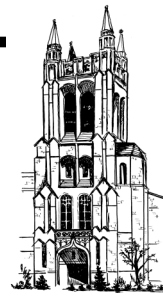


December 14, 2011

Volume 68
Number 8

The Chimes



Church
of the
Saviour
United Methodist

Invite Someone to Church on Christmas Eve

Did you know? Christmas Eve is the most likely day of the year for an unchurched person to attend worship. Invite a neighbor, friend, business associate or relative to come to church on **Christmas Eve** at either **4:30, 7:30 or 11 p.m.** These are some of the most beautiful and inspirational worship experiences of the year, and many lives have been changed as a result of Christmas Eve at Church of the Saviour.

Our 4:30 and 7:30 services will feature the traditional Christmas tableau (scenes from the Christmas story) accompanied by best-loved carols. The 4:30 service will include music of the Carol, Cherub & VIVACE choirs, as well as our Celebration Ringers. At 7:30, the Agape Choir will sing, and we will enjoy the music of the Wesley Bells. The 11 p.m. service will feature the music of the Chancel Choir and a string quartet. You will have the opportunity to light a candle in honor or in memory of loved ones. All services will include a message by Dr. Yoost and conclude with candle lighting and the singing of "Silent Night." See you in church on Christmas Eve!



Christmas & New Year's at Church of the Saviour

As you are probably aware, Christmas comes on Sunday this year, and that means some adjustments to our schedule. On both Sunday, December 25, and Sunday, January 1, **there will be only one worship service** at Church of the Saviour. On Sunday, December 25, so that the custodians will not have to stay and pick up candlewax and bulletins from three Christmas Eve services, worship will be held in the Great Hall at **10:30 a.m.** It will be an informal service, with carol singing and a message by Pastor Dianne Tobey Covault. There will be no childcare or Sunday School. Then on New Year's Day, worship will be held in the sanctuary at **10:30 a.m.** with a sermon by Dr. Yoost entitled, "*A New Name for a New Year!*" based on Isaiah 61:10-62:3. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated by the method of intinction. Childcare and Sunday School for children through second grade will be available. Adult Sunday School classes are not meeting. Plan to attend worship on both of these special Sundays, and start the new year in church on January 1!



Longest Night Service – December 20, 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Are you feeling out of step with the merrymaking and frivolity of the holidays? Do you need to escape from the rush and the frantic pace? Have you experienced a loss that makes celebrating at this time of year difficult?

All are welcome to attend a quiet meditative service that focuses on the light of Christ shining forth in the darkness – the darkness of these winter days, the darkness that sometimes shadows our own lives. We will have a time to light candles to remember our losses and griefs, while opening ourselves to the Hope that is present in Christ. Please join us for this service of Worship and Communion. Childcare is available.

Christmas Day Worship – Bring a Messenger from your Manger!

For our Christmas Day worship in the Great Hall, we will be making a display of our favorite messenger pieces from our mangers – shepherds, wise men, angels, even camels and sheep! Bring a piece from your manger to add to our display – you can bring it home with you after the service. Pastor Dianne is also looking for a couple of folks to share a one to two minute witness about their messenger and how it helps them to tell God's message of love from the manger. Maybe your nativity set came from someone special who helped you know God's love for you. Maybe you were able to bring faith to someone else with your manger scene. Contact Pastor Dianne at the church or by email if you'd like to share.

Worship Schedule

**ADVENT THEME: From Darkness to Light
Hope for Our Broken World**

DECEMBER 18: Fourth Sunday in Advent

Dr. Yoost preaching at 8:30 in Myers Chapel, 9:30 in the Great Hall and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary: *What a Role Model!* (Luke 1:26-38, 46-55).

DECEMBER 20: Longest Night Service

Pastor Covault preaching at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

DECEMBER 24: Christmas Eve Service

Dr. Yoost preaching at 4:30, 7:30 and 11:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary: *Rejoice! Respond!* (Titus 2:11-14)

DECEMBER 25: Christmas Day Service

Pastor Covault preaching at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall. (Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20)

DECEMBER 31: New Year's Eve Service

Rev. Marshall preaching at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

JANUARY 1: New Year's Day Service

Dr. Yoost preaching at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

We have had some trouble recently with our computer system at the church with a virus. While Loretta got it under control, computer viruses, like human diseases, are always a concern.

A couple years ago, Sue Petre sent me a warning about the "Advent Virus." I definitely saw evidence of the Advent Virus at the Advent Festival which Sue chaired so ably last week! "Be on the alert," her e-mail said, "For symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many people have already been exposed to this virus, and it is possible that it could become an epidemic. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world."

Some signs and symptoms of the Advent Virus are:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry.
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and with nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than to try to make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Please send this warning to all your friends! This virus has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it! Spread the word! Merry Christmas!

--- **Charles D. Yoost**

Silent Night, All is Bright

I love the Christmas Eve services at Church of the Saviour. Basically, you have the whole church coming together to celebrate the birth of Christ, from all the different singing and bell choirs to the live nativity scene to the congregation singing age-old carols. As a youth, I enjoyed being in the live nativity scene: dressed as an angel, feeling involved with the service and, of course, having an excuse to hang out with my friends on Christmas Eve.

