

THE LEAFLINES

River Forest United Methodist Church



Rev. Char Hoffmann, Pastor
7970 Lake Street, River Forest, IL 60305
Phone (708)771-3668 Fax (708)771-2851 www.rfumchurch.org

JANUARY 2010

ALL THE WORLD IS WAITING.... and watching...

It was my own fault. I had decided that, since the characters of the nativity spent so much time in the cold wind and the rain and snow, they should have a new coat of paint and some renovation before we put them out this year. Chris dutifully dragged them up from the basement (where it was too dark, hot, and cramped to paint them). Dot and Margaret set to work painting and repairing them in Fellowship Hall. All was well until the preschool returned from Thanksgiving break and the Holy Family and their entourage had to find a new home.

Everyone needed the stage to practice for their various Christmas programs. The group couldn't reside in the Memorial Room because of the Advent Tea and other events. The Narthex was fine, except they needed to be moved on Sunday to who knows where. Once again, the Holy Family was experiencing the fact that there was *no room at the inn*. Glenn decided to solve the problem. Normally, Mary, Joseph, and the donkey spent the Advent season traveling across the church lawn on the way to an empty crèche. On Christmas Eve, all the characters magically arrived to witness the big event, with the kings showing up at some later time. Instead of moving everybody back to the basement, with the exception of Mary, Joseph, the donkey and a few four-legged traveling companions and the baby Jesus, the rest got staked outside, in their normal Christmas Eve places. (I have the feeling that not only did that take care of the lack of space problem, it also meant that he wasn't going to have to spend all of Christmas Eve in the snow, cold, rain, and wind staking everyone down in frozen ground.) This, of course, caused a few comments from our parishioners about the appropriateness of *breaking with tradition* (read that's not how we usually do it)

"You made your bed, now you have to lie in it," was what my mother used to say.

I was beginning to wonder if what was supposed to be such a meaningful activity for the Advent season wasn't doing just the opposite – making us all a little irritated and grouchy. However, God, in God's infinite goodness, gave me some wonderful gifts. As I attended community events throughout December, several people came up to me and remarked, "Oh, you're at the church with the traveling nativity. We really enjoy watching that every year. It's part of the Christmas tradition that we look forward to." That was good news! And then, a few went on to comment, "We were surprised to see everyone out in place so early. Usually they don't show up until later." And finally, one person commented, "It's sort of like everyone is waiting to see what is going to happen."

"Anticipation and expectation is what the Advent season is all about," I was able to explain. "Christ has come to all sorts of people – young, old, rich, poor, wise, and not so,... we've seen him and experienced him, and we are all waiting for his promised coming again. What are you hoping for, expecting, this Christmas?" I began to see that what I thought was an *inn-convenience* was turning into an opportunity to witness and to share the Christmas story and to hear what others were thinking, feeling, and hoping for. It was a way of sharing the old, old story in a new way and a way of exploring how we, as followers of Christ, can bring the *good news* to our community.

How are you going to share the good news that Christ has come again this year? The world is waiting and watching....

Blessings for 2010,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Char".

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Growing and healthy churches have informed and well-trained leaders. Here are some opportunities to help us develop and exercise the knowledge and skills we need to improve upon the mission and ministry of RFUMC. These events provide arenas to network with others, hear from learned clergy and lay persons about what has worked for them, brainstorm and explore ideas about what can work for us. Please make an effort to attend .

LAITY CONVOCATION 2010

Show me the way: Focus on ministry with the poor and improving Global Health.

Speaker: Bishop Felton E. May

Saturday, January 16, 8:00 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
Sycamore UMC
160 Johnson Ave., Sycamore, Il.

Cost: \$12.00 including breakfast and lunch if pre-registered or \$15.00 at the door.

LEAD 2010

District Training Event

Saturday, January 30
8:30 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

Glenview United Methodist Church
727 Harlem Ave.
Glenview, Il.

Christmas Program 2009

RFUMC Finance news—

Nancy Culbertson and Ed Rausch will be **Counters** for the offering during the month of January. Other members of the team are Jean Dillner, Omer Dix, Pat Nutter, Jocelyn Pritchard, Mickey Sanger, and Judy Sora. Responsibilities include counting and recording the Sunday offering following the service. There is room on the team for regulars and substitutes. See Jean if you feel God calling you to the task.

Offering envelopes for 2010 are available in Fellowship Hall on Sunday Morning Following the worship service or in the church office during this week. Please arrange to pick up your envelopes. A list with your name and envelope number is provided for you to check when you've received your envelopes. Becky Eanet, Financial Secretary, is available to assist you with any questions you might have.



JANUARY 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 New Year's Day	2 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
3 	4	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
10	11	12	13 Susanna Wesley 7p.m.	14	15 Memorial Service 7 p.m.	16 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
17 Human Relations day Church Council-noon	18	19	20	21	22	23 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
24 Brunch UVC 31	25	26	27 space share NIC 9-3 p.m.	28	29	30 LEAD Dist. Training



1 Tyler Maginnis

3 Debb Hammond

4 Martha Woodbury

7 Chris Majkrzak

8 Joseph Palumbo

10 Jessica Hammond

10 Patricia Wilken

12 Vicki Bartlett

12 Omer Dix

16 Margaret Hamilton

18 Jack Dunnell

18 Jodie Hoekstra

22 Daniel Hoekstra

24 Douglas Dillner

29 Carmella Pope

31 Albert Wahnert

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please sign up to be Liturgist, Donate Flowers or Fellowship Host on the schedules provided.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Katy Mogrovejo died on December 12, 2009. Our sympathy is extended to Estela and the rest of Katy's many friends and family. A memorial service will be held at RFUMC on Friday, January 15, 7:00 p.m. Please contact Cindy Belle if you would like to help serve or need a ride.

