

THE CHRISTIAN LINK

FROM THE PASTOR...

Luke 1:38 ~ Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said." And the angel left her.

Mary was a young girl when she learned she would be a part of the most important birth of all time. She would give birth to the Messiah. To understand the incredible courage Mary had through all this we need to realize that Mary was a young girl when she bore Jesus. It was customary at that time that young girls marry in their early teens, 14 or 15 years old; perhaps even 13 years old. Mary, barely more than a child herself, would give birth to the promised Messiah. Her child would save us all from bondage of sin.

She heard this incredible news, that God himself would come over her and she would be with child in a way that had never happened before and hasn't happened since. Her response to all that was: I am the Lord's servant, may this all happen just as you told me. What incredible courage!

I am continually amazed by our youth and the children of this church. Their intelligence, their wit and their willingness to accept things as they are inspires me and renews me. We all need to take lessons from them. We have been searching for people to step up and run the overhead projector and the video camera. Sandy Sees has agreed to learn to run the overhead, but that left the video camera. Finally, someone with the courage to learn something new volunteered and said, "I'll do it!" She didn't know how to run a video camera, but she was willing to learn. Of all the people in this church, a 9 year old girl was the only one with the courage to try something new. Marissa Sees will run the video and also learn the overhead projector as well.

Maybe Marissa was the only person in the church to take all this seriously. Maybe she was the only one to see that if she didn't do it, it wouldn't get done. Wherever she got the courage, I'm glad she stepped up to do it. If we don't have people continually trying new things and stepping up to help we won't be able to provide the ministry this church needs to have in the future. Our young people and especially our youth need to be encouraged to take an active part in this church. Maybe Marissa's lead will inspire others—I sure hope so.

Father God, I pray that you instill courage in our young people, that they see in themselves the courage of young Mary. May they have the courage to be the Lord's servants and to do what needs to be done. Lead them in whatever they do, and bless their work for this church. I pray this in Jesus name. Amen

Merry Christmas

Pastor Bob

DECEMBER 2011

Merry Christmas



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THOSE SCHEDULED TO SERVE

December 4th ~ Second Sunday of Advent ~ Peace

Communion passed in the pews

Advent Readers: John & Beth Norman
Advent Offering: Avondale Youth Center
Sermon: *Preparing for the Guest of Honor*
Scripture: Isaiah 40:3-11
Scripture Reader: Millie Coleman
Communion Stewards: Judy King & Linda Moore
Greeters: Millie Coleman
Acolytes: Victoria Cowden & Colin Steer
Nursery: Emily Priest

Children's Church (1st-4th): No Children's Church—Communion Sunday



December 11th ~ Third Sunday of Advent ~ Joy

Advent Reader: Sherry Spencer
Advent Offering: Frazeytsburg United Methodist Youth
Sermon: *A Witness to the Son of God*
Scripture: John 1:6-8, 19-23
Scripture Reader: Judy Leas
Greeters: Leroy & Carolyn Dickerson
Acolytes: Marissa Sees & Bailey Gray
Nursery: Sue Graham

Children's Church (1st-4th): Any volunteers?



December 18th ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Love

Advent Readers: Don Harney & Katie Richards
Advent Offering: Transition's Shelter
Sermon: *Why Does This Girl Sing*
Scripture: Luke 1:46-56
Scripture Reader: Dave Cowden
Greeters: Bob & Linda Moran
Acolytes: Marcus Hawkins & Braden Harney
Nursery: Mary Hunter

Children's Church (1st-4th): Trent Weiser



December 25th ~ Christmas Day ~ Christ Candle

Sermon: *Whose Birthday Is It?*
Scripture: Luke 2:8-14 (KJV)
Scripture Reader: Linda Mesnard
Greeters: Tom & Elaine Booze
Acolytes: Colin & Clay Steer
Nursery: No nursery worker scheduled

Children's Church (1st-4th): Any volunteers?



