

Good News

From Darrtown United Methodist Church
for December, 2004



December! Perhaps the busiest, most important month of the whole year. And that is all because of Christmas.

But is it? Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, God's own son. He was born in humble, simple surroundings 2000 years ago. We don't know the exact date or even the year. Some experts computed it at what would now be 4 AD. So this could be the 2000th anniversary of His actual birth, even if we missed the day.

I admit that I love the pomp, the decorations, the lights, the parties, and all the other secular, popular surroundings of the season. But I don't forget the "reason for the season" – Jesus.

I would encourage you to remember the simple, humble start of all these festivities –

and the central figure of Jesus of Nazareth who is the very son of God. When you do, you will find a peace within you in the midst of all the hustle and lights.

Also, in the midst of all your gift-buying, I would encourage you to celebrate Jesus' birthday with a significant gift to Him through His church. We will need a strong end of the year for a good financial foundation for 2005.

Finally, I would remind you that the best way to celebrate this wondrous time of year is in worship of Jesus. It will help all of us keep our focus on "The Reason For The Season."

In Jesus' Love, *Rev. Ed*

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HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE - DECEMBER

Donna Gallagher, JoAnn & Bill Coombs
When a trade is needed, contact Etta Jean.



PRAYERS REQUESTS

Michael Lane (Iraq); Jill & Dave Morris (Iraq);
Matt Malpin (POW); Phillip Campbell (Iraq);
Mel Snider; Connie Davis; Ersia Coombs; Ron
Hansel; Tom McCartney; Carolyn Spivey; Allison Ross;
Rev. Del Harper; Kenneth Lemmons; Debbie Lewis;
Ron & Judy Brown; David Russell; Vickie Barnett;
Robert Rhames; Joann Lindsey; Karen Bremer; Shirley
Baker; Horace Akeley; Joann Coombs; Melva Brown;
Audrey Brooks; Melva Ward; family of Joann Johnson;
Dale Gross; Sarah Jane Nichol

BAPTISM: On Sunday, October 17, the Sacrament of
Infant Baptism was received by **Reghan Lindsay
Smith**, daughter of Kelly Lea Timler Smith and Mark
Reagan Smith. Reghan is the great-granddaughter of
Olive and Bill Miller.

CONDOLENCES:

✠ To the family of Jean Witherby

Note from family: *"Thank you for the lovely
arrangement of flowers in memory of my mother. Our
family appreciates your thoughtfulness. Thank you also
for sharing your Pastor Ed Beck. He was able to honor
Jean Witherby, whom he had never met, in a moving
and personal way."* Sincerely, Naomi Fea

Notes from family of Tammy McCartney:

*"To All: Lauren, PJ and I want to thank all of you
for all of the prayers, thoughts and help that was given
over the past month and a half. The food was terrific!"*
Lots of love, Mike

*"Dear Members of the Darrown Methodist
Church: My sincere compliments to your Pastor and
congregation for the beautiful service you conducted
for my cousin-in-law, Tammy McCartney. The Pastor's
words were perfect in honoring our dear, sweet
Tammy. And I cannot begin to tell you how impressed
I was with the kindness of your congregation to
provide the food for the gathering at Mike & Tammy's
home after the service. What a kind and thoughtful
thing to do for family and friends. Jesus must be very
proud of you!"* God Bless, Sam Vogel

NEW CHURCH BROCHURES

There is a display box with our new church
brochures at the back of the sanctuary. Pick up
some extras for your friends and neighbors.

MILITARY

Let us remember in prayer those who serve our
country.

- ★ *Matthew Ziglar*
- ★ *SSgt. Michael Eversole*
- ★ *Dale Wm. Baumann*
- ★ *Mitch Voeke*
- ★ *Kristopher Nelson*
- ★ *Robert Mills*



LOOKING FORWARD

ADVENT

Advent begins on November 28th this year.
Again, we will be lighting the advent wreath each
Sunday. Advent is the beginning of the Liturgical
Year for the church. It is a season of spiritual
preparation, marked by eager longing for the
coming of the Savior at Christmas.