The family of John Wright who passed away December 12. A memorial service was held December 18, at Wynscape Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Wheaton.

CONGRATULATIONS TO....

Nancy Knudson for winning the prize for raising the most money from the most people in the Special Rec Bowl-a-thon held on November 22, 2009!

NEWS AROUND THE CLUSTERS AND COMMUNITY

Labyrinth at Euclid, Tuesday, January 12, 7:00 p.m. and Friday, January 22, 7:00 p.m. Euclid Ave. UMC, 405 S. Euclid Ave. Oak Park. Call Rev. Cossy Ksander 708-386-2669 for more info.

The Renaissance Quartet concert, Sunday, January 24, 5:30 p.m., Cornerstone, Oak Park. Tickets are \$20 at the door and \$17 for advance purchase. For more info call 708-386-1188.

TEMPORARY NEW ADDRESS

(for Dec. & Jan. only)

Ben Hammond
Diplomatic Security Service
1131 Chapel Crossing Rd.
FLETC TH388A
Glynco, GA 31524

WORSHIP LEADERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGISTS</u>	<u>FLOWERS DONATED BY</u>	<u>FELLOWSHIP HOSTS</u>	<u>USHERS</u>
January 3	Cindy Belle	TBD	TBD	Marsha Cieslak Margaret Hamilton Pat Nutter
January 10	Debb Hammond	Pat & Carolyn Wilken in memory of Michael Formento & Grace Martin	TBD	Marsha Cieslak Margaret Hamilton Pat Nutter
January 17	Becky Eanet	TBD	TBD	Marsha Cieslak Margaret Hamilton Pat Nutter
January 24	Margaret Hamilton	TBD	TBD	Marsha Cieslak Margaret Hamilton Pat Nutter
January 31	TBD	TBD	TBD	Marsha Cieslak Margaret Hamilton Pat Nutter

COMMUNION STEWARDS FOR: Sunday, January 3, 2010—The Young Family

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Our 2009 giving to missions that help women, youth and children include our Pledge to Mission of \$2,500 to the Women's Division of UMW. \$200 each for local projects include Forest Park Pantry, OPRF Pantry, Proviso Pantry, Sarah's Inn and P.A.D.S. meals (Marion Rausch fund). We also helped with expenses for this summer's Vacation Bible School. As usual, Susanna Wesley women were helpful, serving wherever needed, finishing with their being hostesses of the annual Advent Tea. They donated to the Holiday Food and Gift project, and Cindy as usual headed up the drive for the Sponsor a Family Christmas project. Jerry Hills was awarded a Special Mission Recognition pin for all she does for church and community.

MARKET DAY

Doesn't Pot Roast and Gravy sound good for a cold winter night? How about Lemon Pepper Haddock Filets or Orange Chicken with Vegetable Fried Rice? Take a mouth-watering look through the January Market Day flyer specials. Turn in your order by January 3 for January 9 pickup, or let Laura know before the 11 p.m. order deadline on January 6.

Thanks to all who helped earn our pantry ministries a hefty check by ordering gifts and good food our last delivery. Remember, your satisfaction is guaranteed with Market day products, or your money back.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Thank you to those who contributed to the floral arrangement this past year. They added to our worship and helped us to celebrate and remember loved ones.

Please reserve a date on the new 2010 flower calendar. Call the church secretary to order an arrangement or you may bring your own.

Arrangements are ordered from Westgate Florist in Oak Park. The price is \$20 or \$25. The bill can be paid through the church office.



A special thank you to...Joanna, Amy, Cindy, Barb, Chris and Crew, the Sanctuary Choir, Becky, Glenn, Jerry, and Pat, the Church School, and all the others who helped to make the Advent/Christmas season memorable by providing special music and programming, lighting the Advent candles, and donating flowers, food and time. Your efforts were greatly appreciated. What wonderful gifts!

Pastor Char

COMMUNITY OF CONGREGATIONS ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, January 21, 2010

6:30 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. Annual Meeting

Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church
405 S. Euclid Ave., Oak Park

For more information contact
President Rev. Harriette Cross at
safirefour@aol.com.

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Sunday, January 17

Benefits community development
and youth rehabilitation programs

Your generous gifts on Human Relations Day helps ministries to continue to provide childcare, after-school tutoring, gang intervention, work with at-risk teens, outreach with current and former prison inmates, homeless service, emergency aid, jobs training and more.



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*Return Service Requested
Dated Material Enclosed*



EPIPHANY, Wednesday, January 6.

LAITY CONVOCATIONS 2010, Saturday, January 16, 8:00 a.m.—2:45 p.m.

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY, Sunday, January 17, 10:00 a.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL, Sunday, January 17, noon.

**COMMUNITY OF CONGREGATIONS ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER,
Thursday, January 21, 6:30 p.m.**

BRUNCH, Sunday, January 24, after service.

L.E.A.D. District training, Sat. Jan. 30.

UVC, Sunday, January 31, 10:00 a.m.

