

The St. James Connector

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2010

St. James United Church of Christ
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Edited by Charlotte Cialone

CONFIRMATION:

Our 2010 Confirmation Class will begin with a meeting for all confirmands, mentors and parents of confirmands on Sunday, Jan. 24th, immediately following our worship service.

Once again this year, each confirmand will have a mentor who will meet with their confirmand on a weekly basis to talk about issues of faith. Ninth graders and other interested students should contact either Pastor Looze or Rev. Matlack to let them know that they would like to be part of this year's class.

ANNUAL MEETING

Come One - Come All!!!

The Annual Meeting of our Congregation will be held on Sunday, February 7th following worship. Please join us and be part of this important gathering! We anticipate that the Annual Reports will be ready the Sunday before the meeting to be picked up by members of the congregation.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Easter is April 4th this year, which means that Lent begins February 17th. We will mark that day with our traditional Ash Wednesday observance. Our worship will be at 7:30 and a potluck supper will precede it at 6:30 p.m. Please plan to attend!

THANK YOU!

Another year is beginning and we have so much to be thankful for. It is inspiring to be able to work together for our Savior. We have a beautiful sanctuary to worship together, inspiring music and many beautiful voices.

Our staff works well together, we have a great group of dedicated teachers as well as youth leaders, and we are blessed with our little ones from TLC

We give thanks to be able to support the many missions of the church.

Thank you volunteers for all that you do!

Alva

Epiphany Chili Luncheon Taking Down of The Greens Sunday, January 10th, 2010

The youth are holding a Chili luncheon following worship and everyone is invited to attend. Following lunch everyone is invited to help take down the holiday decorations and pack them away. Please remember to sign-up on the bulletin board. There is no charge for this event but donations are welcome.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Mark your calendars. Our next Progressive Dinner Party will be Saturday, January 30th, 2010 (football bye week). The plan is to begin at 5:30 at the church for appetizers, attend the church service, leave the church in small groups for dinner and return to the church for dessert and music. Those interested in helping, contact Heidi Walling at 648-2138 or you may email me on line at hjgw2002@yahoo.com.

there!!!

Western Area Youth (WAY) Winter Retreat

This year's retreat is for Sr. High Youth Grades 9th - 12th at Faith Boston on Jan. 15th - 17th, which is Martin Luther King Weekend).

The Theme this year is Freezing...Frolicking...Fun...

Cost: Youth \$20 - Advisors: \$10 and must be postmarked by Jan. 6th or there is a late fee of \$5 after Jan 6th.

Start: Registration 7pm Friday, Jan. 15th.

Finish: Pick up is 11:15 am Sunday, Jan. 17th.

Bring: Sleeping bag, pillow, conservative bed wear, towel, washcloth, soap, toothpaste, etc. and a snack to share.

Forms: All registration and Covenant Forms must be filled out completely, especially the ADVISORS: Medical portion must be filled out by Everyone.

ACTIVITIES:

Friday Night - Movie and popcorn.

Saturday - Sock puppets and skits centered around "The Creation of God", A journey to East Aurora in the afternoon to visit the Knox Estate or a tour of the Roycroft Campus. In addition we will make a trip to Viddlers in East Aurora and spend time shopping there. Saturday evening the Freezing fun takes over with two hours of tubing at the Colden Tubing Company.

Sunday - Worship service before departing for home. Bring clothes for the church service.

An entertaining, exciting and energetic weekend is planned for you in January! Please join us for an exciting weekend at Faith UCC in Boston, NY! We look forward to seeing you

Stuffed Animals to Love During Church

Don't forget we have snugly animals located in the rear of the sanctuary for children to hold and love during the church service and we also have activity bags for the children to use. Please return items to the baskets following worship each week.

FROM THE SERVERS

The Servers will meet in the Horton Lounge on Tuesday, January 26th at 1 p.m. Our February meeting will be on Tuesday the 23rd at a local restaurant.

There is a plastic water jug on display every Sunday for spare change. Everything you put into that jug goes to charity. Please remember to stop by and add to our collection

Thank you

WOMEN'S SEWING MISSION

Our January 2010 meeting will be Tuesday, January 12th at 9:30 a.m. in the Assembly Hall. Start the New Year off right and join us for charitable work and lively conversation. Bring your lunch; dessert will be provided by Laura Zittel.

Our February 2010 meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9th at 9:30 a.m. in the Assembly Hall. As usual, bring your lunch and dessert will be provided - this month by Doris Sillence.

CHARACTER COUNCIL OF HAMBURG, INC.