Lay Leader: Eric Wasson
Music Leader: Connie Rine
Alternate Music Leader: Randall Miller
Praise & Worship Leader: Don Harney
Head Ushers: Bob & Marlene Hare

Children's Church (Pre-K): Judy Richards
Projection System Coordinators in December: Chelsea Richards
Videographer: Marissa Sees

If you are unable to serve on the date that you are scheduled to serve, please notify the coordinator:

Acolyte Coordinator—Amber Zeman
Greeters & Scripture Reader—Debbie Miller
Nursery Coordinator—Tracey Cowden

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PRACTICE

We will continue practicing on Sundays at 4:30 p.m. thru December 4th. Our final practice will be on Saturday, December 17th from 4:30-5:30 p.m. with a pizza party to follow.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Please meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday December 17th if you would like to join us for caroling.

The youth will be coming back to the church for a pizza party.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Following the program, please join us in the basement for a Birthday Party for Jesus!



LIVE NATIVITY

December 18th

We will have a live Nativity set up in the yard between the church and parsonage following the Children's Christmas Program. Please stop by.



LADIES' LUNCHEON

Friday, December 9th at noon downstairs at the church

Bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift for the exchange.

~ RSVP ~

Please call the church office @ 828-2201 or

Mary Hunter @ 828-2744.

Deadline is November 27th.
Please have your baby picture turned in on this date.



(RSVP—We need to know how many.)

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

December 24th @ 6:30 p.m.



Advent Readers: Keith & Sarah Merce
Sermon: *A Son Is Given*
Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7(KJV)

The Real Reason

Excitement and joy are filling the air;
The lights add special decor.
We're shopping for Christmas gifts everywhere,
But are gifts what Christmas is for?

The wreaths and the trees and the parties
Aren't what we need to convey;
It's the birth of our Savior, Jesus,
The real reason for this holiday.

By Karl and Joanna Fuchs

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

For children in grades 1st-4th.

We meet in the Youth building for Children's Church. On Communion Sunday (first Sunday of each month) they will remain in the church during the worship services.

We need a volunteers to teach in December.

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHURCH



Read and Share Bible for our 3-5 year olds who were coming down to the nursery during the worship service.

BIBLE STUDIES



Tuesday Morning Class is taught by Pastor Bob and meets at 10:30 a.m.

The Thursday Morning Class is taught by Rick Hunter meets at 10:00 a.m.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

on December 25th



SOS YOUTH MINISTRY

(For all youth, grades 6th-12th)

Sydney supplied us with the following information: In the month of November the youth cleaned out the youth building. We also served at the soup supper and raised a total of \$350.75, which will be used for two kids on the mitten tree. This month we will be going ice skating on the 27th for our monthly fun activity.

Some upcoming events are again the ice skating and shopping for the kids.

Thanks for your donations at the soup supper!

Amber added the following:

Soup & Sundae Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who participated in the youth soup and sundae fundraiser on November 6th. We had a great crowd and raised \$350.75 to use to purchase gifts for local kids at Christmas.

Building Clean Up

If you have not been out to the youth building lately it is looking nice. Thanks to the youth along with Pastor Bob and Linda for helping us sort, clean and organize the youth building. If you have any gently used area rugs or furniture, please let Amber or Mat know. We need to replace a few couches and are trying to spruce up the place.

Upcoming event:

Card delivery: November 27th-December 25th

Caroling: December 17th

Live Nativity: December 18th



CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY SERVICE

Nov. 27th – Dec. 25th

The youth are providing their Christmas Card Delivery Service for those that are members or regular attendees of our church. **(Do not put in cards for those that have not been attending church. Please mail these from your home.)** A suggested donation of 20 cents per card would be appreciated. There will be a red mailbox in the vestibule for you to place your cards and a jar to put your donation in. It would be helpful if you have your cards in alphabetical order with a rubber band around them. Thank you!

OUTREACH PAGE: DARE TO CARE & CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

DARE TO CARE

**Connie Rine & Sandy Sees
Coordinators**

Please let Sandy Sees or Connie Rine know if you would be willing to serve in December.

