



Grace Note

Messiah Lutheran Church

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www.messiahlyndhurst.org

January, 2007

One of the great gifts that seminary gave me was an appreciation for the church calendar. I had always known that the seasons of the church changed and that the colors changed on the altar, but I didn't really understand what it all meant. As I grew in understanding, my appreciation for the wisdom of the church seasons increased greatly. Each season of the church year has a special emphasis and meaning. Through the course of the year we travel through many aspects of the Christian life.

Saturday, January 6th is the date for Epiphany. This day is the climax of the Christmas Season and the traditional twelve days of Christmas, which are usually counted from December 25th until January 5th. What follows is the season of Epiphany. The season runs from January 6th until Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

The word Epiphany means "to shine upon," or "to reveal." Epiphany celebrates God's revelation of Jesus as our Savior. Christ then shines God's light upon our world. In Luke 2:32 Simeon calls Jesus "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." The first Gentiles to see this light were the three wise men. They followed the light of the star to Jesus and found more than they ever dreamed they would find.

Through the Scripture lessons and hymns that are sung, the Church celebrates the Epiphany season. You should detect a special emphasis on light and revelation in our services. It's more than just the time after Christmas. It is a time for new understanding and new ways of seeing things. It is a time to let the light of Christ shine.

We live in a world full of darkness. Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it. This Epiphany season each of us can look towards the light. During this wonderful time in the church, let Christ's light shine in you and through you, so that all might see the glory of God.

In Christ's name,

Pastor Fox

Our Mission Prayer: Gracious God, through belief in Christ's teachings and through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, empower us to share the word; care and support each other and God's community; worship as a family in Christ; and be Christ-like examples to those whose lives we touch. Amen



- **THANKS TO EVERYONE** who participated, volunteered and came to the Children's and Congregational Christmas Programs.
- **THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE** will meet on **Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 6 PM.** Topics for discussion include Secret Valentine's and Lent/Easter preparations.
- **PARENTS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS** - Don't forget that Sunday School offering envelopes should be used for Sunday School offerings. This is a great way to help children learn about stewardship!
- **THERE WILL BE NO HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL ON JANUARY 7** due to the Winter Gathering in Independence. Contact **Pastor Fox or Fred Moser** if you would like to attend.
- **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU** to the Sunday School families and the congregation for their generous support of a "Christmas Family" from the South Euclid/Lyndhurst schools. With your contributions, we were able to provide pants, sweaters, underwear, socks, hats, gloves, pajamas, books and a toy for each of five (5) children as well as a game for the family, gift certificates from Giant Eagle (\$101), Pizza Hut (\$20) and Kohl's (\$40) along with decorations for their home during the Christmas Holidays. Thank you for sharing your love and God's many blessings by making their Christmas merry!
- **MANY THANKS, TOO** to those who filled shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child. We contributed 31 boxes.

THE MEN'S LUNCHEON ON JANUARY 26th HAS A CHANGE OF LOCATION . . .

it will be held at **noon** on the 26th at

the Stonewater Grill, 1 Club Drive, Highland Heights

(440 461-4653.) Take Brainard Road, which becomes Bishop Road, turn east on Aberdeen Boulevard, and then turn left on Club Drive. Please notify **Tom Short**, 216 291-0769, or the church office if you plan to attend.

MESSIAH'S MEN'S LUNCHEON



FAITH CIRCLE will meet on **Thursday, January 18th at noon** in the Conference



Room. Bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided by hostess **Kathy Strom.** **Pastor Fox** will continue a Bible study on "Women of the New testament." All women of Messiah are invited to attend.

MESSIAH WOMEN MEMBERS AND VISITORS:

The Thursday Women's Fellowship will meet on **January 4th in the Library from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** - and we want to invite you to join us! We are beginning to read *Secrets of the Vine for Women* by Darlene Wilkinson and plan to talk about the first chapter on the 4th - but you don't need to have read it to come! **Child care will be available** during our time together at the church -- **but only if arranged in advance!** The cost for the evening is \$7.50 and you **must call Diana Fox**, 216 291-5186, by January 3rd to make those arrangements. Questions? Call Toni at 216 381-3199.

