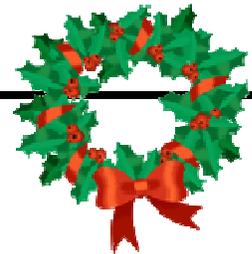




# THE CONNECTION

December 2008



## This Month's Message From the Pastor

### WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ADVENT FOR US?

Our church is in a good position to understand the meaning of Advent. Advent is anticipation. It means waiting, and trying to be patient. It can also mean anxiety, the anxiety of not having something. On the other hand, in our expectation, in a way we also have it, even as we wait for it. Like children for whom the anticipation of their Christmas presents is almost as exciting as actually opening them.

Our anticipation of the coming of a new minister, this year is part of our waiting for Christ to come, to be born anew in us. The two are not separate. We wait not just for a new minister to arrive, but for a new future, for new life and hope as God's people in this place. We wait for the new things God will do here.

Thanksgiving is easier than Advent. Thanksgiving primarily looks backward, expressing gratitude for all that God has blessed us with in the past. There is a lot to be thankful for at Cornerstone Baptist Church, as you well know. It is more difficult to be thankful for the unknown that lies ahead. Living at the edge of the unknown future is not easy, but that is where we are as a congregation. Accept it.

Remember, we are not alone there. God is not only in the future, God is with us in the present preparing us for the future. That is part of Advent too. God will be with us, we can trust, in the special services of the month of Christmas: the Children's Program and Supper on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm., the Dedication of our Pledges the next day, December 7<sup>th</sup>. (After church that Sunday, some of the newer people to the church will gather for a light luncheon and learn a little more about the church. That is a sign of hope isn't it? ), on Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> in addition to our regular service, the choir will present a Christmas Cantata at 4 pm. Don't miss it! Then beginning with Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup> we enter Christmas week, which includes a special Christmas Eve Service at 7PM with your favorite carols. God will be present in all of these things, if we have the ears to hear and the eyes to see.

Advent is celebrating both God's presence with us and God's coming to us in new ways in the future. It means we have never arrived at the end of our journey of faith. We are always being led in new directions, challenged with new opportunities, and blessed in new ways... That is both exciting and scary, and very much part of the meaning of Advent. Among other things, it means we are still alive! Thank God for that!

*Pastor Dick*

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### In Worship This Month

Sunday, December 7, 10:30 am  
Worship with Communion

Wednesday, December 24, 7:00pm  
Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 14, 10:30 am  
Worship

Sunday, December 28, 10:30 am  
Worship

Sunday, December 21, 10:30 am  
Worship



### December Birthdays

- 03, Elaine H.
- 04, Kathy H.  
Kathy G.
- 06, Scott M.
- 08, Glenn H.
- 10, Attie C.
- 11, Donna G.
- 13, A.J. D.
- 14, Melinda T.
- 17, Elaine M.
- 18, Kelly S.
- 19, Ella-May L.
- 22, Ben A.
- 26, Joe G.
- 27, Thomas W.
- 28, Heather D.
- 29, John L.
- 30, Jeff H.



### Missions & Outreach



Many thanks for your cooperation in providing over 400 gravies for needy local families to have a Thanksgiving dinner this year with the aid of the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry. We hope you will be as generous with our Christmas projects.

In keeping with the thought of helping locally, our new project is the Adopt-a-Family project though the Access Agency. Our family consists of a mom with 4 children, ages 5-8. We are asked to provide gifts for this family for the holiday. Ornaments on the Christmas Tree in the Narthex identify the individual, age and suggested item for that person. Our second project is the RSVP Boot Project. Eight needy children are identified on the ornaments including size , age and ID number.

Please take an ornaments off the tree, and return the gifts no later than Sunday, Dec. 14th. The family gifts should be unwrapped with the ornament attached, and the boots can be wrapped, but the ornament ID must be attached.

These projects will help local folks feel the joy of the holiday! Thank you for your cooperation.

*E.M.L. & Ruth L.*

#### Interim Pastor:

Rev. Richard Johnson  
Phone: 860 412-0262

Organist/Choir Director:  
Howard W. Curry

Administrative Secretary:  
Kris Useted

Remember: The last person to leave the church building should be sure that all doors and windows are closed /locked, door alarms set. In addition, the Academy Street door into Fellowship Hall will be kept locked during the Sunday worship service. Thank you for helping us take care of our facilities.

**The Connection** is published 11 times a year at The Cornerstone Baptist Church, and is put together by a host of valuable volunteers. Please try to have articles and information to the office by the 15th of the month.



**Christian Education**

**Sunday School News**

Wow! Christmas is upon us!

The kids are getting ready for the annual pageant. If you need some real ol' fashioned Christmas Spirit, this is the show to see—bring your heart and your singing voice. (The kids get a little shy and *quiet* once on stage!) It's going to be December 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30, followed by fellowship time with each family bringing sandwiches, and soup and dessert provided by Debra Grandelski and her "elves".

The kids are also going to wrap gifts for a local needy family on December 14<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School time. Each of our kids will be supplied with the ages and sizes of the

members of that family in need in the upcoming weeks. If you are free and want to come help us wrap, just let Cindy know ahead of time.