Those who served in November were:

Millie Coleman, Don Harney, Mary Hunter, Nina Ludwig, Beth Norman, Connie Rine, Sandy Sees & Hazel Williams.

Our Monthly report:

- 5 Telephone call
- 144 note cards to families
- 90 prayers
- 28 visits



We need you! Don't forget our shut-ins or those in the hospitals. We would like all visitations recorded on the sheet posted outside the church office.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP

The Circle of Friendship would like to thank everyone who helped us in any way at our recent Election Day dinner. We had a very busy day with plenty of good food available. Special thanks to Darby Hedges who helped us all day.

Our recent God is Good concert was well attended though we were very disappointed that of the 159 present only 31 were our church family. We hope that those in attendance had an uplifting and enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting will be announced in the church bulletin.

Marlene Hare

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Operation Christmas Child Collection Day was held on Sunday, November 13th. Our church family collected 101 shoeboxes that will be given to many different countries around the world.



Victoria Cowden and Colin Steer performed the dedication of the shoeboxes during our church service. Thank you to all who brought in the shoeboxes. They will truly bless the children that receive them.

2012 FLOWER CHART IS POSTED

Please sign up on the flower chart posted outside the church office. The cost of providing flowers is \$16.00. The flowers can be placed *in honor* or *in memory* of someone dear.

We ask that you pay for your flowers one week prior to the date you choose.

Checks should be made payable to Joanne Bumpus or Debbie Miller, our Flower Stewards.



**FRAZEYSBURG LION'S CLUB
HOLIDAY BAZAAR**
Saturday, December 3rd from 9am-3pm
at the Frazeyburg Elementary School

MEETINGS ON OUR CALENDAR



PPR MEETING

Tuesday, December 6th @ 7 p.m.

We invite those that will be on PPR next year to join us as we will need to elect our new chairman for 2012.

Members are:

- (2011) Tye Hunter, Tom Tyson, Renae Lacy
- (2012) Carroll Bumpus, Darlene Lentz, Patty Steer
- (2013) Nina Ludwig, Marilyn Martin, Judy Richards
- (2014) Millie Coleman, Kelly Weiser, ???

COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES MEETING

Tuesday, December 6th @ 8 p.m.

All committee chairs should attend these meetings and share your ideas. We need to work together. These include: Linda Moore (Circle of Friendship), Rick Hunter (Evangelism), Linda Moran (Family Life), Eric Wasson (Lay Leader), Mary Hunter (Missions), Tom Tyson (PPR), Donn Steer (Scout Representative), Judy King & Linda Moore (Social Concerns), Randall Miller (Stewardship), Judy Richards (Christian Education Coordinator & Sunday School Superintendent), Tom Booze (Trustees), Eric Wasson (Worship), Mat & Amber Lewis (Youth Leaders), Pastor Bob Mesnard

LAY MINISTRY MEETING

Monday, December 12th @ 7 p.m.

Members are:

- (2011) Mike Bebout, Linda Moran, Kelly Weiser
- (2012) Anita Baird, Amber Lewis
- (2013) Joanne Bumpus, Charles Lentz, Connie Rine

TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, December 13th @ 7 p.m.

Members are:

- (2011) Dave Cowden, Linda Moore, Len Rine
- (2012) Tom Booze, David Hawkins, Judy Leas
- (2013) Anita Baird, Carolyn Craig, Bob Hare

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, December 13th @ 7:30 p.m.

CHURCH SERVICES CANCELLED DUE TO SNOW

Church services will be cancelled when we have a Level II in Muskingum County. This is for all church events.

When Tri-Valley School is cancelled on Tuesday or Thursday (the day of Bible Study) they will also be cancelled.

SANCTUARY CHOIR PRACTICE

Wednesdays at 7:30



PRAISE AND WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday evenings at 6 p.m.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Our church is participating in the Kroger Rewards Program. If you have not already signed up and wish to participate, please contact Debbie in the church office.

