2008

- Recycle Your Used Cell Phone
- Joy/Christmas Fund Offering
- Women's Fellowship Christmas Dinner
- Pastor/Search Nominating Committee

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Advent is upon us.

And what does Advent mean?

Not all the presents are bought, right?

The pressure is on, only "X" days to get that most important gift.

And more and more stores are not open anymore, there are fewer places to look.

Are all the Christmas cards done, have we forgotten anyone?

Is there anyone whose name should be removed?

Who 'forgot' us last year?

Advent is all about timing and stress, pressure and frustration, at least for many.

But for us in the Christian Church (Universal), Advent should be a time of



quiet waiting.

Expectancy should be our watchword.

Like the words of the sixties' song, "... Something's happenin' here . . . What it is ain't exactly clear . . ."

I mean we know the stories of Christmas, but what does it all mean?

And how does it affect us?

Hope for a new world in a new year, an understanding of incarnation that is different.

Hum. Advent is _____!

I heard the Statler

Brothers sing a song once that started something like this, "The King is coming, the KING is coming . . ."

Oh yeah, that is what Advent is about.

Getting ready, not for the commercial Christmas, but for the spiritual moment when we recognize the King of Kings is coming - and may already be here.

Get ready, something is happening here and it will soon be so very clear . . ., 'for unto you this day is born a Savior . . .'

And that is all that matters.

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December Birthdays

Caroline Fleming - 1
 Ron Nuttall - 2
 Abbie Baker - 3
 Sarah Franks - 4
 Darlene Trower - 5
 Doris Rice - 9
 Sarah Luna - 11
 Bob Hinthorn - 12
 Alex Kraft - 12
 Sara Ireland - 16



Daniel Ferrier - 17
 Al Beich - 18
 Lynne Wright - 19

Tony Swanson - 20
 April Winters - 20
 Kim Feicke - 21
 Ray Hunt - 22
 Louise Moore - 22
 Keith Jean-Baptiste - 24
 John Belletete - 28
 Jim McClure - 30

*There are no anniversaries this month

Recycle Your Used Cell Phone

Your used cell phone can be recycled!

Place it in the large box found in Fellowship Hall. (It's the one with lots of purple on it.)

A project of Church Women United, *Recycle Your Cell Phones* will help prevent a whopping 66 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the

atmosphere per phone recycled.

A portion of the recycled phones are programmed to dial only 911 and donated to domestic violence survivors, elders, and low-income people at risk for use in emergencies.

We can help this worthwhile project.

Bring your used cell phone in today!

When our box is full, we'll call FedEx to come pick it up and that company will ship it free.

Thank you, FedEx!



Thank You

THANK YOU just isn't enough to cover all the prayers, cards, flowers and phone calls I received during the time of my sister's death.

So many helped me bear this loss.

Also, my two nephews and

I extend a thank you for all the help we received from Pastor Bob.

Another thanks to the ladies of the church for the delicious luncheon served after the funeral - and all the food sent home with me.

It came in so handy for several days.

What a blessing to have friends at St. Luke Union.

Vi Fenstermaker

Joy/Christmas Fund Offering



On December 21, we will be collecting the Joy offering.

That is the Presbyterian (USA) name; the United Church of Christ calls it the Christmas Fund offering.

We have traditionally called it the Joy offering.

We divide it equally between both denominations.

This offering is used to help to supplement pensions and health

premiums for low-income clergy and church workers or for those facing a financial need or emergency.

It is also used to help support racial ethnic schools and colleges.

In addition, hundreds of retirees are enabled to receive Christmas gift checks.

This is our opportunity to help those who have served us so faithfully in the past.

Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute to this special collection on December 21.

You should receive an envelope for the offering with this issue of *New Directions*.

Additional envelopes marked either for the Christmas Fund or the Joy offering will be available in the pews for your use.

Thank you.

You've Gotta Eat!!!

After much consideration and discussion, Agape has decided to discontinue You've Gotta Eat!!!

It was thoroughly enjoyable and we had many good meals together.

Agape will be preparing one of the Wednesday night meals each month beginning in December.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays for food, fun and fellowship

before Family Bible Study, Bell Choir, Choir, and other assorted programs.

Christmas Concert - Join us for Appetizers!

Sunday, December 21st at 4:00 p.m. will be the St. Luke Union Christmas Concert.

After the Concert, please join us for appetizers, spiced cider, punch and fellowship.

Please bring your favorite appetizer to share.

We will savor traditional as well as seasonal fare.

Agape will provide the spiced cider and punch.



Mitten Tree and Storybook Project

We will again have a **Mitten Tree** in the sanctuary during Advent.

You may bring mittens, hats, gloves, scarves and even socks and place them on the tree during Advent until Christmas Eve.

They will be distributed after Christmas to The Crisis Nursery, District 87 and their pre-school.

Items may be purchased for all ages, but we will need more for toddler, pre-school and grade-school-age children.

We will also be collecting books for the **Storybook Project** in which several of our members participate.

These books are taken to prisoners who tape themselves reading these books to their children and

Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet on Thursday, December 11th in Fellowship Hall.

All women are invited.

