

January 2014

The Shepherd's Messenger



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KNOWING JESUS THE GOOD
SHEPHERD & SHARING THE
RISEN CHRIST WITH ALL.

Bishop Webb's 2013 Christmas Letter

"In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" (Luke 2.8-11)

Do not be afraid! Good news! Great joy! For all the people!! Our world is longing to grab hold of phrases like these. There is much to fear; too often bad news dominates the day, and it seems as if joy is nothing more than a sentiment for Christmas cards that in reality eludes us.

Phrases like those above get our attention because they offer the potential for change, significance and hope! But by themselves these words are empty; they promise to lead us to something or someone that will fulfill our deepest longings, but words alone never can.

Do not be afraid! Good news! Great Joy! For all the people!! BECAUSE there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord! The promise of Christmas is a Savior. It's all about the BECAUSE. It's all about Jesus! Without Jesus these are just false hope and empty words.

I continue to give thanks for the opportunity to journey with the people of God known as United Methodists of the Upper New York Conference. I celebrate the many faithful ways in which the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world is being accomplished. As we move toward another celebration of Christmas, I pray that we will claim in a fresh and new way the BECAUSE for our own lives. Imagine how this Christmas season could transform our Church if we claimed Jesus and Jesus alone for all our hopes and desires.

As we meet people where they are and look for ways to be God's love, I pray that we will be bold in sharing the BECAUSE with them. This Christmas season, God will use us to offer hope, significance and meaning to those around us, as long as we boldly speak the truth that those things can become reality BECAUSE of Jesus – and ONLY BECAUSE of Jesus.

As God brings people into your life and the life of your congregation this Christmas season, don't be content with empty phrases or promises that lead nowhere. Don't get caught up in helping them have a better Christmas celebration. Lead them to the one they are looking for – the one who will help them find what their hearts, minds and spirits desire. Help them experience and claim the Savior who was born for them.

Continued on Page 3

*Wishing you a Blessed and Prosperous
New Year!*

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Our World situation
The Rothfus Family
to those at other residences...

CUBA CMH

Henny van der Horst
Lucille Wildrick

WATERS OF WESTFIELD

Dawn Durkee

EDEN HEIGHTS - OLEAN

Evelyn Steen

Military personnel and their families...

*All the people on our Military
Prayer List have returned to
the states!!!*



Our continued prayers go out to ALL military personnel who are serving our country by active duty & reserve status, both in the States, and abroad. Our List of Military Names is provided by the Weekly Prayer Group for our Military men and women and our world situation. Gatherings are held on Monday's at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels Roman Catholic Church at 50 South Street in Cuba. All are welcomed to attend. For more information, call Sandy Lathrop at 585-968-1531.

Others to keep in prayer:

Tim Bushnell
Chuck Brooks
Terry Bush
Clair (Sandy T.'s friend)
Veronica Clayson
John Culbert
Mike Gibbons
Kenny Glass
Tyler Griffon
Norma Guinnip
Bernie Hawks
Karen Hessney
Ted Hopkins
Diane Karle
James Kellogg
Jeffrey Kellogg
Amber Lunn (2 yrs. old)
Rolly Miles
Mina (Doris Wyant's sister)
Nellie Moses
Shirley Mosher
Bessie Palmer
Harley Poore
Kelly Roberts
Michael Small
Lola Wilson



11- Karl Hodge
14- Pastor Tim Gleason
15- Lisa Ricci
Vanessa Clement
16- Derek Edwards
17- Amanda Clayson
18- Janet Enderle
19- Butch Holden
20- Brittany VanNess
23- Jessica Clayson
Art Higby
25- Peter Simmons
30- Diane Karle
31- Jennie Gleason
Bernie Hawks
Kimberly Sweet

Statistics Needed: \$1,657.75

Date	Worship	Offering
12/01	38	\$1,385.25
12/08	46	\$1,613.00
12/15	38	\$1,273.00
12/15	Rothfus	\$ 100.00
12/22	45	\$1,835.00
Christmas Eve	54	

January Helping HandsUshers

Dean & Cheryl Wildrick

Greeters

1/5 Open for You
1/12 Open for You
1/19 Open for You
1/26 Open for You

Acolyte

1/5 Andrew Clement
1/12 Austin Clement
1/19
12/26

Children's Moment

Marjanne Kunz

Altar Guild

Thela Snow

Coffee Hour

1/19 Vanessa Clement



**Call Sandra Allen
for Prayer Chain**



16- Leo & Christy Reynolds
18- Bruce & Patti Metler

Many Hands make Light Work. Won't you please consider volunteering. We need greeters, liturgists, nursery helpers, Coffee Hour Hosts, Communion servers. Please sign up on the clipboards at the front entrance if you can help. Thank You!

Bishop Webb Letter *(Continued from Page 1)*

May our hearts and voices claim and proclaim to one another and to the world around us the familiar words of O Little Town of Bethlehem:

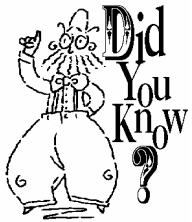
“How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.”