Advent comprises four Sundays before
Christmas. Advent means "coming". We recall the
coming of Jesus as the child in a manger; we
welcome His entrance into our hearts; and we
anticipate His ultimate manifestation as Lord of all
creation. The color for the season is purple or blue.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS MISSION

Clothing for K-4th grade children in our school
district is needed:

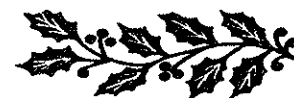
Winter Hats (skull caps)

Mittens or Gloves, preferably waterproof

Children's Sweatpants, sizes 6-8 small,
8-10 medium, 10-12 large, 12-14 X-large.

Please deposit your donations in the box in the
annex. Thank you.

Cathy Richardson



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- **December 1 (Wed.):** Pastor Parish Training Session, Ministry Excellence Workshop: This District sponsored event led by our District Superintendent, Tom Hanover, will be at 7:30 pm at the Park Avenue United Methodist Church.
- **December 1 (Wed.):** Choir practice at 6:30 pm
- **December 4 (Sat.):** Annual Church Christmas Party at 6:00 pm in the church annex (see details)
- **December 8 (Wed.):** Choir practice at 6:30 pm
- **December 12 (Sun.):** Children's Christmas Program at 9:00 am worship service (see details)
- **December 12 (Sun.):** Historic Hopewell's Annual Christmas Program at 5:30 pm (see details)
- **December 13 (Mon.):** Trustees and Admin Board meeting at 6:30 pm
- **December 15 (Wed.):** Annual Community Hymn Sing at 7:00 pm (see details)
- **December 22 (Wed.):** Choir practice at 6:30 pm
- **December 24 (Fri.):** Joint Christmas Eve Service (see details)

ANNUAL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Plan to join us for our Annual Church Christmas Party on Saturday, December 4th at 6:30 pm in the church social room. We plan to eat dinner at 6:30. Everyone should bring enough food for their family. The United Methodist Women will provide the meat, drinks and table service. Let's make this a festive time by wearing the Christmas colors of red and green.

Also, this is the evening where we remember our pastor and wife with some small gift of appreciation. This is optional. Last year, they were really surprised and so appreciative.

Donna Gallagher

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Christmas Program, "The Shepherds' Story" will be Sunday, December 12, at 9:00 am, during our worship service. All children, youth and choir will take part. We will be practicing each Sunday during our Sunday School hour. Please plan to have your children at Sunday School. We will have our final

practice on Saturday, December 11 at 1:00 pm. Please be there.

The Education Department needs volunteers for the months of January, February and March. Please contact Carolyn Russell at 523-6768.

Education Chairperson, Carolyn Russell

HOPEWELL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

You are invited to Historic Hopewell Church Christmas Program on December 12 at 5:30 pm to join with us as we celebrate our 6th annual Christmas Eve service. Pre 1840's dress encouraged. The church was established on the Ohio frontier in 1808 by the migration of many Scot-Irish descendants from South Carolina who came here to escape the slavery issue, shaking off the very dust of anything to do with it, and to become a part of the underground railroad system. The church is located north of Morning Sun, Ohio, off St. Rt. 177, west on Camden-College Corner Road, approx. one-half mile.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MUSIC-FEST

Join us on Wednesday, December 15th at 7:00 pm for an evening of musical talent in song, instrumentals, sing-a-longs, etc. in celebration of the birth of our Christ. Bring a can of food.

JOINT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our joint Christmas Eve Service will be held at McGonigle-Millville UMC on Friday, December 24, at 7:24 pm. We were exposed to Rev. Beck's unique and beautiful Christmas Eve Service last year. Now we know just how moving this special service can be. Plan to attend and work your family Christmas Eve around this highlight of the season. Bring family and friends. They will thank you for it. Remember the time: **7:24 pm on December 24th.**

WANTED: TALENT

January 29, 2005

Any talent! All talent! Any age! All ages! We are looking for any individual, group or duet who would like to share their talent with us for a night of fun and fellowship. We are planning an evening of dinner and entertainment. We need people who can offer their creative minds to sing, dance, act, joke, read ...

