



Yalesville United Methodist Church

Anne Bracket, Pastor

Telephone: 269-9521

Web Page: Yalesvilleumc.org

DECEMBER 2011

From the Pastor

Crissy Lausier captured the picture on the right one day after a storm. It is a beautiful double rainbow over our church. You might wonder what rainbows have to do with Advent or Christmas? I recall the words from Genesis 9:16 "When the bow is in the clouds, I will remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

Sometimes when the storm clouds of life gather God is able to create something new and beautiful, God is setting a "rainbow in the clouds".

Those who are reading Adam Hamilton's *The Journey* discovered how true this is as we read about Joseph and how this righteous man made a difficult decision that helped changed the world forever. Adam Hamilton writes;

"At that very moment when Joseph felt at his lowest, God was at work in Mary's womb, doing the greatest thing God had done since the creation of the human race. God was orchestrating the birth of the Savior. God was also inviting Joseph to play a critical part in this plan. Something amazing was about to happen, but Joseph could not see this yet." *The Journey* p. 45

May we learn from Christmas this lesson, that God is always creating something wondrous even when we can't see it yet.

Pastor Anne



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Christmas has traditionally been a season of light and celebration, but not everyone finds it easy to be cheerful. The holidays can be a difficult time for those who have lost a loved one, are facing an uncertain future, or are simply overwhelmed by life's circumstances.

A Blue Christmas service is a quiet, meditative gathering that focuses on healing, recovery, and the comfort God offers during dark times. Through prayer, scripture, and music we will share our burdens with God and one another, and prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ.

The Blue Christmas worship service is for anyone who needs help getting through the holidays. No matter why Christmas has you feeling blue, we hope you will come and let God bring peace to your pain. The service will be held at the Yalesville United Methodist Church, at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 11th. Refreshments will be served after worship during a time for fellowship and mutual support. All are welcome!

OUTREACH

Just a reminder about Heifer.....

December 4th, 11th, and 18th - Heifer Gift Cards

Do you have a family member or friend that is impossible to buy a gift for? They have everything? We have the perfect gift...a donation to Heifer in their name. You can then send them a card (an E-card or printed card).

An Outreach Team member will be manning a table following the services on December 4th, 11th and 18th.

Maria Joy.

TRUSTEES

Perhaps you have noticed the new door canopy over the exit from Fellowship to New Place St. We hope that this, aside from being attractive, will alleviate some of the problem with rain seeping under the door from runoff as well as some of the ice buildup in winter.

We contracted for tree and limb removal at the Parsonage a month ago. It has yet to be done. The snow storm affected most of the removal schedules. There are now additional limbs to be removed.

Within a few weeks we should receive a grant from Northeast Utilities, parent company of Yankee Gas, for \$2995. It was suggested by a Yankee Gas representative that we will need a new meter and possibly new pipes from the street because of the new gas lines on Rt. 68 are of higher pressure.

Thanks to the volunteers who have stepped up. We've had people work on the gardens and start the leaf removal. In fact, our neighbors on the south side who aren't even church members have bagged up thousands of our leaves. The job of removing the remaining pipes from the old radiators continues to be a challenge. And, probably soon we'll need help with the snow on the walks and entries.

The painting project decision was put off until our December 5th meeting. The Stevens Room and nearby restrooms definitely will be painted. The painting of the ducts is in question. The workers at both the Rummage and the Fair agreed that they like them unpainted because the shiny surface reflects the light making the area so much brighter. In fact, many people going downstairs hardly notice the ducts anymore. Your opinion on this would be appreciated. Speak to any Trustee before the 5th. (Arnie, Ray, Gary, Barb.C, Nancy L., Bob, Sharon, Jim.C., Toby)

We have heard nothing from the roofer about the source of a leak over the Chancel nor have we done further contact for a check maintenance of the lift since our original installer is no longer available.

Our invested money has suffered losses as most investments have recently. They are slowly recovering. At this point, with our grants, allocated funds for the HVAC and interest, the Trustees have sufficient funds to complete our maintenance projects and carry us through the winter.

Nancy Lindsay

NURSERY NEWS!

Many Thanks

We thank the many, many volunteers who have shared in the nursery ministry this fall! How wonderful it is to see so many children and adults enjoying play time together.

Special Needs

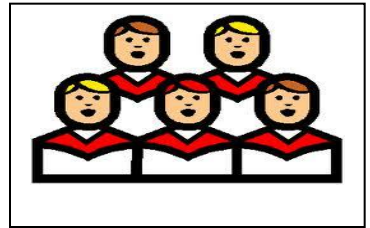
Robert and I are collecting Christian music CD's for the nursery. We are happy to receive children's music or adult worship songs. We encourage volunteers to play worship songs during nursery time for their own pleasure and for the pleasure and instruction of our youngsters.

Upcoming News

The nursery room will be closed for the Sunday Christmas Pageant in December. This allows all church members, big and small, to enjoy the festivities. The nursery room will be open for Cantata Sunday. Currently Pastor Anne is working on options to safely staff the nursery while honoring the fact that members (including Robert and I) wish to participate in or enjoy the singing.

As always, we wish our nursery families - children, parents, and volunteers - peace and many blessings,
Rachel Boccio and Robert Deleon

Please plan to be in attendance on Sunday, December 18th at the 10 a.m. service for this year's Christmas cantata, "I Hear the Prophet Callin". Come and celebrate the tradition of Christmas in a fresh, new way as we hear the story of our Savior's birth told through Scripture, instrument, and voices. You won't want to miss it and you may want to invite family, friends and neighbors to come along too!



December: tomato sauce and pasta are our pantry items!

The Nurture Committee is planning a family movie night on Friday, January 20th, at 7:00 PM (snow date of January 27th). "Movie refreshments" will be served, and a "free will" offering will be taken. We hope that everyone, young and "not so young", will join us for a "fun" evening. So...save the date!