While I will always enjoy watching so many people come together to reenact such an important story in our faith, nowadays I really love the end of the service, one specific moment. After the nativity scene people have dispersed and the artificial lights are completely turned off, they leave one candle lit. Ever so slowly, that light is passed all throughout the Sanctuary. Sitting up in the balcony is the best seat in the house, watching the candlelight slowly spread, eventually having the angels join up there. For this very reason, *Silent Night* is one of my favorite Christmas songs, for it embodies that moment perfectly:

*Silent Night, Holy Night
All is calm, All is bright.*

And when I have the chance, I go to the late service. While it's not as full, so I won't sit in the balcony, it's still a lovely sight to see all the candles raised for the last verse. Then, when the service is over and people start to leave, I go out through the narthex, especially if it has been snowing, and just stand there. I hear the quietness of the midnight hour, see the snow causing a strange brightness, breathe in the bitter cold air and just feel this sense of peace fall over me. Every year when Advent rolls around, I always look forward to the music, family and friends, snow and that feeling of peace that only Christmas Eve can bring.

-**Beth Herchek**

Children's Christmas Gifts

Still need the perfect Christmas gift for a child in your life? Children's Ministries has a number of copies of the Spark Story Bible available for purchase at \$16.00 each (hardcover). This is a well-illustrated and engagingly written story Bible appropriate for children aged 3-7. It contains 150 stories, making it one of the more comprehensive story Bibles available. If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact Renee Leonard at [216-321-8880](tel:216-321-8880) or renee@chsaviour.org.



90x90 Theme "Physical, Spiritual and Emotional Care" Offers New Volunteer Opportunities

The 90x90 Committee has some new and creative volunteer opportunities for 90 minutes of service during the 90 days surrounding Lent, 2012. Focusing on our theme of "Physical, Spiritual and Emotional Care," you will find opportunities to do 90 minutes of volunteering at a swim meet for diabetes, volunteering at Ronald McDonald House, making a difference through Med Wish International, or volunteering at the Free Clinic. You will also see some of the popular agencies from years past, including some of our local food and eldercare centers where volunteers are always needed.

The 90x90 effort will also highlight some of the wonderful programs of our own Health Care Ministry at Church of the Saviour. Look for services provided by this ministry throughout the coming year.

We hope to make it easy for those who wish to continue volunteering at a particular agency. We will be able to guide you into volunteering more extensively, as many folks did last year after volunteering one 90 minute segment.

If you know of a local agency or volunteer opportunity which might fit into our theme of "Physical, Spiritual and Emotional Care," contact Juanita Taylor at 330-659-2009 or jajuarez1@yahoo.com.

Through 90x90, we wish to glorify our Lord by being His hands within our community. We pray you will be a part of our 2012 campaign during the Lenten Season. Look for more information on 90x90 in future *Chimes* articles.

Join the COTS Facebook Page

Search on "Church of the Saviour, Cleveland Heights." This Advent we are using it as a meeting place for a church-wide conversation on the Gospel of Mark, facilitated by Parthenia McClain. Feel free to jump right in!

A Reflection on Wonder

Certain experiences I remember had filled me with wonder. It's a common way to say many things. However in these final days of Advent the imminent coming of Christ makes me think of the many wonderful things I have experienced in my life.

Wikipedia describes wonder as "an emotion comparable to surprise that people feel when perceiving something rare or unexpected." I would take that definition much further. For me, "wonder" is a spiritual experience, including emotion but so much more, that perceives the presence of God in some visible scene or experience.

Witnessing the birth of my children was wonderful. There is an element of the unexplainable in wonder.

I took a picture of the sunrise on a small lake in Bemidji, Minnesota where my grandmother lived. To anyone else it looks like your typical sunrise shot, but for those in my family who have it hanging on their walls, it brings us back to a time of wonder.

I have seen the look of joy and wonder on the faces of many people with whom I am privileged to work through life changing opportunities for generosity and giving.

God in the flesh, how wonderful yet inexplicable. We try to explain as we sing *Silent Night* verses "shepherds quake at the sight" and "radiant beams from thy holy face."

Christmas Eve worship, as the lights dim and the sanctuary is almost completely dark, we all anticipate what is coming. A single candle begins at the front and the glow of light spreads as it reveals the wonder on our faces as we sing "*Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light, with the angels let us sing, Christ the Savior is born!*"

Have a wonderful Christmas, and enjoy generous giving this season and all of next year.

- **Bill Kimball**

Director of Foundation Advancement

OUR CHURCH FAMILY'S BULLETIN BOARD

IN THE HOSPITAL

Earlean Bergman

IN REHAB

Gene Blocker, Parthenia McClain

HOME

Ruthann Walker

CONGRATULATIONS

Heather Stott and Paul Moran welcome twin sons, **Connor Paul** and **Logan Patrick** Moran born on December 1. Connor weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and Logan weighed 6 lbs. 1 oz. They join older siblings **Alex** and **Elise**. Mom Heather was hospitalized after delivery but she is recovering well.