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anything goes. Both churches will be hosting this event at McGonigle on Saturday, January 29th. Please call Christy at 523-2977 or Robyn at 896-4025.

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

I am pleased to announce that a new committee is being formed called the Family Fellowship Committee. It will be responsible for organizing events throughout the year that will bring us closer together as a church family.

We just had our first event in October, the Halloween party that we shared with McGonigle-Millville. It was held here at Darrrtown and was a roaring success. We had between 110-120 people in attendance. Both churches worked together to make it a wonderful night.

Christy Heinrich has graciously agreed to the job as chairperson of this new committee. Her enthusiasm and creativity make her just the right person for this position. We are very pleased that she has accepted.

Anyone interested in helping Christy on this new committee should let me know. We will be asking for your help as events are planned in the future.

Robyn Beck

Looking Back

NEW SIGN

A new 4 x 6 sign was purchased and placed on the corner of Rt. 177 and Oxford Road in Darrrtown and will be used for announcing our church events. It was used in October to show "Pastor Appreciation" to Rev. Ed, and in November to announce the turkey dinner. Special thanks and appreciation for this much needed and useful addition go to Rhonda Knight for allowing funds from the Steven Knight Memorial Fund to be used for the purchase. And thanks to Laura Cohen, Sally Hansel and Carolyn Russell for the physical work of getting it purchased, delivered and up and running. A special touch was added when Laura managed to get the Methodist logo with cross and flame attached to the sign.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

Our joint Darrrtown-McGonigle Halloween Party was a huge success, with over 100 people in attendance. The children had lots of fun playing games such as bobbing for apples, bobbing for pumpkins, corn hole toss, costume judging, and guessing the number of pieces of candy in a jar (Rev. Beck won the jar of candy!). There were lots of adults dressed in some very creative costumes. Rev. Beck and Jack Davis arrived wearing the exact same costume of Dr. Seus' The Cat in the Hat. Thanks to Laura Cohen for her creative decorating talents. Thanks to the many organizers, helpers, decorators, cooks, and all who contributed to make this a fun family event.

Children's Costume Winners

Scarecrow - Jacob Vest
Farmer - Josh Russell
Witch - Carly Hansel
Disco Dancer - Kate Winstead
Cheerleader - Heather Keller
Devil Girl - Laura Bennett
Blow-up chicken - Caitlyn
Princess - Brittney Shepherd
Caveman - Brennan Hatten
Ghost - Joe Bennett
Scream - Greg Bennett
Giraffe - Reese Lindley

Adult Costume Winners

Sumo Wrestler - John Curry
Fair Lady - Shelley Bennett
Raggedy Ann & Andy - Carolyn & Ken Russell
Copycats - Jack Davis and Rev. Beck
Japanese Woman - Maxine Harris
Bad Hair Day - Donna Gallagher
Scariest Couple - Paul & Sherri Berger
Minnie Mouse - Susan Petri

CONGRATULATIONS

Ms. Vicki J. Coombs, daughter of William and JoAnn, sister of Kristi, passed her PhD and is now "Dr. Vicki." She is working in heart research at Mid-Atlantic Cardiovascular Associates in Towson, Maryland. She also is associated with Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. She worked long and hard for this degree.

Vicki was a member of the Darrrtown UMC until moving to Maryland.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Robyn Beck completed the Basic Lay Speaker's Course on November 6 and 7. After a day of classes on Saturday, she worked at Darrrtown's Turkey Dinner, then had to go home and prepare a sermon to present the next afternoon. It was well received. Hopefully, she will share an expanded version with us in the future. She was formally approved as our Charge Lay Speaker at the Charge Conference on November 7, 2004.

Sally Hansel

NURSING HOME / HOSPITAL VISITS

Jane Menke has accepted the responsibility of arranging for the important mission to our church family of scheduling and visiting the sick. We are asking the congregation to call Jane at 756-1927 once someone enters the hospital so that plans can begin for these visits. Also, if you are aware of a person in a nursing home who desires visits, this information should be shared with Jane.