Due to The Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) which does many things including protecting the privacy of our medical conditions Pastor Anne is not informed when parishioners enter the hospital. So it is important if a loved one or if you are ill to please contact Pastor Anne or the Church office so that we may pray for you and so that you may receive a visit. Also please fill out the prayer cards in worship so that we may get names spelled correctly etc. Thanks!

A Christmas Greeting from your Lay Leader

Mary and Joseph, a young newly married couple, traveled to Bethlehem
Everyone was ordered to register in the town of their birth for taxes
Rules announced from the new leaders of the land
Roads were dusty and difficult for a pregnant young woman
Yearning for peace and a comfortable place to rest their heads, they finally arrived.

Come here Mary, said Joseph – this is where we must spend the night
Here in a stable, the only place available in the town for them to sleep
Relaxing to the sounds of the animals keeping watch
In a short while the cries of a new baby were heard
Stars were sent to all corners of the world to herald the baby's birth
Three Kings followed the brightest star to see this child - born to be a king
Many shepherds tending sheep in the hills were drawn to the stable by the star's light
Angels were singing joyfully, "Peace on Earth – Good will toward Man"
Silent Night...Holy Night...All is Calm all is bright....Christ the Savior is Born.

May the peace and promise of that first night
Embrace you and your family with the sustaining warmth of Christ's love.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

May you also enjoy the Blessings of the New Year!!

Gail Powell, Lay Leader

Sunday School

Dec. 4th the children and youth will present the pageant at Pond Ridge-bring your own lunch, we will be leaving the church at 1:15pm, the performance is at 2pm.

Dec. 11 is the Christmas Pageant. Children and Youth please be present at 8:30 to perform at early service. Breakfast for the children will be served between services.

The Youth party is Dec. 28 7-9pm. Crafts, games, food and fun. RSVP to mcbloom@sbcglobal.net. All youth grades 5th and up.

Quilts for Children

The quilters have been working hard and will have between 12 and 15 quilts ready for Christmas. Many thanks to all the women who participated. Special thanks to Jean Addy and Barbara Crew who are exceptional teachers and very generous with gifts of fabrics and so much of their time. Not only did we learn to quilt, but the caring of the participants was evident at all times. The quilts will be blessed December 18 during the ten o'clock service. All the quilts will be given to children in crises before Christmas.

After December 18th, we will take a break and resume in January. If you are interested in helping children in need, you are welcome to join us. All you need is a little experience with a sewing machine and the willingness to learn.

Helen Albert

Shopping Cards

The Shopping Card program is really picking up speed! Don't forget to pick up your cards! We have many on hand and you can special order any we don't have.

Don't forget presents as holidays and birthdays come around! Also, the regular grocery and day to day cards for Walmart, Target, CVS, etc. really make a difference.

Remember you can order cards for Christmas that we might not have on hand!

On Sunday November 20 the children and youth heard Cheryl Bedore from Master's Manna speak about the ministry to those who need food, clothing and other basic necessities. We have a long history at YUMC of helping by bringing food and donating to Master's Manna. On Sunday after a delicious potluck; adults, children and youth headed to Master's Manna for a tour, and to bring all the canned goods and cereal etc. that were donated (over 250 lbs!) and to stock the shelves and make Thanksgiving bags for clients.



Thinking Ahead!

Am I really thinking about Lent 2012 before Easter?

Yes. Why?

Yalesville UMC is going to publish a Lenten Devotional Guide in the format of the Upper Room.

There are forty days in Lent - from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

The aim is to engage those who completed Disciple I last year as the "core group" and invite those who are interested in participating to join us. We will be using the 2012 Lectionary for the Bible readings; added to that will be a short article, verse or poem; followed by a brief Prayer.

Since this book will have to be published by late January, it is important for the invitation to participate be timely. The Sunday School youth will assist us with illustrations.

We hope that the finished booklet will be a spiritual tool to be used daily during Lent.

See Gail Powell or Pastor Anne if you have any questions regarding this exciting opportunity to share our faith during Lent.

In His service,

Gail Powell, Lay Leader



Upcoming Events:

Sunday Nov 27 Confirmation 11:30-12:30

Sunday Nov 27 Love Dare Bible Study 4 p.m.

Monday Nov 28 Advent Study at Masonic @ 10 a.m.

Wednesday Nov 30 Advent Study @ 7:30

Saturday Dec 3 Advent Study @ 11 a.m.

Sunday Dec 4 Pageant @ Pond Ridge

Sunday Dec 4 Love Dare Bible Study

Monday Dec 5 Advent Bible Study at Masonic @ 10 a.m.

Monday Dec 5 Trustees @ 7:15

Tuesday Dec 6 BELL RINGING AT STOP AND SHOP 6-9 p.m. sign up in Gathering Area

Wednesday Dec 7 First Lunch @ Noon

Wednesday Dec 7 Advent Bible Study @ 7:30

Saturday Dec 10 Advent Bible Study @ 11 a.m.

Sunday Dec 11 Christmas Pageant at both services

Sunday Dec 11 Blue Christmas Service @ 3p.m.

(A service for those who have experience loss)

Monday Dec 12 Advent Bible Study at Masonic @ 10 a.m.

Monday Dec 12 United Methodist Women @ 7 p.m.

Saturday Dec 17 Advent Bible Study @ 11 a.m.

Sunday Dec 18 Cantata at the 10 a.m. service and Blessing of the Quilts for Children in Crises.

Saturday Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services

4:30 Family Service

7:00 Lessons and Carols

11:00 Holy Communion

Sunday December 25 Christmas Day: One Service @ 10 a.m.

Wednesday Dec. 28 Youth Party 7-9 p.m.

