

Celebrating
220 Years
in 2011

TheLink



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

December 2011

Edited By George Hoag

Blessings My Friends

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

So Christmas is right around the corner, it seems so fast. Every year this moment comes when in the whole world some kind of anxious expectation is felt. This time is the Christmas Eve. Unfortunately nowadays people often can't even tell the true reason of such a state. For someone it is expectation of the gifts, for another - expectation to meet relatives and friends at the celebration table, however someone else is counting the profit of successful business. Even in the name of the awaited event people omit the name of the Hero of the Occasion—Jesus Christ. They simply say and write "x-mas" or "seasons greetings".

The real reason for all the expectation should still be the same as it was on the day of the birth of that Wonderful Child our Savior Jesus, when humanity was enslaved by sin and was expecting its delivery. "But when he saw all the people he was moved with pity for them, because they were troubled and wandering like sheep without a keeper." (Matthew 9:36)

Worship In December

Dec. 4—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *In the Wilderness, a Voice*, Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8.

Dec. 11—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *What Are You Waiting For?*, Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, John 1:6-8, 19-28.

Dec. 18—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Annunciation*, 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:26-38.

Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m.—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *What in the World Is God Doing?*, Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-14.

Dec. 25—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *The Real Gifts at Christmas*, Isaiah 52:7-10, John 1:1-14.

Today we can say with assurance that God's Word caused every life to begin in the earth, was manifested in Christ Jesus, full of mercy and grace, to return to life people who were dead because of their sins and trespasses.

Blessed are those who came to know this joy of new birth, blessed are those who have not come to know this joy yet, but have the hope, because Jesus Christ was born and completed it all with His life, His death and His resurrection for all.

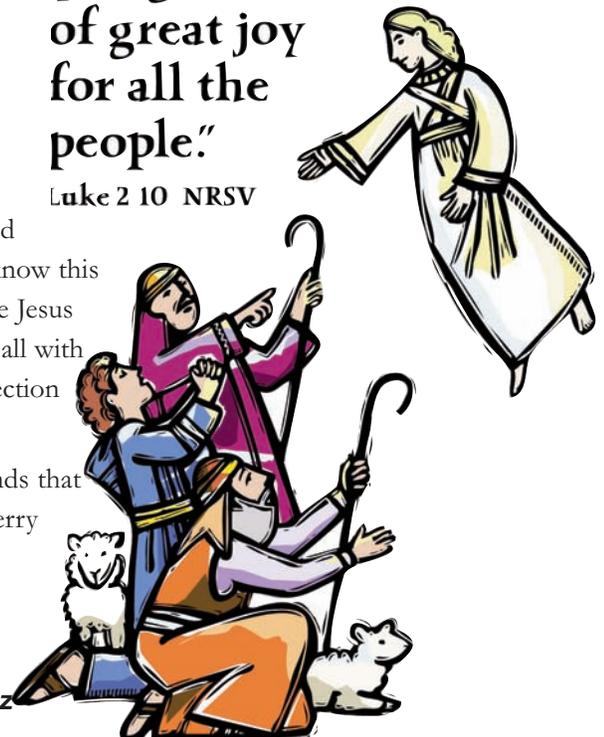
To all the great family and friends that compose the Patchogue UMC, Merry Christmas to all and a Happy and blessed New Year 2012.

Feliz Navidad!

—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez

I am bringing
you good news
of great joy
for all the
people."

