December 2015

The Shepherd's Messenger





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

FROM Pastor Burta

Grace and peace to you and yours in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

There are so many traditions that are a part of the Advent/ Christmas season. One of my favorite is singing and caroling; sharing the story of Christ's birth in music.

I came across this little rendition of:

How Children Hear Us Sing...

- ♦ Deck the halls with Buddy Holly...
- On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me...
- ◆ Later on we'll perspire, as we dream by the fire...
- ♦ He's makin' a list, chicken and rice...
- Frosty the snowman is a ferret elf, I say...
- ♦ Sleep in heavenly peas...
- ♦ You'll go down in Listerine..
- Oh what fun it is to ride with one horse, soap and hay...
- Good tidings we bring to you and your kid...

Well, I got a chuckle out of this and I hope you did!

One thing is clear though as we read the Christmas story in Luke's gospel - The shepherds heard very clearly the heavenly choir of angels message,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:14

They brought "Good tidings" to more than "you and your kid". They brought them to everyone! Thanks be to God!

Jeanie and I wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Burt

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

<u>CUBA CMH</u> Henny van der Horst

WATERS OF WESTFIELD
Dawn Durkee

Others to keep in prayer:

Chuck Brooks Joan Buddle Laura Clayson Veronica Clayson Ray Climie Braden Currier Sid Emmons Joyce Enderle Art Higby Family & Friends of Jeffrey Kellogg Stephanie LaFever Bruce Metler Keith Pierce Kerigan Pierce Leroy Sherwood Muriel Small Alice Sweet Barb Spateholts Laroy Spateholts Connie Wandall Judy Warner Wally Watson Ken Wyant



- 12 John & Mary Hupp
- 15 Alan & Judy Zayac
- 26 Art & Jean Higby
- 28 Dean & Cheryl Wildrick



Military personnel and their families...

Brandon Snyder - Afghanistan



Our continued prayers go out to <u>ALL</u> 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.



- 3 Robert Amundson
- 4 Rhonda Cornell
- 13 Phyllis Hodge
- 15 Pamela Higby
- 16 Virginia Clayson
- 18 Patti Metler
- 20 Jeanine Feldbauer
- 23 Caitlin Metler
- 25 Jesus Christ

Zachary Metler

28 Sandra Allen Andy Nelson



If you have a need for prayer, call the prayer chain.

Call Sandra Allen at 968-2137 or Ruth Holden at 968-1933

Statist	tics	Needed: \$1,657					
Date	Worship	SS	Offering				
11/1	51	17	\$1,664.00				
11/8	52	18	\$1,777.00				
11/8	R	othfus	\$ 120.00				
11/15	51	18	\$1,252.00				
11/22	62	16	\$1,278.00				

Cuba December Helping Hands

Ushers:

Dean & Cheryl Wildrick

Greeters:

12/6	Open for you
12/13	Open for you
12/20	Open for you

12/27 Open for you



Acolyte:

12/6 Austin Clement
12/13 Andrew Clement
12/20 Anthony Berardi
Christmas Eve - Dominic Berardi
12/27

Coffee Hour:

12/20 Christine Berardi & Vanessa Clement

Altar Guild

Cindy Dutton & Holly Scoville

PAGE 3 THE SHEPHERD'S MESSENGER DECEMBER 2015

DYK:

Submitted by Dean Wildrick



On Nov. 7, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb dedicated a Ford Flex van to the Syracuse Disabled American Veterans (DAV) chapter during the eighth annual CNY Veterans Day Parade & Expo at the Center of Progress Building at the New York State Fairground in Syracuse. The parade and expo's purpose was "Thanking Our Veterans" of every generation and conflict, and what better way to thank the veterans than with the gift of a new

seven-passenger van, which will transport veterans to and from their medical appointments. United Methodist churches of the Crossroads District along with the United Methodist Men donated funds for the purchase of a Ford Flex.



Do you know of someone who needs a note of cheer? Someone who might be sick, in the hospital, has a birthday, or has a loved one who has passed away? If you do, please call **Sue Simmons at 585-968-1135**. She is the UMW's **Cheer person**. She sends out cards to those in need of some cheer, so please contact her to let her know.

UMW MEETING NOVEMBER 20, 2015 Submitted by Shirley Poore



Shirley provided refreshments & Thela opened the meeting with a prayer.
There were 8 ladies' in attendance.

We still have a few cook books left, good Christmas gifts.

We completed the UMCOR kits. Thela will get them sent out.

A donation for a Wreath will be given to the "Toys for Kids". No meeting in December, next one will be January 16, 2016 at 10:00AM. Ruth will call to remind everyone.