Messiah Women's



Thursday Fellowship

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: *Lawson*



Remember
Prayer

and Phyllis Anderson, Ken Wilt, Barbara Budzinski, Adam, Marya Cline, Alma Fanto, Avis Slaven, Sean Sutton, Jack Ferree, Ron

Grassia, those seeking employment, Jim and Nadine Bradic, Annette DiRosa, Bob Vilsack, Robert Bruch, and Baby Cheyanne.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

- ♥ *Pastor Robert Cline* passed away after a long illness. Services were held on November 8th at Messiah. Pastor Cline served for many years here at Messiah and is sorely missed. Keep *Mary Lou* and all the *Cline family* in your prayers.
- ♥ *Ruth Pittard* passed away December 7th. A Memorial service was held at Messiah on December 11th. Please include the *Pittard family* in your prayers.
- ♥ Funeral services were held for *Nancy Paradise* at DeJohn's Funeral Home on December 10th. Nancy is the daughter of *Marilyn Stuber* and sister of *Sandy Stark*. Keep her family and friends in your prayers.
- ♥ *Mike and Carryn Anderson's son, Austin*, spent some time in the hospital in December. He is home now and doing well.
- ♥ We were blessed to receive five new members on Sunday December, 10th. *Paul and Sharon Papanek Stork, Jill Levine, Irene Rogner, and Laurene Pride* all joined our membership. They are wonderful additions to the Messiah family!
- ♥ *Michael Shepka* graduated from Ohio University in November with a degree in accounting. He is presently working as a staff accountant for a downtown Cleveland firm.
- ♥ *Butch and Lissa Farkas* got early presents this year! *Jackson Richard Farkas* was born at 11:34 p.m. on



December 7, 2006, and *Samuel Bradley* followed a whole minute later at 11:35 p.m. Jack weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20" long, and his brother Sam weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 19" long. Mom and babies are perfectly healthy and happy and Lisa and Butch are thrilled about the new additions to their family. The babies' personalities are already evident. Jack is a pistol like his big brother, *Tyler*, and Sam appears to be very laid back.

KATHY STROM is thankful for the many prayers, calls, cards, and get-well wishes she received while recovering from back surgery in March, 2006. In thanksgiving to the living God for her recovery she has put together hymnal page markers for the congregation to use during services.



ATTENTION COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSONS. Please submit your reports for the year 2006 activities as well as future goals to the office by January 30th at the very latest so that the Annual Report can be compiled in a timely fashion.

FROM THE SOCIAL MINISTRY

COMMITTEE . . . Thanks to your wonderful generosity, 350 items were delivered to the New Covenant Hunger Center on Monday, November 20th.

ST. PAUL'S THRIFT STORE CLOSED AT

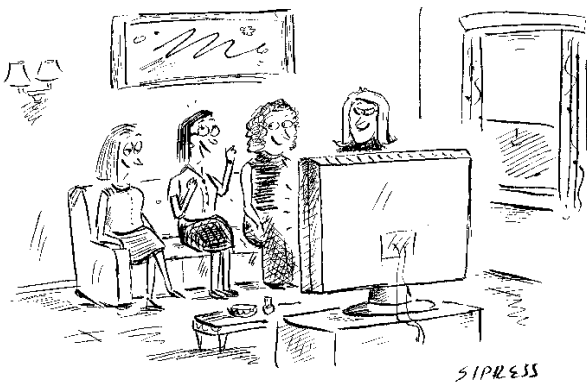
YEAR-END - The small congregation can no longer support the church property and it is for sale. We have stopped all collection of clothes or small household items until an alternative place of need is identified. Fred Schultz, who managed the thrift store, praised Messiah for its commitment over many years. Please keep the congregation in your prayers.

SAVE THE DATE
MESSIAH TALENT SHOW!



The Fellowship Committee
will host
a talent show
on *Saturday, January 27th*
at 5:30 p.m.
More details to follow.

THE BOOK CLUB will meet *Tuesday evening, January 9th at 7:00 p.m.* at the home of Phyllis Short to watch the film, *The Shipping News*. This was the December book selection.



"I love this reading group."

2007 FLOWER CHART - Sign up for Sunday flowers next year on the chart posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please note your telephone number so that our flower chairperson, **Dorothy Schneider**, can contact you for your bulletin message and to check to see whether you want a plant (\$15) or cut

flowers (\$25). This is an excellent way to recognize an anniversary, birthday, remember someone who has died, or to celebrate a special event. See or call **Dorothy** (216 382-8657) if you have questions.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED thanks the women of Messiah who contributed to the collection of items for Transitional Housing, Domestic Violence, and Head Start. With the help of my husband, I delivered a carload of bags and boxes to very appreciative agencies. Many thanks for your generosity. Please continue to bring small toiletries for the U.S.O. The need is greater than ever.