Jodi, Tyler, Ben and I wish you a blessed and holy Christmas! May it be filled with joy! May it be centered on the BECAUSE.

Merry Christmas!

Bishop Mark J. Webb

DYK: *Submitted by Dean Wildrick*



Mission Central is on the forefront of disaster relief. On December 10th, Mission Central sent out 3,640 UMCOR relief buckets!

IN THE NEW YEAR

Always remember to forget
The troubles that passed away,
But never forget to remember
The blessings that come each day!

Administrative Council Notes:

Submitted by Paul Tsujimoto

- ♦ New Church management structure will be started in January
- ♦ Thanks to all for decorating the Church sanctuary.

Cuba United Methodist Women News

Submitted by Judy Zayac



The UMW will meet on January 4th at noon for soup and sandwich lunch. Scott Swift will join us and give an update on the Comfort House of Wellsville.

Thank You

From the Church Secretary:

Thank you so much to all who gave me Christmas Cards, gift cards, and gift certificates. I really appreciate it.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Jim



Sunday School for grades K-5
meets weekly in the nursery
after Worship Service.

Teen Sunday School meets after Worship
Service until 11:00 AM. In the Sr. High
Sunday School room.



The Interfaith Community
Choral Group presented
a Christmas Cantata ,
"A Wondrous Story" at
CUMC on Sunday Dec. 8



All decorated for Christmas



Submitted by Paul Tsujimoto

- ◆ We are proceeding with the pew cushions
- ◆ The Bat issue is being addressed seriously
- ◆ Investigating the new water heater for the Kitchen

BROCCOLI BAKE

Fran Young

1 ½ bunches of broccoli (I use 2 bags of frozen chopped broccoli)

Mix together:

2 cups sour cream
1 cup cream cheese

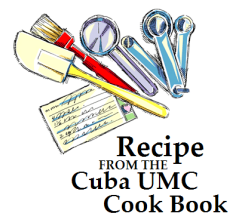
1 cup regular Miracle Whip
1 bag fine shredded sharp cheese

Stir cheese mixture with broccoli

Topping:

1 ½ sleeves Ritz crackers 1 ½ stick butter

Crumble crackers, mix into melted butter. Brown together until the crackers have absorbed butter. Sprinkle on top of broccoli mixture. Bake 375° for 30 to 40 minutes.



WHO WE ARE

“God created humanity in God’s own image, male and female he created them.”
(Genesis 1:26-27)

We are persons created in the image of God. Simple enough. Paul, however, gives us a profound insight into the reality of who we are that frames our identity in a whole new paradigm. Paul writes in Ephesians, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (Eph. 1:3).

Do you habitually, regularly think of your life as being immersed in blessing? Just as a fish lives its life immersed in water, our lives are immersed in blessing.

If you are like me, you would probably answer, “Not all the time.” You know there are those times when it certainly doesn’t seem as though your life is immersed in blessing. Recovering from surgery. News that a loved-one has suddenly died. Being served papers that you are being sued for an automobile accident that your child had a few months ago. A cancerous lump on the back of your neck. Yet Paul is saying our lives are immersed in blessing.

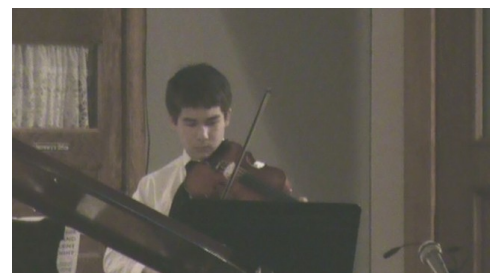
Paul discovered that there is another order of being, there is another structure of life in which life, even life in a Roman dungeon, is immersed in blessing. Well now, that was probably true for Paul. After all, Paul was a rather important person in God’s plan of things. He is the great apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote most of the New Testament. Paul is very significant; it makes sense that his life is immersed in blessing. But who am I? Paul continues in

Ephesians 1:4: Our lives are immersed in blessing “just as God chose us before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before God in love.”

We are not merely **chosen** out of the heart of God’s love. We are chosen that we might be “holy and blameless before God in love.” Our being (holy) and our doing (blameless) are to be the incarnation of a life lived in loving union with God. God’s love indwells us to nurture us toward wholeness in loving union with God in Christ, **to enable us to be in the world those in whom Christ lives for others.** The question now is, “What do we need to do?”

Includes excerpts from M. Robert Mulholland in The Deeper Journey.

Christmas Eve Service



A Festival of Lessons and Carols featured special music by Paul & Joshua Tsujimoto and Rick & Connor Munnis accompanied by Paige Higby. “Silent Night” was sung by candle light.