Please bring a Christmas



the tape and books are sent to the children.

This helps to keep imprisoned parents in contact with their children and for the children to hear their parent's voice in a positive activity.

Especially needed are Christian books, Harry Potter books, "Dora the Explorer" books, or most any Dr. Seuss-type book, ABC books, infant books and books for teenagers.

Please **do not include any books with stickers, CDs or tapes**, as these would be taken out before the

reading and Christmas cookies to share.

A "Love Gift" will be collected, as well as our special giving to the Donna Thomas project.

books are mailed to the children.

Also, do not include any Christmas books, as Christmas will be over before the prisoners get the books.

A basket will be placed near the mitten tree for books and they will also be collected during Advent until Christmas Eve; it would be nice to see the basket overflowing.



Lamplighters

Lamplighters invites ladies of the church to a Salad Dinner on December 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Please bring a \$20 gift for a gift exchange.

Women's Fellowship Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 8th

6:00 p.m. Appetizers
6:30 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m.
"Good Neighbor Singers"
and
Installation of New
Officers

All women of the church
are welcome. Please join
us for a
"Musical Sleighride"

Ham loaf, table service
and drinks are provided.



Sign up to bring:

Hot Vegetable
Potato Casserole
Salad
Dessert
2 Dozen Rolls

Or

"No time to cook?" -
\$8.00

Christian Education

As the school year has
been in full swing, we've
been busy around here too!

With the fall coming to an
end, the children will be
wrapping up our unit on
trusting God's promises.

We will be working with
the One Room Sunday
School curriculum through
the winter, beginning with
a unit on Advent.

Because of excellent
attendance we have been
separating into two smaller
ground - pre-kindergarten
and K-4th grade.

The children blessed us
with a joyous anthem in
November, starring our
very own Daniel Ferrier on
the drums!

Also on Sundays during
worship, you may notice a
new "children's section"
up front.

There is no age limit, so
anyone is welcome to join
us!

This will be every Sunday
except for communion
Sundays.

This is just an option, the
kids can still sit with their
families if they would
rather.

We only hope to include
the kids (kindergarten and
up) in our worship rather
than have them
downstairs.

Coming soon will be
children's bulletins as well.

A few weeks ago, the
confirmands had a great
time at our lock-in where
we talked about the Holy
Spirit in our lives.

The high school class also
is starting to study a DVD
series of sermons by Pastor
Rob Bell.

These would also be great
for adult studies as well.

We are preparing to center
ourselves with Advent and
Christmas right around the
corner.

May all our holiday seasons
be filled with love and joy!



Money Matters

As of October 31, 2008



GENERAL FUND	JAN/OCT ACTUAL	JAN/OCT BUDGET
Receipts	\$181,363	\$182,050
Disbursements	\$170,345	\$194,683
	JAN/OCT ACTUAL	JAN/OCT PLEDGE
5 YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN		
Receipts	\$ 21,550	\$ 29,833

Additional financial information is available on the Details Board.

Pastor/Search Nominating Committee

The Committee continues to receive dossiers/profiles from prospective candidates for our called pastor.

As of November 1st, we had received 74 dossiers/profiles.

The committee continues to read them and take notes.

We are being very thorough in going over the

dossiers/profiles and discussing each of them.

This is a very time-consuming process, as we discuss several potential candidates each time we meet.

We continue to meet on a regular basis to review and discuss dossiers/profiles so that we may select candidates to take to the next step of telephone interviews.

We are working very diligently and request that everyone continue to be patient with us.

Please keep the Pastor Search/Nominating Committee in your prayers as we continue in our search for a called pastor.

Charlene A. Beringer,
Chairperson

Thank You

My sister Phyllis Hammer joins us in our grateful thanks for prayers from many of you during her recent hip surgery and recovery.

She called from Denver to say how happy she was to be in her own home again.

Jay & Marilyn Hammer



Vision & Ministry Council News

All Ministry Teams should be preparing their budgets for 2009.

Remember, this is a “vision” budget and please keep St. Luke Union Church’s Mission Statement and overall vision in mind as you prepare your budgets.

Your liaison from Vision & Ministry Council has been provided a copy of the Mission Statement.

Vision & Ministry Council needs to combine all of your budgets into the

church’s overall budget at our December meeting.

Team Council Liaisons, come prepared to present your budgets and discuss your team’s vision for 2009 on Tuesday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m.

A Big “Thanks”

The Resource Ministry Team has received an anonymous donation to provide taller stools in the upstairs bathrooms.

This will make it much easier and more

comfortable for disabled and elderly (and some of us not-so-elderly, too) to use these facilities.

A big “thanks” to Mr. & Ms. Anonymous!

Thank You

We would like to thank our church family for all the support the last year while Mom was ill in Pennsylvania and then again upon her death in September.

memorials, and kind words from all have been quite appreciated.

Bonnie & Denny Redick

The cards, notes,



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★
 ★ **New Address:** ★
 ★
 ★ SPC Jean-Baptiste, Keith ★
 ★ G, FSC 3/16 FAR 2nd BCT ★
 ★ 4th ID (M) CSC SCANIA ★
 ★ APO, AE 09304 ★
 ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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