January - Punctuality vs
Tardiness

Punctuality is doing the right thing at the right time as a way to show respect..

February - Resourcefulness
vs Wastefulness

Resourcefulness is looking for and finding practical uses for those things which others would overlook or discard.

Honors for St. James Students

St. Francis High School is pleased to share with St. James the accomplishments of Spence L. Rubeck, and Joshua W. Rogers, who have achieved Second Honors for the first quarter of the 2009 academic year.

Congratulations to you both!!

SOUTHOWNS LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Traditionally we gather for a potluck at 6:30 and Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 here at St. James. Then each Wednesday thereafter we gather for potluck and services with our sisters and brothers from the Southtowns Cluster Churches. This Lenten Season we tentatively, gather at the following locations:

Feb. 24 St. James
March 3 Faith Boston
March 10 First Congregational
March 17 St. John's

March 24 Trinity, Gowanda

The schedule is the same each week with dinner at 6:30 pm (bring a dish to share and your place settings) with worship to follow at 7:30 pm.

Children & Youth Offering Envelopes

Rev. Matlack will be sharing a special children's sermon on the importance of church offerings early during the month of January. He will have boxes of offering envelopes available for the children if they would like to take some home. In addition, boxes of children's and youth offering envelopes will be on the tables at the rear of the sanctuary. Having your child put an offering in an envelope each Sunday is a wonderful way to involve them in the weekly ritual of making an offering. The envelopes are provided for those who wish to use them. All money placed in the envelopes goes toward our church school program.

Upcoming Family Nights

Wed., Jan. 6th, 6:30 pm to 8:30pm.

Wed., Feb. 3rd, 6:30 pm to 8:30pm

Please remember to check the bulletin board for a sign-up sheet.

Youth Board Meetings

Tuesday, Jan 26th at 6:15 pm in the Resource Room.

Tuesday, Feb 23rd at 6:15 pm in the Resource Room.

New York State Youth Event

March 5th, 6th & 7th at Watson Homestead in Painted Post, NY
WHO: High School Youth

grades 9 - 12) of the New York Conference

More info. will be posted on Youth Bulletin Board or in weekly bulletin as it arrives or talk to Donna or Karen

MUSIC MINISTRY

Welcome to the New Year 2010! A special thanks to all singers and instrumentalists for making this season's worship services so meaningful.

THANK YOU!

The Advent Choral Concert performed during worship on Sunday, December 13th was a unique way for the Choir to present music for the season throughout the worship service. We hope these choral selections helped create some highlights for you as we drew nearer to Christmas Day.

During January and February the Cherub and Youth Singers will not be rehearsing on Wednesdays. Rehearsals will resume in March in preparation for the Easter Season.

January/February Rehearsals

Jan 3, 10 no choir

Jan 17, 24,

9:15 Warm Up

11:00 Chancel Reh.

Jan 31 Special Music

9:15 Warm Up

11:00 Chancel Reh.

Feb 7,14,21

9:15 Warm Up

11:00 Chancel Reh.

Feb 28 Special Music

9:15 Warm Up

11:00 Chancel Reh.

Christina Shrewsbury,
Music Director

SPECIAL INTEREST

Civil War Story

Recently I voiced and produced an audiobook of the eyewitness account of the Battle of Gettysburg entitled "*At Gettysburg, What a Girl Saw and Heard of the Battles*".

This outstanding story was written in 1888 by Tillie Pierce who witnessed the battle at age 15. This is a rare narrative that offers a unique opportunity for the young reader and the mature Civil War enthusiast.

This audiobook is made available at several venues in Gettysburg or from the producer, and your Music Director, Christina.

Christina Shrewsbury

WESTERN ASSOCIATION

Saturday -February 28, 2009

Our theme for our Winter Meeting will be A Share Fair, Local Church "Show and Tell" Worship, Fundraising, and Program Ideas and will be held at Church of the Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd. in Kenmore.

Workshops will include Holy Hilarity, Creating Contemporary Services, Stewardship efforts, Fundraising Efforts for a New Church, Youth Programming, Evangelism to Neighborhoods, and more.

If you would like to attend this informative meeting, let Patty or Alva know.

DISHWASHER.

We are in the process of updating our plumbing to install a commercial dishwasher. We are trying to be more environmental conscious and cut down on the use of paper products.

Donations are welcome.

Sledding at Chestnut Ridge

Weather permitting all are invited on Saturday, January 23rd. Mark your calendar the youth are inviting everyone to go sledding at Chestnut Ridge. Watch the bulletin for more information and don't forget to be on the look out for a sign-up sheet after the 1st of the year. FYI....I read in The Sun that the toboggan run is supposed to be open this season - THINK SNOW!