What are you doing on New Year's Eve?

This New Year's Eve, say goodbye to the old year and welcome the new at Church of the Saviour, when we will gather for worship at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. An opportunity to symbolically get rid of our sins by burning our confessions in a large container in the chancel area will be part of this meaningful service, which will also include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Rev. Erik Marshall will be our preacher.

YOUTH & CHILDREN

SENIOR YOUTH

Sign up to be an Angel or Shepherd in the Christmas Eve tableaux.

Let Curt know: 1) 4:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. service 2) Angel or Shepherd
Guys can be angels and girls can be shepherds.

Sr High Sprockets,

Fri, Dec 16, 9-11 p.m.

Meet & pick up in the Sr Youth Rm

Dec. 23 & 30 - No Youth Group - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

ALL YOUTH + KIDS' CLUB

Caroling at McGregor

Dec 16, 6:30-8:30pm

For all youth, Kids' Club members and their families. Meet & pick up in the Reinberger Entrance.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY'S BULLETIN BOARD, *continued*

Jessica Johnson welcomes baby **Geneva Johnson**, born on December 5. **Dottie Phillips** is the proud great-grandma.

Charles Moll and **Lynn Kramer** were married by Rev. Marshall on November 26 in the Sanctuary. Charles is the son of **Curt and Sara Moll**. Congratulations!

CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of long-time member **Donald Messenger**, who died December 6. Condolences may be sent to his daughter, **Stacy Lampros**, at 35655 Brushwood Dr., Solon, 44139. Rev. Marshall officiated at the memorial service on December 11, which was held at the funeral home.

Sympathy is extended to **Heidi Chew** and the Chew family on the recent death of Heidi's mother.

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

We wish to thank you for your kindness during the passing of our dear friend Samuel Lester. Your outreach to us and to his family by your time, prayers and gifts has been overwhelming, and reminds us of what a wonderful family we have in Christ at Church of the Saviour.

Our thanks for your love.

Bill and Juanita Taylor

Thank you to all of the bakers and buyers at the Cookie Walk. Fairfield Orphanage in Zimbabwe will benefit with your \$ 1,093.

Gwen Biggins and Kevin Schaner

Our hearts are full of all the prayers, calls and visits from our church family. What an overpowering feeling. Thank God, we've been home and doing well. Hopefully, we will be worshipping with you during the Christmas season.

In Christ,

Steve and Lillian Nigolian

Thank you for being such a great blessing to my family and me. Your generosity, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated. Words cannot express how truly grateful we are. Thank you for everything. May God bless you always.

Adrienne Wood

Website and Podcasting
www.chsaviour.org
www.gpsheights.org

Radio Ministry

Sunday morning:
8:00 a.m. WCLV Radio 104.9 FM
10:00 a.m. WHKW Radio 1220 AM

Ministry Team

Charles D. Yoost, Senior Pastor
Erik Marshall, Dianne Tobey Covault, Pastors
Lois Annich, Pastoral Counselor
Carol Broadbent, Business Manager
Curt Campbell, Youth Director
Loretta Dahlstrom, Administrative Assistant
Robert Day, Organist
Christine Elliott, Worship & Praise Team Leader
Judith Higbee, Director of Music
Stefanie Hiles, Administrative Assistant
William Kimball, Director of Foundation
Advancement
Renee Leonard, Director of Children's Ministries
Meghan Schoening, Newsletter Editor & Wedding
Coordinator
Diane Spiegler, Bookkeeper

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United Methodist
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Staff of Church of the Saviour

Hang Your Love on the Mitten Tree

Celebrate the season of giving by keeping a child warm this winter! Now through January 8 we are collecting NEW mittens, hats, and scarves for the children of West Side Community House. Bring them to the mitten tree in the Great Hall entrance.

Come to a Birthday Party for Jesus

Come to Calvary Hall on Sunday, December 18, from 12:15 to 1 p.m. to sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus and enjoy birthday cake. Presents for Jesus are welcome in the form of items for the mitten tree!

Peanut Butter Collection

Soaring peanut butter prices are forcing food banks and hunger centers to make hard choices with their limited resources. A recent *Plain Dealer* article, written by our own Janet Cho, describes the struggle that local food banks face with the rising cost of peanut butter. **Church of the Saviour will be collecting peanut butter through the end of the year** and distributing it to two local food banks – **Heights Emergency Food Center** and **Cory Hunger Center**. Larger containers are preferred over smaller ones, because they last longer; smooth is often less expensive than chunky. If possible, choose reduced fat and/or lower sugar varieties, because they're healthier. Please choose shelf-stable brands over the natural kinds you have to stir or keep refrigerated. Either name brands or store brands are fine.

NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE
Monday, December 19

Please email newsletter information to chimes@chsaviour.org or drop it off in the Chimes mailbox in the office.