SINGING AT THE MATRIX (OXFORD VIEW)

Twelve of us attended and sang together for an evening, along with the residents of the Matrix. One of the residents played his harmonica as Donna played the piano. Some residents had special requests, as they recalled those memorable hymns.

On November 2nd, Laura Cohen and the Talawanda Key Club met at the Matrix for entertaining with singing, piano, and harmonica.

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

On Sunday, November 7th eight members, including Rev. Beck of our Charge, attended and officially installed the new slate of officers for the year 2005 for the Darrrtown-McGonigle Charge.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to **Larry Simison** for mowing the church yard all summer! It really looked nice. Also, thank you to **Bill Coombs** for doing all the trimming at the church. We know these are big jobs for both men, but they willingly volunteer their time without complaints, and they deserve our appreciation.

TREE

Our landscape has changed. The large tree that once stood on the corner of Walnut and Oxford Streets has been cut down because of the unsafe nature of the decaying branches. It was estimated that the age of the tree could possibly be between 150 and 200 years old.

OCTOBER - PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Poem written by Donna Gallagher and read to Rev. Ed and Robyn during Sunday Worship Service:

*It's Appreciation Month for our wonderful Rev. Ed,
He's totally awesome - let it be said.
He's our part-time minister, who goes at it full time,
No rest for him - he is the top of the line.
We have grown as a church, in the short time he's
been here... We have grown to love him and respect
him, he's been such a dear.
With wonderful Robyn by his side, there is nothing
they won't try.
We appreciate all his efforts, thank you Rev. Ed,
you're quite a guy.
We want to say thank you for giving to all of us, your
caring, loving ways, your time and your trust.
You're someone very special for lots of wonderful
reasons; we hope you are with us in every change of
the seasons.
A big thanks for Robyn, your beautiful wife, who helps
you remember all the busy things in your life.
Thanks for always being there for us, when we call
upon you.
I'll end this by saying, we love you both, Yes We Do!!!*

THAT'S DEDICATION!

Nothing stops some of our dedicated Sunday morning worshipers! On a Saturday night in October, as **Larry and Mary Lou Simison** were sleeping, a thief was attempting to steal their car. They were not aware of this happening until they went outside Sunday morning. Their car was in no condition to be driven. After discovering this unfortunate incident and reporting it to the police, they called a cab, and still came to church - a little late but they made it! What dedication!

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UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Women's Fellowship

All women of the church and community are invited to be a part of this caring and sharing group, locally and globally. Our reason is to be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the local and global ministries of the church.

DECEMBER: No meeting. Annual Family Christmas Party, Saturday, December 4th. Details on page 2.

OFFICERS FOR 2005: Officers for the new year will remain the same: President, Ida Mae Lemmons; Vice President, Rhonda Knight; Honorary Vice President, Rev. Ed Beck; Secretary, Maxine Harris; Treasurer, Etta Jean Crawford; Cheer Notes, Irene Hansel; Nominations Chair, Carolyn Russell

Twenty-seven women are now on the roster for the unit. We invite all women of the church and community to attend on the first Monday evening of each month at 7:00 pm. During our January, 2005 meeting, we will plan for the new year and receive any ideas for mission work and activities.

JANUARY MEETING: January 3rd at 7:00 pm; hostesses will be Sally Hansel and Irene Hansel.

MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION: Last year, the UMW sponsored Linda Brate on a month-long mission trip to Thailand. She is willing to come to our church to share her experiences, and the date of her presentation has been set for Monday evening, January 17, 2005.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As of November 6, 2004, the balance was \$647.25. This includes profits from the bazaar and bake sale.

UMW's BAZAAR

The UMW says "Thanks" to all who supported the bazaar and bake sale, which was organized by Cathy Richardson, Rhonda Knight and Caren Hansel. The proceeds will help us reach our goal of giving to the following missions as our Wilmington District Pledge to Mission:

Worthington United Methodist Children's Home
Red Bird Mission in Kentucky
Living Water Ministry in Hamilton
Otterbein Home
Talawanda Community Services
The Parachute Program of Butler County

It is so easy to give to others when we all work together!