Bette Schmidt, C.W.U. Representative

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE GRACE NOTE BY EMAIL EACH MONTH? To be put on the distribution list, email tonilaurenson@adelphia.net. You will still get a hard copy in the mail but you'll have other information in a more timely way!

MESSIAH HAS A WEBSITE! **Philip Skaggs** is still hard at work increasing and refining it but it is fully operational now! One of the many features of the website is the ability to access current and past editions of *Grace Note*. Many articles in the newsletter contain phone numbers and, while you may be comfortable having your phone number sent to members and visitors, you may not have the same comfort level having it posted on our website. We respect your right to choose whether or not your phone number is included with your article. If you never want your number posted, please email tonilaurenson@adelphia.net. Toni will track those names and be certain to remove those phone numbers from issues before they are sent to Philip to post. Thanks.

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November 21, 2006

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported that he made 13 home visits, seven

hospital visits, had six office visits of an hour or more at Messiah, attended ten church related meetings, officiated at the wedding of *Robert Laurich and Lynne Nuss* on October 7th, led a chapel service at St. John Lutheran School, participated in the Trunk or Treat event at Messiah, and conducted a Sunday Service at Patterson's Fruit Farm.

Treasurer's Report: *Chris* reported a \$6,847 deficit at the end of October, up slightly from last month. If money continues to come in at the present rate we will be short \$11,000 at the end of the year in pledges and \$12,000 in total income.

Property Committee: The committee met and recommended a list of projects including these capital improvements: repairs of roof fascia and flashing on sanctuary roof, installation of air conditioning in the sanctuary and church office, installation of new flooring in education wing, repairs to-or-replacement of dishwasher, repairs to parking lot, repairs to-or-replacement of lighting in sanctuary. Non-capital improvement project recommendations: redecorate pastor's office, place exterior lighting in the courtyard, repair-or-replace electrical box in front boiler room, repair fascia around entire education wing. Repairs costing \$500 were made to the upper sanctuary roof by Reader Roofing and included re-tucking and resealing around the bell tower and caulking around the stained glass window in the choir loft. Reader Roofing made recommendations for repairs to the gutters and lower sanctuary roof at a cost of \$500. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of November, 2006. At the Fall Work Day portions of the Fellowship Hall were painted, the outer door outside Pastor's Office was repaired, and the toilet stall door in the ladies room was repaired. A Repair Request Form is being prepared as a way for members to notify the committee of

necessary repairs and provide an opportunity for members to volunteer to fund repairs should they desire to do so.

Christian Ed: \$101 was received from the Trunk or Treat project and the proceeds will be used for a Christmas family.

Youth: The LYO for 7th through 12th graders will meet four times during the year. The high school class will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Worship: On November 4, a group from the committee attended a seminar for the new worship hymnal. It was pointed out that monies placed in the Christmas offering envelopes are donated to Lutheran Children's Aid and Family Services. Pledge gifts should be placed in the December 24th regular envelopes. The new carillon in memory of *Fritz and Sally Awig* was installed last week and is playing every day. It will be dedicated after Christmas.

Evangelism: The completed brochure can be printed at a cost of \$100 for 100 pieces. One hundred will be ordered.

Social Ministry: Two carloads of clothing were taken to St. Paul's and 350 food items were delivered to New Covenant. We received a record number of toys this year for Toys for Tots. *Phyllis Short* knitted 22 hats for the Hat and Mitten Tree. *Michael Lester* will tape the Reformation Service and Christmas Service for shut-ins. We sold 45 Entertainment Books. The *Hanslers* are writing a series on Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries for the Grace Note. *Mary Lou Bregitzer* will not be chairing the Social Ministry Committee next year.

Stewardship: On Consecration Sunday 64 pledges were received. An increase of 28% is seen in the pledges of those who have returned estimate of giving cards so far this year.

Fellowship: The committee is planning a church-wide Potluck and Talent Show on Saturday, January 27th.

Noisy Offering: It was moved by *Chris Butler*, seconded by *John Swartz*, that we allow the Noisy Offering Fund to accumulate and use it to purchase a new dishwasher for the church. Motion passed.