Youth Calendar of Events 2009 - 2010

If you are a member of our Youth program you should have received a mailing of our yearly events calendar list for 2009 - 2010. If you did not receive one please let Karen know and she will have one sent to you or you can pick up a copy in the bin outside the CE Office or in the bin on the Youth Bulletin Board.

Angel/Mitten Tree

I am pleased to report that we did indeed complete our goal of "NO TAG LEFT BEHIND"! We only had 4 left on the tree and Karen Reinagel took the money donated to purchase gifts for the 4 remaining tags. What a wonderful feeling to know that each child received a gift! I appreciate all the gifts that were handed in and all the financial

contributions that were made to help with this worthwhile cause. GREAT JOB!!!!!!!

When I looked at all the gifts under the tree this year, it warmed my heart to think you took the time and energy to make this Christmas season special to those in need. Thank you for participating in this great tradition.

Youth Permission Form

We are trying something new this year! Each Middle and Senior High Youth are being asked to have a filled out and signed permanent permission form on file with the CE Department in order to attend events. This will save parents the chore of signing countless permission forms and to save the Christian Ed Department from the countless forms that are handed out and then collected. The forms can be obtained from the Christian Ed office or the Youth Bulletin Board. Both sides of the form need to be filled out, signed by the parent/s or guardian and returned to the Christian Ed Office. The form is for local activities the youth attend, there will still be additional forms when we attend something like the New York State Youth Event, Regional or National events.

If you have any questions please feel free to speak to Karen or Donna. The form is also required to be filled out by friends that attend activities with our youth group so be sure to remind your youth to have their friends fill one out if they plan on attending events with us. The forms are good for one year and then they will be reviewed to see how this is working out and if it works well we will just update them for any new information each year. It is

also better for the environment since we will be using less paper.

Regional Youth Event

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Youth Event (MARYE) is set for July 21-25, 2010 at Lebanon Valley College, in Annville, Pa. "Take the Journey...Follow the Holy Brick Road" - One of the best youth events you have EVER attended is coming your way!

Our journeys of life can take us all over the map, but there is one very EXCELLENT way to follow - the way of the Holy Brick Road! This youth event will take you on a journey of faith and celebration, and by the strength of the Holy Spirit, you'll be able to follow the Holy Brick Road and discover a whole lot about God, yourself, our world, and much more!

There will be great youth-led worship, great music, great speakers, great workshops (Moments of the Road), great friendships, and oh, so much more.

Registration information can be found on the Youth Bulletin Board or by talking to Donna or Karen. You can also check on line at the RYE website www.marye-ucc.org.

Come with us! Take the journey...Follow the Holy Brick Road! The deadline to hand in completed registration forms to CE Department is Wednesday, February 17, 2010 - all forms will be processed and mailed through St. James and need to

be turned in on time so Karen can get them to MARYE by their February 28th deadline. The cost to attend this event is still being determined but we estimate a cost of \$150.00 per youth plus additional spending money they bring. Registration is open until July 1st but after February 28th it will be more expensive.

Dunkirk Camping Information

As soon as last summer's season ended, the planning began for the 2010 season. I am anticipating that the super early bird deadline will be March 15th (and in order to get the checks and information to Dunkirk on time the St. James deadline is Sunday, March 7th). So keep that in mind and be on the look out for the Dunkirk Camp Display on the CE Bulletin Area as well as the bin outside the CE Office on the 2nd floor. That is where you will find the forms and information you need to sign up to attend camp. A flyer with the 2010 schedule is included in this newsletter. More information will be on display and posted in the weekly bulletin as it becomes available.

Souper Bowl of Caring

This year February 7, 2010 is the Super Bowl or at St. James, The Souper Bowl of Caring!

Help the kids of the church school program help battle hunger. Every dollar you drop into a soup pot will help people in need feel the power of God's Love. This program began 19 years ago on Super Bowl Sunday when a group of inspired young people created

the SOUPER BOWL DAY OF CARING. More than \$25 million has been raised for people in need. On Sunday, February 7th our church school classes will decorate soup kettles and walk through the building following worship looking for people to donate to their cause. Don't forget to stop at the CE bulletin Bd. Display and vote for the charity you would like to see receive our donation. If you have any questions regarding this event please speak with Karen Reinagel or Jen Mumm.

THANKS

A special thanks to Harold Cobb. It is a tremendous help to have you stop by each day and check the St. Paulys' Shed for clothing donations. We appreciate your time, effort and dedication to helping our Youth program.