QUILT THROWS

While making noodles in October, it was decided to make "throws" for the bazaar. What a fun time we had putting the three together, and time was of the essence. A couple of us gathered the fabrics, another donated the batting, others found yarn, another bought a new sewing machine, and many found time to do the knotting and the finish work! And three beautiful flannel throws were created in time. We praise God for letting pieces of the ordinary become pieces of the extraordinary!

UMW READING PROGRAM FOR 2005

Four new books are available for reading and sharing. Once you finish reading a book, make sure you report to Ida Mae or Maxine for credit.

1. "The Unwanted - A Memoir of Childhood" by Kien Nguyen
2. "An Hour Before Daylight, an American Classic" by Jimmy Carter
3. "Embracing the World, Praying for Justice and Peace" by Jane E. Vennard
4. "Knitting Into the Mystery, a Guide for Shawl Knitting Ministry" by Jorgensen & Izard



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WILMINGTON DISTRICT ANNUAL DAY

On October 23rd four of us traveled to Williamsburg, Ohio to attend Annual Day, where we enjoyed good food and fellowship. Our Darrrtown Unit was recognized as a Five-Star Unit and recipient of the "Mission Today" award.

The installation of the Wilmington District officers for 2005 took place, and to our surprise, Ida Mae was installed as Chairman for the Committee on Nominations!

Ida Mae also took part in the service by giving a speech about her experiences last summer at the School of Christian Mission in Ada, Ohio. Linda Graves thought her speech was getting a little lengthy and during a pause, Linda stood up and said "Isn't she a delight?" to which Ida Mae responded, "Oh, I'm not finished yet." She continued on for a few more minutes and presented her final thoughts. We wish Ida Mae much success and joy, not only in her position as our president, but in her new position within the District.

Maxine Harris

MISSIONS

2005 World Thank Offering Boxes: New boxes will be distributed in January. When you spontaneously want to thank the Lord for your blessings during the year, drop coins in the box. These boxes will be collected at Thanksgiving time.

Packing for Jesus: Saturday, February 5, 2005 at the Goshen UMC. We could take part if there could be a place for storage. Let Ida Mae Lemmons know if you are interested. Last February, 22 tons of clothing was shipped to the Ukraine. This announcement comes from Cathy Hanover of our District.

Reminder - Campbell Labels:
Please continue to save your labels and place them in the pink shoebox in the Annex. These are sent to The Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. Thank you to those who continue to contribute labels.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY THERAPY



*Gather those you love at your hearth
or in your heart.
Measure your relationships not by gifts
that increase your possessions,
but by gifts that enrich your heart: loyalty,
thoughtfulness, caring, burden-sharing.*

December 1 - Elsie Nichol
December 8 - Carey Jones
December 27 - Carolyn Sadler

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WISHING YOU A VERY, MERRY CHRISTMAS

**** Notice ** Deadline for Newsletter Articles**

The next deadline date for submitting articles for the newsletter is **December 15, 2004**. Items can be given to Maxine Harris or Ida Mae Lemmons. We will be including monthly calendars and we need your help to keep upcoming events, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. noted on these calendars. You may also send information via e-mail to Maxine at: maxakers03@aol.com.

Merry
Christmas



December 2004

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|-----|---|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Hospitality: Donna Gallagher, JoAnn & Bill Coombs | | | 1 Choir Practice at 6:30 pm Elsie Nichol's birthday | 2 | 3 | 4 Annual Church Christmas Party at 6:30 pm in the Annex |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Choir Practice at 6:30 pm JoAnn Coombs & Carey Jones' birthday | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Children's Christmas Program 9:00 am Hopewell at 5:30 pm | 13 Trustees & Admin Board Meeting at 6:30 pm | 14 | 15 Annual Community Christmas Hymn Sing at 7:00 pm | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Choir Practice at 6:30 pm | 23 | 24 Joint Christmas Eve Service at McGonigle at 7:24 pm | 25 Christmas Day |
| 26 Zack Russell's birthday | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Laura Cohen's birthday | 31 | |
| | | | | | | |