Luke 2 10 NRSV



Circle of Concern

For Bereavement: For the Family and Friends of Betty Mayer & Jean Eid

For Guidance:

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Michael Dellazizzi and family, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Joanne, Robert C. Hiene, the Americo Family, Rose Conti, Holly Nelson, Lisa Prince, the family of Alex Pearson, he is in a nursing home, he is the father-in-law of Lenny Pearson, Joan, the Neuman family, Wilfredo Franco, Mary (co-worker of Betty Rice), Monica, Patrick Keena, Sheila Dreaper, Frank Whalen, Walt Stawecki's mother, Theresa Rubano, Sofia and her family, John Casale, Our Troops and Veterans, Dean and family, Rachel Nason, all those who have lost their jobs, Eileen Paduano, Carlos Alvarado, for the Nations of Africa, Tim and Paul, Christine, Mr. Bralla, Pete and Carol Moore, prayers of comfort for police and fireman and all those who risk their lives to make ours safe and better, Glenn Hollins, Raquel Miller, Emma Easley, Tom, Mike, Matt, Brian, Justin, Ray Anderson, Lori, Irene Catalino, Bonnie Abbott's upcoming operation, Justin and Dean Angell, Pat, Lisa, Ben and baby Anna, Emmaus Teams and Pilgrims, Heather Reiss, James Wright's Grandmother, Barry Burrell and Linda, Stephen Martin, Rosalie Rosen, Lori Purificato, Ashley Lauren and Jose Garcia. For those in our church community who are fighting against cancer, Linda Morgan, Luigi, Maureen, Tom Mansfield and friends, Emma Evelend, Lisa, Barbara Rago, Amy Vining, Catherine Weber's aunt, Esmeralda Coppola, Carmen Marrero, Loriann and David and Lin Dastis.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Harry Watson, Debbie Fiore, Patrick Diamond, John Vanderzalm, Layden John Clark, Mary Zatorski, Dan, Peter Moor (Kathie Loris' father), Ernest Boyd, Chris, Phil Ianello, Emily, Sue Buck, Earl Hartsfield, Mike D., Joseph Hawthorne, Emma Rasley, Mr. Tallon, Angelo, Kelly Seeman, Rebecca Hendersen, Jim Pew, Gil Brown, Pat Ward, Grace Richardson (Dianne Adone's mother), Pat, Randy Rogers, Christina Broom, Barbara Asmus, Nancy Rogers, Glenn Hollins, Susanna Davies-Pepper, Glenn Schwartz, Todd Skwirz, Jim Miller, Carol Kirschner's sister, Linda, Mike Welsh and Joyce Ferrante, Caroline Moore.

These at Home:

Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Mike Welsh, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Marie Lino, Marta, Donna Herrick and Philip Rudolph, Jytte & Nils Sorensen (Geri Sheridan's relatives in Denmark), Robert Dodge and Suzanne Olivotti-Dodge, Sandy Burrell, Ted Davies, John Casale, Lorraine Greco, Donald Howie, John Layton, the Moultrre Family, William Loris Sr., Dave Hollowell, Kim Farrel's daughter, Ceil Witt, June Barile's parents, Marilyn Franco, Muriel Vilar, Janet Higby, Guillermina Alverio (Pastor Sanchez's mother, Jim Miller, Catherine Interrante, Glen Adone, Geri Sheridan, Arthur Rice, Bob Saas and Jaden Keeley.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Alice Zahnd in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue, NY.

Kitty Brunnermer in Cedar Lodge Nursing Home, 6 Frowein Road, Center Moriches, NY 11934.

Hazel Nargi in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue.

Nancy Rogers in I.C.F., S. #1, wing C, 283 Route 25A, Shoreham, NY 11786.

Rachel Nason in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue.

Pray for our church and her future directions!



Hear Our Sermons and Watch Our Services On Line

Click on the Links at www.PatchogueUMC.org

If you haven't been getting e-mail messages from us, it means we don't have your address. Please send your e-mail info to patchogueumc@yahoo.com or call the church office.

The deadline for contributions to the January edition of TheLINK is December 9. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Lift up your church with your prayers, presence, gifts and service.

Stewardship

This Fall has been a very busy time in the service of our Lord. The Salvation Army Concert, Chinese Auction, Harvest Festival, Thanksgiving Dinner, Holiday Fair and the upcoming play, Dicken's *Christmas Carol*, have helped to maintain our church.

