

KIRK'S LOG

Stardate: December 20, 2009

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

7:00 p.m. – candlelight, carols, choirs

Focus Scripture – Luke 1:39-55

Preacher: Choirs and Orchestra

Music: Kate Sauer, Music Director

Linda Gilmour, Chancel Choir/Children's
Music & Praise Band Director

Dorenda Morse, piano

Adult Ed: Floyd Coppage

Lay Reader: Ginger Ahrend

Usher/Greeter Team: John Dickel, Myra Galbiati
Kirby Lewis, Mercy Martinez-Nunnally

Hospitality: Karla & Jon Mitovich

Advent Candlelighting: The Brandt family

Lock Up: Judy Gilman

Stewardship Report

You may have noticed that you are no longer hearing “Power up COGS!” every Sunday, but rest assured COGS has made the first steps towards powering up! Our pledge campaign ended on November 22 with our annual Thanksgiving feast. We are very pleased in a number of ways. This year we asked members to “pledge early, pledge well and pledge often”, and we believe our message was heard and acted upon. The dollars pledged are up nearly \$25,000 (13%). We received thirteen new pledges from members who did not pledge last year. We are still waiting to hear from eleven pledging units, and we hope for additional pledge dollars from these and others before our annual budget is written in January. A summary of the pledge totals is shown below:

Year	#	General	OCWM	Total	Difference
2009	76	\$174,230	\$17,031	\$191,261	
2010	78	\$197,781	\$18,362	\$216,143	\$24,882

We are thrilled at the enthusiasm and optimism for the future of COGS as expressed by the generosity of those who pledged. We still have hard work ahead of us to meet our financial goals, but this is an encouraging start.

Have a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

COGS Stewardship Committee

Those for Whom We Pray

Our members: Ted Bradley, Nancy Eberhardt, Christine Hoover, and D'Alene Seymour;

Our homebound members and friends: Fran Doty and Anis Johnson;

Our extended family: Robert Chynoweth (George & Marilyn Chynoweth's son), Sarah Drain (Roger & Dalva Hailstone's daughter), Alice Dudoich (Lynn Foiles' sister-in-law), Ted Feng (Patrick Xavier's uncle), Sam Ferolie (friend of Jon & Karla Mitovich, serving in Afghanistan), Brian Festa (Lori Festa's brother), Fran Haley (Michael Haley's mother), Joan Hall (Ted Bradley's sister), Tracy Hutchinson (Cindy Hutchinson's sister-in-law), Veronica McCarter (Mercy Martinez-Nunnally's sister), Justin Zel Montgomery (Linc Nagle's son-in-law, serving in the Police Department), Amy Mueller (daughter of Susan Olson-Phillips & Det Phillips), Bailey Ellen Paul (Paula Paul's granddaughter), Lorraine Quintana (Phyllis Wilson's friend), Cheryl Warnke (niece of Ethel Shepard), for others for whom we have been praying, and for those whose names are known by you and God.

CAPTAIN KIRK'S LOCATOR

Welcome! Thank you for worshipping with us today. We'd love to have a record of your attendance with us, so please fill out the information below and give to an usher.

Sunday, December 20, 2009

8:30 10:30

Name _____

Check here if your address, phone, or e-mail has recently changed.

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email _____

Spouse's/Partner's Name _____

Children's Name(s) and Age(s): _____

This is my:

1st time 2nd time 3rd time

I attend Church of the Good Shepherd
 I am a member of Church of the Good Shepherd

How I first heard about Church of the Good Shepherd:

- Friends Family TV Ads
 Yellow Pages Location
 Newspaper Ads/Articles
 Website/Internet

(Continued on reverse)

Announcements

Rev. Ingraham will be out of town December 25-30 for Christmas with his family. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call Rev. Francis Rath at 294-5002.

Albuquerque Handbell Ensemble – You are invited to join them as they present "The Magical Wonder of Christmas", **TODAY**, Dec. 20, 4 p.m., at First Christian Church, 10101 Montgomery Blvd. NE (east of Eubank).

New Member Classes

New member classes will be held on the 1st and 2nd Sunday of each month, at 12:00 noon.

New members are received monthly.