Don't get your tinsel in a tangle

Advent Candlelight Breakfast & Reflection 10 AM Saturday Dec. 5th, 2015 Our Lady of the Angels, Cuba, NY 14727

Advent Breakfast

Begins with Breakfast Strata- Followed by Reflection by Fr. Dobson RSVP ASAP to Sr. Julie 585-968-5776 or juhrich@roadrunner.com

Give name, phone # so in case of a storm you can be reached.
RSVP no later than Monday Dec. 1-- Limited Seating.
Adults Only (16 or older) Donation: \$4 at door



Or- ders need to be given to Thela Snow, 5841 Hilltop Rd. Cuba, NY 14727 no later than **Sunday, December 6.**



Submitted by Sandra Allen

The elementary Sunday School Class is being blessed and growing in their faith. We start class each week with prayer. The children are learning that they can pray any time, any thing,

and any place. We read our lesson from the Bible and discuss it. We also watch a DVD about the lesson. The last month we have continued to study from Genesis about Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob. God loves each one of us just as we are and God is always with us and blesses us.

A thank you to Mrs. Krott for helping our class.

"The Lord bless you and keep you." Numbers 6:24

"Peace on Earth"..."Good Will to All" The story of Jesus' birth is found in Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 2. Fill in the boxes below with words from the verses that fit the definitions. The letters in the darker boxes will spell a phrase that we hear during the Christmas season and all year! Baby Jesus' bed heavenly messenger Mary's husband it led the wise men Jesus' mother the town of Joseph's family a gift from the wise men the kings; wise men Mary wrapped Jesus in these caregiver for sheep

		Cuba UMC - 2016 Bu			В	2016 Sudget	Bu	2016 Idget Jul		%
ID1	ID2 II	O3 Account	_ 20	15 Budget	Ja	in-June		Dec	2016 Total	Change
A	1	Pastor Salary	\$	21,956	\$	11,000	\$	10,978	\$ 21,978	0%
Α	3	Utilities, Housing	\$	7,000	\$	-	\$	3,500	\$ 3,500	-50%
Α	4	CRSP	\$	4,054	\$	-	\$	2,027	\$ 2,027	-50%
Α	5	Comprehansive Protection Plan	\$	869	\$	-	\$	434	\$ 434	-50%
Α	8	Continuing Education	\$	500	\$	250	\$	250	\$ 500	0%
Α	9	Travel Reimbursement	\$	2,250	\$	1,700	\$	1,125	\$ 2,825	26%
Α	11	Heath Insurance	\$	6,000	\$	-	\$	3,000	\$ 3,000	-50%
В	1	Christian Education	\$	200	\$	100	\$	100	\$ 200	0%
В	2 b	Music - Supplies	\$	300	\$	150	\$	150	\$ 300	0%
В	2 c	Music- Organist	\$	1,000	\$	500	\$	500	\$ 1,000	0%
В	3	Chruch Programming	\$	600	\$	300	\$	300	\$ 600	0%
В	6	Pulpit Supply	\$	450	\$	225	\$	225	\$ 450	0%
В	7	Council of Churches	\$	50	\$	25	\$	25	\$ 50	0%
В	8	Annual Conference	\$	1,000	\$	500	\$	500	\$ 1,000	0%
С	1	Church Secretary	\$	6,800	\$	3,400	\$	3,400	\$ 6,800	0%
С	2	Church Sexton	\$	2,956	\$	1,478	\$	1,478	\$ 2,956	0%
С	4 a	Office - Supplies - Postage	\$	1,000	\$	500	\$	500	\$ 1,000	0%
С	4 b	Office - Equipment Lease	\$	2,600	\$	1,300	\$	1,300	\$ 2,600	0%
С	4 c	Office - FICA and Medicare	\$	746	\$	373	\$	373	\$ 746	0%
С	4 d	Office - Workman's Compensation	\$	650	\$	325	\$	325	\$ 650	0%
С	5 a	- Insurance (multi peril)	\$	3,500	\$	1,750	\$	1,750	\$ 3,500	0%
С	5 b	- Sexton's Supplies	\$	250	\$	125	\$	125	\$ 250	0%
С	5 f	- Utilities	\$	7,000	\$	3,500	\$	3,500	\$ 7,000	0%
С	6	Pastor Moving Fund	\$	500	\$	113	\$	113	\$ 225	-55%
D	2	Retiree Subsidy	\$	1,247	\$	606	\$	606	\$ 1,211	-3%
D	3	Shared Ministries	\$	12,697	\$	6,522	\$	6,522	\$ 13,044	3%
		Total/Yr	\$	86,174					\$ 77,847	-10%
		Total/Wk	\$	1,657.20					\$ 1,497.05	

Many lifelong United Methodists have fond memories of their confirmation class. Sometime during adolescence, they met with a group of their peers, some adult leaders, and their pastor. They may have gathered weekly in the church basement, during a youth Sunday school class, or maybe for a weekend retreat at a campground.