Lenny Pearson did a fantastic job in bringing the Salvation Army Band to us in October. The Army is a religious organization that promotes its causes through bell ringing, thrift stores and concerts. It helps thousands on Long Island and millions around the world. More than two hundred and fifty attended the concert. The event raised \$2,300 for our church. Thank you Lenny for allowing us to experience an exceptional band and learn of their many programs. Lenny would like to thank all who helped make the concert a success.

The Chinese Auction was held on November 3. We had a packed house. Barbara Becker was the chairwoman of the event. She made it all happen with the help of a lot of our members. You, our dedicated congregation, did it again! We had barely 100 items three weeks before the auction. By the night of Nov. 3 you had donated 270 items, generating \$2,750. Special thanks to Barbara Becker, June Barile, and Valerie Ward for their expertise in this event. We would like to thank all who worked on this major fund raiser. Members of the MYF who came out to help set up and be "runners" were Jacob and Cody Miller, Abdiel Sanchez, Courtney Shadbolt, Rachel and Heather Watson, Justin Zimmerman, and leader, Carla Gibson. Thank you, Barbara and everyone for a job well done.

The Harvest Festival took place in Wesley Hall on Nov. 6. Elizabeth Biederman (Supt. of Sunday School) Carla Gibson (MYF) and the Sunday School teachers provided a fun filled afternoon of games and activities to the joy of our youth and parents. Prize winning pies and cakes were auctioned off. More than \$150 was raised for the boiler fund. Thanks to all who helped to make it a success.

The Thanksgiving Dinner, Holiday Fair and the Christmas play will be discussed in the next months' LINK. Chris Saas, our Administrative Assistant, collected and stashed coats to be given to our guests at Thanksgiving and during the December Wesley Dinner. Please check your closets for warm clothes and coats that you can donate this winter to those who need them. Bring these clothes to church on Sundays or Tuesday mornings.

The lack of adequate light in the Cloud Room became obvious at our Charge Conference. Wilfredo Franco noticed this months ago and offered his "talent" as an electrician to remedy the problem. "Franco" installed new high intensity lights below the old ones. His step son, Christian Medera, put in all new bulbs in the old fixtures and helped with the wiring. We hope to eventually replace the old disintegrating fixtures with new ones that can be changed from the attic. Franco provided the new fixtures, wiring and needed hardware. The light bulbs and circuit breakers were donated by my family. Franco was elected a Trustee at the Charge Conference.

Our supplies of emergency food packets were becoming low. Debbie and Don Kolacki put together dozens

of new bags of food. During the week, people come to the office hungry. Chris doles out the emergency packets to them. We truly are feeding the hungry.

Debbie and Don also facilitate two Bible Studies. One is on Wednesday nights from 7:30 – 9 PM in the choir room. The other is on Sunday mornings at 9 AM upstairs in their classroom at the end of the balcony. The third one is on Friday mornings at eleven also in the choir room. Pastor Sanchez and Carolyn Willis Salvey are the facilitators of this study. These studies are informative and great fellowship. All are invited to join one or more to learn more about our religion.

Carolyn Salvey will be our chairperson of the Membership Committee. Linda Werner will be chairing the subcommittee that will be contacting visitors to our church, welcoming them to join our congregation. Between these dedicated people we hope to begin building up our congregation. This is crucial to the future of our congregation. Thank you both for your fidelity.

Our country has disintegrating infrastructure that needs to be rebuilt. When I read of this I think of our church. The belfry needs \$50,000 in restoration work. For this we have obtained a matching grant of \$25,000 from the New York State Sacred Sites Fund. Obviously large scale work like this must be done by craftsman. The rusting exterior doors and railings can be restored and painted by us. Bob Rogers and I have been caulking and sealing the outside staircases. I wish there was more time to do outside maintenance before winter. The decorative water ledge around the old build-

Continued on Page 4

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Wesley Dinners

A multitude of thanks to all who helped with the Thanksgiving dinner. This was the fifth year our congregation has provided a free Thanksgiving dinner to the community. The food was delicious and plentiful, and all our guests were treated with warmth and hospitality. Our regular December meal will take place on Dec. 22, and since it is so close to Christmas, we hope to provide small gifts like hats, gloves, etc. There will be an angel tree in the Cloud Room so everyone who wants to participate can.