Finally, just before Christmas, we will get to sing "Happy Birthday, Jesus" while having (mostly healthy) goodies during Sunday School on December 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be fun for all our kids.

Lastly, we will have Sunday School on December 28<sup>th</sup> for any of the kids who are able to come that week.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**



**Christmas DVD's**

There are several nice Christmas themed DVD's available in our library:

- "The Christmas Box"
- "Timepiece"
- "An Avonlea Christmas"

Especially for children:

- "Christmas Is"
- "The City that Forgot about Christmas"
- "The Stableboy's Christmas"

Also, there are some Christmas VCR tapes. A new DVD "Untold Stories of Columbine" is available too.



**Angels**

Here are some Bible verses that tell us some things that angels have done and can do for us. Can you match the verse and the action?

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Hebrews 1:14   | a. gave directions to Peter                                 |
| 2. Luke 1:11-20   | b. rolled back the stone                                    |
| 3. Acts 12:7-10   | c. gave instruction to Philip                               |
| 4. Matthew 2:13   | d. spirits in divine service                                |
| 5. Luke 22:43     | e. appeared as strangers to whom we should show hospitality |
| 6. Matthew 28:2   | f. brought good news to Zechariah                           |
| 7. Acts 8:26      | g. appeared to Jesus and gave him strength                  |
| 8. Heb 13:1       | h. guard us and bear us up                                  |
| 9. Psalms 9:11-12 | i. appeared to Joseph in a dream                            |

Answers:  
1.d, 2.f, 3.a, 4.i, 5.g, 6.b, 7.c, 8.e, 9.h



## Moderator Mutterings for December

Welcome to winter (at least it feels like winter, as I'm writing this)! With the Advent season, we begin to think about getting the snow tires out and installed, flushing the car radiator and making sure the coolant is up to par. And, speaking of "par", put the golf clubs away for a little while.

In addition, it's time for a reminder about the possibility of cancelling Sunday services if there's snow or ice. (Sorry Pastor Dick & Thea - it a real possibility over here in snow-country!)

Our By-Laws provide for an "Emergency Committee" for such times when decisions must be made within 24 - 48 hours (or even at the last minute). The committee consists of the Pastor, the Moderator, the Director of Christian Education, one Deacon of Worship & Membership and one Deacon of Property & Finance. We'll let you all know which of the two Deacons of the W&M and P&F will be on the committee after the Advisory Council meets in December. In case of heavy snow or ice, the members of the Emergency Committee will

decide by phone if the service (or other scheduled activity) should be called off. We will then call WINY radio and WFSB-TV (Channel 3 if you have Charter) and they will make the announcements.

We may not be able to get to the church to get the announcement on the answering machine so if you haven't heard any cancellations on WINY or WFSB-TV, feel free to call a member of the Emergency Committee. (The best way to call me is via cell phone 860-428-4970) If there's a parking ban in Killingly, than means there is no place to park along the street by the church. If there's no place to park, there'll be no service.

In the meantime, enjoy the bright blue sky and the cool, clear air. Please take some time to pray for the Search Committee as they begin the process of interviewing for our new minister. Pray for our community as we go deeper into the recession that will have an effect on all of us in one way or another. But in all things, know that God's Spirit lives on in everyone of us and we're all going to be okay in the end!!

Grace & Peace,  
*Caroll*

## Music Notes



What do bells, strings, woodwinds and voices have in common?

Answer: A Christmas musical by Benjamin Harlan.

"Christmas Canticles in Four Suites" will be presented on December 14, (snow date December 21) at 4:00 PM in our sanctuary by the Chancel Choir and guests from St. John Lutheran Church.

B. Harlan has taken familiar and loved Christmas Carols, wove them together with original musical composed a beautiful Christmas work. Accompaniment will be

provided by a small chamber orchestra composed of piano, tenor sax, clarinet, flute and strings. Musicians include Jennifer G., flute; Louise M. and her student (s) on strings; Andrew B., tenor sax; Rose B., clarinet and Mr. Curry, piano. Our Bell Choir (Ring-and-a-Prayer Players), directed by Caroll M., will open the program. Readers for the musical are: Dennis G. and Eleanor M. Following the program, refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall. The program is open to the public with those attending requested to bring a non-perishable food item for the local food bank. Be sure to place this event on your calendars to begin your Christmas celebrations.



**THE  
CORNERSTONE  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

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## On the Back Page...

Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is so wondrously present.

- Edward Hayes

Joy is the true gift of Christmas, not the expensive gifts that call for time and money. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, or forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us ....Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives.

- Pope Benedict XVI

### *Some Christmas superstitions:*

- If you refuse a mince pie at Christmas dinner you will have bad luck for the coming day.
- If you eat a raw egg before eating anything else on Christmas morning, you will be able to carry heavy weights.
- A clear star-filled sky on Christmas Eve will bring good crops in the summer.
- A blowing wind on Christmas Day brings good luck.
- Wearing new shoes on Christmas will bring bad luck.
- Place shoes side by side on Christmas Eve to prevent a quarreling family.
- Snow on Christmas means Easter will be green.



**December  
2008**