ANSWERS TO CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

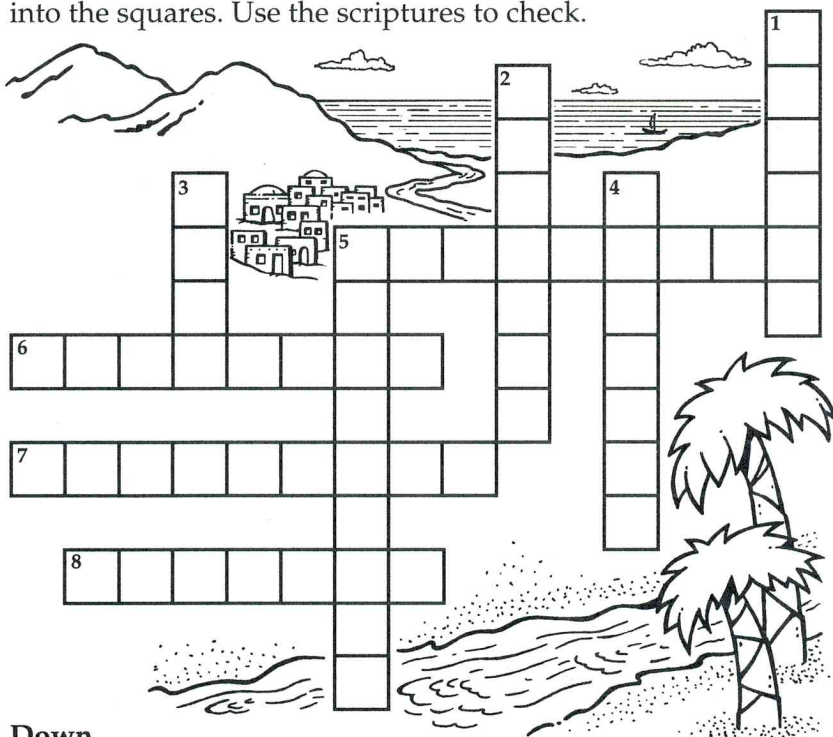
Questions that were in the December Newsletter

1. Cupid
2. 364
3. All of the above
4. Midnight Mass
5. Teas
6. Christmas gnome
7. Fir trees
8. Egg nog
9. "A Visit From St. Nicholas
10. Feliz Navidad
11. Christmas tree
12. On a surfboard
13. Mele Kelikimaka



Places in Jesus' life

Find these important places in the life of Jesus. Fit them into the squares. Use the scriptures to check.



Down

1. The river where Jesus was baptized. (Matthew 3:13)
2. Where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. (John 11:1)
3. Where the first miracle was performed. (John 2:11)
4. Where Jesus called Philip to follow him. (John 1:43)
5. Where Jesus was born. (Luke 2:4)

Across

5. Where Jesus fed the 5000. (Luke 9:10)
6. Where Jesus grew up. (Luke 2:39)
7. Where Jesus went to the temple at age 12. (Luke 2:41)
8. Where Jesus talked to Zacchaeus. (Luke 19:1)

These rib-tickling letters from children to God have been collected by Michael Levine, author of *The Address Book*:

DEAR GOD, I love to eat. Thanks for all the food. Pizza was the best idea you ever had. Ralph.

ARE YOU in charge of babies? I have three sisters, which is good. But, I would like to put an order in for a brother. I hope this special order won't upset you. Paul.

DEAR GOD, old pal, How's it going, man? Can you fix it so my friends and I can stay out later in the summer? Chris.

DEAR GOD, Thank you for my parents, my sister Anita, and for my grandma and grandpa. They are all real warm and special. I forgive you for my brother Jeff. I guess you didn't finish working on him. Daniel.

DEAR GOD, I saw the Grand Canyon last summer. Nice piece of work. Robert.

DEAR GOD, my dad thinks he is you. Please straighten him out. Scott,

MY SISTER Tina has a girlfriend named Wendy. It would take a miracle to shut Wendy up. Got any left? Samantha.

-Quote magazine

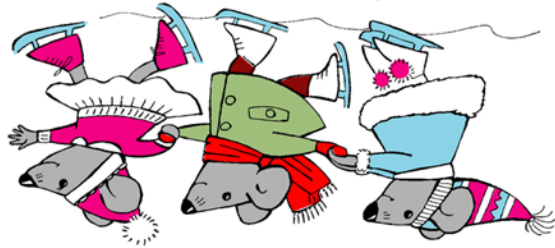


JANUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3	4 Kung Fu 6-8:00 am UMW Lunch & Meeting Noon
5 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 am	6	7	8	9	10	11 Kung Fu 6-8:00 am
12 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 am	13	14	15	16	17	18 Kung Fu 6-8:00 am
19 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 am Coffee Hour	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Feb. Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23	24	25 Kung Fu 6-8:00 am
26 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 am Rothfus Offering	27	28	29	30	31	

The Shepherd's Messenger

CUBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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January
2014

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

«AddressBlock»

The Shepherd's Messenger is a publication of the Cuba United Methodist Church, and is published monthly to report news & keep members and friends informed of church programs and events. Deadline for article submission is the third Monday of each month at noon. Please email articles to Editor's email address, or drop articles off to the church office.

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The Month After Christmas...

"Twas the month after Christmas,
and all through the house
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste
At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.
When I got on the scales there arose such a number!

When I walked to the store
(less a walk than a lumber).

I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,
And the wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese.

"No thank you, please,"
As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt---

I said to myself, as I only can

"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"

So--away with the last of the sour cream dip,

Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip

"Till all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie--not even a lick.

I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.

I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,

I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore---

But isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.

Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

~Author Unknown