United Methodist Women

The annual Holiday Fair will take place on Sat. Dec.3 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Come and browse the vendor tables for lovely Christmas gifts, check out the beautiful gift baskets, buy tasty baked goods, and just generally enjoy yourself. The proceeds from the Fair support the missions of the UMW. If you would like to help us decide which missions to support, come to our monthly meeting on Dec. 17, at 9:30 AM.

—**Barbara Becker**

Adult Study

We are presently offering three adult studies to enable everyone an opportunity to grow in their faith as they study the Bible. The Wednesday night group meets from 7:30 to 9:00 in the choir room and will be completing their overview of the Old Testament in December. After a break for the holidays, the group will start again in January with the New Testament.

A group studying the letters of Paul meets on Friday mornings at 11:00 in the choir room. This study is led by the pastor. A new Sunday morning study just started in November and will be reading and discussing the gospels. The Sunday morning group meets at 9:00 in the 3rd-5th grade classroom

All are welcome at these studies and you may join at any time. Small group studies offer people an opportunity to explore questions they have about their faith and the Bible in a supportive atmosphere. For more information, call the church office or contact Debbie Kolacki at 363-6499 or debbiek88@yahoo.com

—**Barbara Becker**

Stewardship (from Page 3)

ing is scaling off the walls. It needs patching and sealing. In the spring we need to do outside maintenance of these items. It follows the old adage: “a stitch in time saves nine.”

I would like to thank my nephew, Sean Hollowell, for replacing the small roof over the ramp area. The Trustees contacted two roofing contractors of whom one got back to us with a price of \$2000+. He then did not return our calls to do the work.

Sean completed the job for about one quarter the bid. Wendy and I provided the funds to get this done.

Jose Garcia who lives near the church, watches over her. He sends away loiterers and picks up the garbage almost every day. Thank you, Jose, for your dedication.

Things have been so busy that we have become partially distracted. With the holidays fast approaching, let us regain our focus and tend to the needs of others.

Carla Gibson and the MYF would like you to “Adopt a Grandparent.”

Names of grandparents are taken from our “Circle of Concern.” You may also nominate someone. Those who sign up will prepare a parcel of gifts for each of our shut-ins and those in nursing homes. Sometime around Christmas the MYF will distribute the gifts and sing Christmas carols. It is an endearing program enjoyed by all. Sign up sheets will be posted in Wesley Hall. Please pick a grandparent and make this a special Christmas for both of you. The MYF is planning an ice skating event for some time in December.

With all that we have asked of you, we hesitate to ask for more, but the need today is so great. With warm thoughts of the coming holidays, could you add one more item to your Christmas list. As the cold winter is fast approaching, we would like to begin the “Angel Tree” again. Each angel on the tree will have a practical gift of gloves, scarves or hats listed on it. If you could buy these items, they will be given to one of our guests at the December Wesley Dinner, as a Christmas gift. Although we do not have many children at the dinners, please consider providing items for a child. Any surplus of items will be given to those partaking of our Food Pantry. Think of the joy each of our guests will feel knowing that someone cares for them at Christmas. The warmth they bring will make this winter a little more bearable. They will also bespeak of God’s love for those who wear them and your devotion to Christ in this holiday season. Come to church in early December for more information.

May God bless and keep you in this holiday season.