When the classes were complete, they then stood before their congregation, where the pastor and others put their hands on them while a blessing was said. Some then received a special lunch or a gift from their church.

Public profession of faith

Although <u>confirmation</u> is not a <u>sacrament</u> in The United Methodist Church, it is an important marker along our spiritual journeys.

At <u>baptism</u>, we are initiated into the new covenant in Jesus Christ and membership in the Church, Christ's body in the world. For many, this happens when they are very young.

We recognize children are members of their human families, but no one expects them to clean their rooms or empty the dishwasher until much later. In the same way, "baptized infants are members of the Church—the family of faith—but are not yet capable of sharing everything involved in membership," By Water and the Spirit, The United Methodist Church's official statement on baptism, teaches.

Confirmation is an opportunity to respond to the grace of God available to us, as acknowledged in baptism, and to promise to live as a person of faith. "What God offers us must be accepted in repentance and faith," <u>This Is Your Baptismal Liturgy</u> states. "Confirmation and reaffirmation are our responses of commitment, profession of faith, and rededication."

VOWS OF PROFESSING CHURCH MEMBERS AND CONFIRMANDS:

- 1. To renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of the world, and repent of their sin;
- 2. To accept the freedom and power God gives them to resist evil, injustice, and oppression;
- 3. To confess Jesus Christ as Savior, put their whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as their Lord;
- 4. To remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world;
- 5. To be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church and do all in their power to strengthen its ministries;
- 6. To faithfully participate in its ministries by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness;
- 7. To receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

After the confirmands answer for themselves the same questions their parents and/or sponsors did when they were baptized, the pastor will say to the confirmand, "Remember your baptism and be thankful." This can cause some confusion for those baptized as infants too young to have memory of the occasion.

The intent is to remember that you were baptized. "It is not the particular event that you are remembering," clarifies the Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, director of worship resources with <u>Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist</u> Church. "It is what has happened to you because of it—what God has done in you—that matters."

(Continued on Page 6)



(Confirmation - Continued from Page 5)

Typically, the confirmand then kneels before the pastor who, along with parents, sponsors, and others, lays hands on her head. The pastor speaks words that are nearly identical to those said during the laying on of hands following baptism, "The Holy Spirit work within you that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ."

Finally, confirmands are asked to take the same vows of membership in The United Methodist Church and their local congregation that all who join are asked.

Because our journey in the Christian faith is not intended to be a solo venture, throughout the service there are places for the congregation to participate. In different parts of the service, they renew their baptism vows, profess their faith together with the confirmands, promise to do all in their power to support these newest professing members, and with them renew their covenant to be the body of Christ for the world.

> From "Beyond baptism: What confirmation means to United Methodists" by Joe Lovino



Christmas Cantata
The InterCommunity Chorus
presents
"The Christmas Light"
A Cantata by Benjamin Harlan

December 4 (Fri) - 7:00 p.m. - Cuba United Methodist Church
December 6 (Sun) - 4:00 p.m. - Belfast United Methodist Church
December 11 (Fri) - 7:00 p.m. - Angelica United Methodist Church
December 12 (Sat) - 7:00 p.m. - Friendship United Methodist Church
December 13 (Sun) - 7:00 p.m. - Friendship United Methodist Church



"Merry Christmas!"



"What a morning! The angels were devils and the wisemen were wise guys."

PARTY MEATBALLS Cindy Dutton

3# frozen, precooked meatballs, thawed

1 jar chili sauce

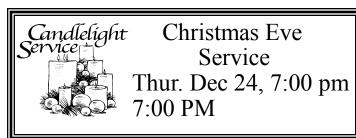
1 can sauerkraut, drained

1 can whole cranberry sauce



Mix last three and pour over meatballs in a crockpot. Start on high, turn down and cook 3-4 hours. Serve on party toothpicks.

.....







Our Class began our study of prophesy in September. The first few weeks we looked at "God's Big Picture." This includes information from the Bible about God's existence with angels before the creation of earth. It informed us about Satan who opposed God and wanted to be worshipped. All occurred in an eternity where recorded time did not exist

With the creation of earth, animals and mankind, recorded time began. At first God said all creation was good. But then, Satan (who was banished to earth) caused Adam and Eve to sin. Thus began the struggle between good and evil which still continues today.

In God's Big Picture, he communicated with old testament patriarchs, kings, and prophets. He established the Jewish nation through which he did many mighty works in history. God, being just, also disciplined mankind (like a judge) for its disobedience.

As God's chosen people became more and more disobedient and the other people, living on earth, were participating in vile and cruel activities, God sent his son to provide redemption for all sinners. This meant the promise of heaven upon our death, and also the promise of heaven after recorded time shall end. Mankind only had to accept Jesus as savior.