Child Care Volunteers Needed – We hope to find some child care volunteers! As a congregation, we need to provide occasional child care ("baby sitting") during special programs and activities at the church. This will help our children be engaged and to stay safe while allowing their parents the freedom fully to participate in programs, meetings, rehearsals and other activities. Can you help? Length of time will vary from one to three hours, and we can work in "shifts" if needs be. Please contact Kirk Wortman in the church office to put your name on the Child Care Volunteer list.

Donations of magazines and newspapers for the older kids Sunday School class – If you have any magazines or newspapers you can donate, please place them in the labeled box in the church entryway.

Wolf Creek Ski Trip - January 15-18, 2010 – There is plenty of time to get signed up for the Wolf Creek Ski trip (January 15-18). Contact Suzanne Miller by phone or e-mail if you're interested (453-6838 / suzmill3r@comcast.net). Also, there was one tear-off sheet with no name on it, so if you didn't receive an e-mail from Suzanne last week, contact her! At last check, Wolf Creek has 63" of snow at the summit, with a month to go!

The church office will be open the mornings of December 24 and December 31, as well as the mornings of December 28, 29, and 30.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND – National UCC Special Offering – The Christmas Fund provides Christmas gift checks to low-income retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ, and is the primary source of annual funds for the General Synod Plan of Supplementation of Small Annuities, administered by the Pension Boards on behalf of the UCC. **The Christmas Fund** is the only source of income supporting the UCC Health Benefits Supplementation Plan for low-income annuitants. And, it provides emergency grants to active and retired clergy and lay employees in times of unforeseen financial crisis. If you are able to provide a donation to **The Christmas Fund**, you will help to make a positive impact the lives of over 1,600 families in 2010. Without a doubt, your gift will bear witness to the loving presence of Jesus Christ in the life of someone who needs a tangible expression of our compassion and care. Offering envelopes for **The Christmas Fund** will be included in the bulletin on December 13th and 20th.

Christmas Project – The Ministry of Justice and Community Interface is encouraging members to support East San Jose Elementary and Project Share. Project Share will provide us with the needs of two families. We will have envelopes on the trees in the social hall and hallway for you to take. For cash donations, please indicate which of these two projects you would like to support. We will have tags for the family requested needs as soon as we get them. Project Share needs their donations by Dec. 18th.

Book Groupies – The next gathering will be tomorrow, December 21, 6 p.m., at the home of Karla Mitovich. Come one ... Come all ... Bring a friend. We'll be discussing the book, *The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett. Please RSVP Karla at KMitovich7@Comcast.com to let her know if you are coming to the meeting OR if you cannot make the meeting. Karla's address: 5115 High Desert Place NE. Phone: 856-6182.

Church Meetings for the Week of December 20-27, 2009

Sunday: **Fourth Sunday in Advent**
 All morning Coffee
 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Club
 9:15 a.m. Children's Education Time
 9:15 a.m. Adult Education Time:
 "Contemporary Theology"
 10:30 a.m. Worship –featuring
**Celebrate the Season,
 a Christmas Cantata**

Monday: 6:00 p.m. Book Group – at the home of Karla Mitovich

Tuesday: 1:00 p.m. Centering Prayer Group – parlor
 6:00 p.m. Handbell rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal – sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. Centering Prayer Group – parlor
 Wednesday: 3:00 p.m. Spirituality Study Group
 Thursday: **7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service**

Friday: **Merry Christmas!**

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. Clean up luminarias
 Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship
 All morning Coffee
 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Club
 9:15 a.m. Children's Education Time
 9:15 a.m. Adult Education Time:
 "Contemporary Theology"
 10:30 a.m. Worship

How can I help?

Are you available to usher on Christmas Eve?

- Yes, I will usher at the 7:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. (There will be only one service Christmas Eve, at 7:00 p.m.)

Would you like to help with the luminarias on Christmas Eve?

- Yes, I can help set the luminarias out and light them at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve.
- Yes, I can help clean up the luminarias at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, December 26.

Can you "do" Hospitality (simple snacks) on a Sunday in January or February, after the 8:30 service or after the 10:30 service?

- I will do Hospitality in January, after the **8:30** service.
- I will do Hospitality in January, after the **10:30** service.
- I will do Hospitality in February, after the **8:30** service.
- I will do Hospitality in February, after the **10:30** service.
- Carol St John will call you to set up a specific date and answer questions.**