—**Dave Hollowell**

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>2</i> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	<i>3</i> UMW Christmas Fair
<i>4</i> 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Communion Worship/Sunday School	<i>5</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>6</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>9</i> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.—Recovery 7:30 p.m.—Play in our sanctuary: "A Christmas Carol"	<i>10</i> 7:30 p.m.—Play in our sanctuary: "A Christmas Carol"
<i>11</i> 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/Sunday School Christmas Pageant Rehearsal after Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Finance/Trustees	<i>12</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>13</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>16</i> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/Final Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Sunday School Pageant	<i>19</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>20</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>23</i> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	<i>24</i> 7:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service
<i>25</i> 10 a.m.—Christmas Worship	<i>26</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>27</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>30</i> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.—Recovery	<i>31</i>

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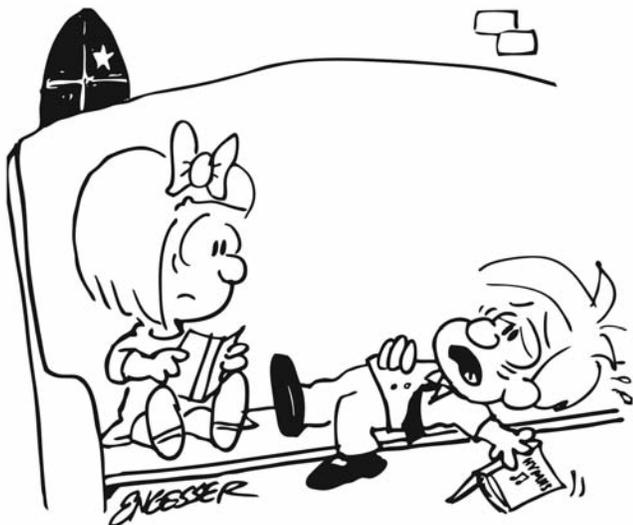
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**WE CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

A Christmas Carol

On December 9th and Dec. 10, at 7:30 PM we will present a production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, directed by Larry Boddy. Tickets are priced at \$10.00 (adults) and \$5.00 for children. Come and enjoy this classic tale, whose message of the importance of love and caring fits so well with the season. Tickets are available through the office.

—Barbara Becker



"That last 'Glo-ooo-oooh-oooh-ooooh-oooh-oooh-ooria' about did me in."

United Methodists See Occupy Protest Ties

They may have begun as a protest against corporations and greed, but for a growing number of United Methodists taking part in the Occupy Wall Street movement, the protests are a statement about the spiritual bankruptcy of materialism as well as a call to transform the world.

“This movement articulates [our call] for a more just society,” said the Rev. Sandy Gess, pastor at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Vacaville, Calif., and a long-time resident of Oakland. “The numbers of people who are homeless, unemployed, living on the streets are finding a community [in encampments] where they get assistance, a spiritual home, and have a voice — those of us in the clergy, who really speak on behalf of our spiritual leader, Jesus the Christ, who always advocated for the poor.”

The seed of the Occupy Wall Street movement was planted this summer by the Canadian-based magazine, *Adbusters*. The magazine called for a peaceful occupation of Wall Street to call attention to the role of banks and multinational corporations in the democratic process and Wall Street’s role in the economic downturn. Demonstrators gathered Sept. 17 in Zuccotti Park in Manhattan’s Financial District. According to the Occupy Wall Street website, the movement has spread since to more than 100 cities in the United States and more than 1,500 cities globally.

The Occupy movement reflects the tremendous frustration of people, especially young people, with the severe polarization of the U.S. political system and growing gap between the rich and the poor, said Jim Winkler, the top executive of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society.

“Occupy Wall Street is taking it to the financial heart of the country,” he said. “There’s a moral component to it that’s grabbed the attention, not just of this country, but (also) of the whole world.”

Winkler said the viral spread of the movement through the Internet and social media, such as the Methodists@OWS on Facebook, clearly shows the Occupy movement has struck a nerve. Many of their concerns echo the historical ministries and mission of John Wesley’s Methodist Movement.