According to the Bible, many changes will occur in the future. They include: wars, famine, persecution, false teachers, evil rulers, tremendous earthquakes, and changes in the sun, moon, and stars. Some of these things we are seeing already.

In our faith we believe that Jesus will reappear in the future to take living Christians to heaven (Rapture). But at a later time (the second coming), Jesus will come back to earth to fight the powers of evil and win.

God's Big Picture includes a future when recorded time shall end, and He will prepare a new heaven and new earth. Eternity will be a time of peace and joy... and worship of God as He intended when He created earth.

Our adult Sunday School class is presently studying God's Old Testament prophesies that set the precedents that: 1) God's prophesies come true, 2) God's prophesies are fulfilled literally, and 3) God's prophesies of OUR future will come true literally.

This study of John Walvoord's book, <u>MAJOR BIBLE PROPHECIES</u>, gives us insight into the character of God and it also supports everything that it says with Bible verses. So far, we have studied the prophesies of: 1) Sin and Death, 2) Salvation, 3) the flood, and Abrahams descendants becoming a great nation. (There are 37 total prophesies.)

We welcome all adults to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:50 am. We meet in the room next to the pastor's study.

God bless, Cheryl

DO YOU KNOW DUDLEY?

Dudley is short and thin, with large dark eyes and black hair. He is quiet when meeting new people, but a lot of fun when you get to know him. You may have seen him in church, or at Cuba Memorial, visiting the residents. He is a good listener and has a beautiful smile. He was born in Ohio, but moved to Cuba about three-and-a-half months ago. Dudley brings joy to people who cannot get out of their houses very much. Dudley is a gift from God. He is my puppy.

In early 2015 I spent many hours on the internet looking at pictures of dogs and puppies. I could think of many reasons why I did not need another dog. But maybe he could bring joy to others.

During the eight years I visited my mother-in-law, and later, my mother as residents on second floor of CMH, I saw the smiles that visiting dogs would bring. But would I have the time to properly socialize a puppy for visiting people?

I needed direction. I talked with several church members, and Joyce Enderle agreed to pray for an answer to whether I should get a puppy that would visit those in need. Now we waited.

One afternoon, while visiting at absolute of Allegany, a small dog came directly to me, wiggling and smiling. Was this a sign? The following week the small dog again came directly to me this time rolled on its back wanting his tummy rubbed. I took these experiences as my answer.

In my research, I found a breed called the Coton de Tulear which was recommended as a therapy dog. His temperament is loving and affectionate, as well as entertaining. ("Coton" is French for "cotton" which describes the feel of the dog's coat.) Then while looking at Coton puppies for sale, I found a breeder who said that her puppies began visiting their local nursing home at the age of three weeks. I believe this was more heavenly direction.

Every time I look at Dudley, I am reminded that God directs, and God answers prayer. I am truly blessed.

Cheryl

(A photo of Dudley may be found on Page 6)





Pastor Burt and Children's Moment at Nov. 22 Worship Service

SERVICE SUNDAY 11:00 AM

ER 200 AD SU ADD SOON ADD SOON

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 AM ADULT: 9:50 AM CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sat					
S	2	2	6	76	
Fri	4	_	<u>&</u>	25 Merry Christmas	
Thu	3	0	7	Candleight SERVICE 7:00 pm	Neuglear's Eue
Wed	2 Choir Practice 7:00 pm Management Team 6:30 pm	9 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	L6 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	23 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	30 Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Tue	Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am @ Church	Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am @ Church	Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am @ Church	Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am @ Church	29 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am @ Church
Mon			4	2 January Newsletter Deadline	28
Sun	UMW Food Pantry Collection	6 Poinsettia Order Deadline	2	20 Coffee Hour after worship	27 Rothfus offering

The Shepherd's Messenger

49 EAST MAIN ST. • CUBA, NY 14727 CUBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ST07

and by appointment

Wednesday 1 pm - 6 pm Tuesday 9 am - 3 pm Pastor's Office Hours:

Phone: (585) 567-2650 Interim Pastor Burt Smith:

Please visit our Website:

Church Mailing address:

Mon.-Thu. 9a- Noon

Office Hours:

1401-896 (285) 49 East Main Street, Cuba, NY 14727

Cuba United Methodist Church

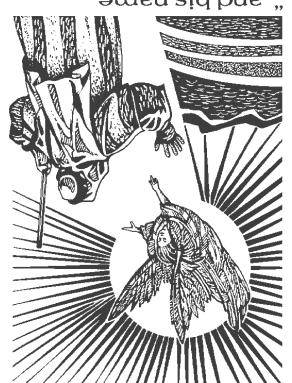
e-mail: cubasec@roadrunner.com Editor/Secretary: Jim Travis

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

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KETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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(which means, God is with us)." end his name shelfe

-Matthew I:23

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