Though Winkler does not suggest Occupy Wall Street is motivated by Wesleyan teachings, he does find many similarities between the United Methodist Social Principles and the protestors’ grievances, which were articulated in the Sept. 29 “Declaration of the Occupation New York City.” The statement included a call to living cooperatively, creating a just economy, providing livable wages, environmental justice, and the value of human life over the profits of corporation.

“In our Social Principles, we claim all economic systems are under the judgment of God,” said Winkler. “The Occupy forces are really challenging the very tenets of capitalism and asking whether or not it’s the best system. In our Social Principles, we say corporations are responsible not only to their stockholders but to their other stakeholders.

“I think that’s what you’re hearing—a demand for corporate social responsibility,” he said.

Raising questions

For the Rev. James K. Karpen, pastor of the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Manhattan, the Occupy movement is raising questions the church has been asking forever.

“Questions about wealth and poverty,” Karpen said. “Questions about the way the economy is structured — who benefits from that, and who is hurt by that. These protests have changed the conversation in this country about these issues.”

The voice of faith in the Occupy movement has been visible. There’s even a web site, OccupyFaithNYC, for news and updates about faith-based events at Zuccotti Park. The West Village’s Judson Memorial Church, affiliated with the United Church of Christ and American Baptist Church, was the site of an interfaith worship service Oct. 9. After the service, worshippers carried a paper mache golden calf — a symbol of greed and the worship of false idols to Christians, Jews and Muslims — through the streets to the statue of the Wall Street bull.

Similar interfaith services are going on throughout the country, according to Associated Press reports. Interfaith tents have been put up in Boston; Charleston, S.C.; Manhattan; Oakland; San Francisco; Philadelphia and elsewhere, offering space for prayers, meditations, conversations and training in nonviolent protests.

Karpen says the the Occupy Movement has welcomed the faith community.

“They seem to sense that when we are being true to our theological roots, we have their back. Wesley didn’t sit in committee meetings; he went out to where the people were. And, he didn’t shy away from the issues that were impacting their lives.

“If you read the gospels carefully, you see that Jesus had more to say about money than almost anything else,” he said. “And most of what he said is closer to what the Occupy movement is talking about than to the way we talk about money in most of our churches.”

—Sandra Brands, UMNS

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Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Pastoral Minister
Christine Saas, Office Assistant
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A Call to Action

The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church has issued what they term "A Call to Action." Basically, they are requiring all UMC churches to develop a 10 year plan that focuses on becoming a "vital congregation." While I think the Call to Action, as written, relies too heavily on numbers and statistics to define what makes a congregation vital, nevertheless, the bishops raise some excellent questions that give us an opportunity to have a lively dialogue about our faith. Some of these questions are:

1. Why does our church exist? What is Christ calling us to be and do in our community?
2. What values guide our congregation's decision making? How does our church spend its resources of time and money?
3. If our congregation were to cease to exist tomorrow, what would be missed from the community where we are located? What can the community consistently trust or expect from us?

There are a number of other questions that, if we think and talk about them, could help us develop our faith and live our lives, both individually and as a community, in God pleasing ways.

I believe we really need to spend some 'quality' time engaging one another in thoughtful dialogue. What do you think?

—**Barbara Becker**



Dec. 5	Kiersten McLean
Dec. 7	John Elliott Derek Elliott
Dec. 8	Krista Smith Evan Hawkins
Dec. 9	Trevor Jacobsen
Dec. 10	Katelyn Schaaf
Dec. 13	Halley Puglia Adriana Lynch Page DesRoches
Dec. 14	Tyler Bornschein Steven Rice
Dec. 16	Kevin Weldon
Dec. 18	Megan Horan Matthew Layton
Dec. 21	Michael Layton
Dec. 23	Hayden Snyder
Dec. 24	Jaden Keeley
Dec. 30	Derek Fontaine