A special thank you for everyone that helped with this year's Christmas Pageant. The pageant is a large undertaking and many people contribute to putting the finished project together. When people tell me how great the pageant turned out, I often wonder if they realize how many people volunteer to help with the pageant. All of the following people helped by doing multiple jobs such as fitting costumes, helping with the dress rehearsal and party, helping on the day of the pageant, video taping, putting costumes away, putting tables and risers up and down, moving the altar and moving it back again. I hope I didn't leave anyone out but if I did please let me know so I can personally thank you; Robin Lindstrom, Margaret Stuhr, Gay Nelson, Elizabeth Strutowski, Louise Johnson, Colleen Vail,

Jennifer Obrochta, Patty Jensen, Kim Gilgallon, Jackie Reese, Nick Reinagel, Peter & Jennifer Reinagel, Laurie Karn, Karen & Mark Touris, Vicky Loretto, Paul Hooch & Veronica Pigeon, Philip and Jenny Reinagel, Jen and David Mumm, Kim Waryk and her mom, Dawn Berlin, Cher Hall, Horst Kristen, Don Pfister, Dan Newcomb, Rev. Bob Matlack, Pastor Alva Looze & Christina Shrewsbury and the Cancel Choir.

Board of Christian Ed

Lenten Meditative Walk

The Lenten Meditative Walk will be available during the Lenten Season. Please be sure to take the time, beginning the first week of Lent, to visit the meditative walk that can be found throughout the church building. This is the seventh year the walk has been available and I hope people find it inspiring and thought provoking. There will be a list of stops on the walk at the rear entrance of the building. If you have any questions please speak to Karen.

Lenten Handouts

Lenten handouts will be available during the Lenten Season. They will be in a basket near the Bulletin Board. Please help yourself to one or more of the items for you and your loved ones to use and guide you through the Lenten Season.

FRONTIER COMMUNITY EDUCATION, WINTER REGISTRATION

Winter Classes for adults and children begin January 19, 2010. Brochures are available after 12/21 at your local libraries and the Community Ed Office, located in the Frontier Community Learning Center, at 4540 Southwestern Blvd. Registration is from 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday thru Thursday and 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fridays. Brochures are available at www.frontier.wnyric.org. There are a variety of interesting classes this year. Please call 646-9412 for information

FLOOD RECOVERY

Gowanda and Silver Creek are now in the Unmet Needs stage of flood recovery. That simply means that after all the agencies have done what they can, there are still things that were not covered. Disaster Case Managers are now being assigned clients to see if there is any help in the community to complete their recovery. In many instances it is just finding a volunteer who can come in and do some work. In other instances, it might be helping readjust finances to help work with the funds already received.

It is an interesting process and I expect the next year to bring about all kinds of good things for these folks. The flood is over but the damage remains. Please keep these victims in your prayers.

Charlotte Cialone

FOOD PANTRY

Jan 3 Cake, muffin mixes
 Jan 10 Canned vegetables
 Jan 17 Instant Potatoes
 Jan 24 Noodles, macaroni

Jan 31 Paper products
 Feb 7 Jello, pudding mixes
 Feb 14 Bisquick, bread mixes
 Feb 21 Hot, cold cereals
 Feb 28 Spaghetti sauce, canned stews, ravioli

BAPTISM

Dillon Joseph Cervinsky
 -Hollman
 Born: 12/15/07
 Baptized: 12/20/09
 Parents: Amy Hollman and Timothy Cervinsky

Youth Fund-Raising
Please continue to support our fund-raising efforts.

Youth Can & Bottle Drive
 Please feel free to leave your cans and bottles in the bins on the front porch of the Youth House. If you need a hand getting your cans & bottles out of your vehicle please ask a youth to help you. Please remember **NO GLASS Containers!**

Youth Candy Sale

The youth are selling candy bars for \$1.00 each. They are located in the church office or ask a youth and they will be glad to sell you one or more.

Paper Recycling Program

The youth are continuing their paper recycling drive and the paper retriever bin is located at the rear of the church parking lot. Please support their efforts and bring your paper recycling and drop it off in the bin and help us raise money for the youth program at

St. James. Remember - **NO PLASTICS IN THE BIN, THIS MEANS NO PLASTIC BAGS ALSO!**

St. Paulys' Clothing Drive

We encourage you to bring your unwanted clothing to our clothing shed located at the rear of the Youth House lawn. It helps if the clothing is put in a plastic bag before it is dropped in the bin. This a great fundraiser for our youth program and we appreciate your help.

Enjoy the City Coupon Books

They are still available for \$20 each.

God Has Many Names **Reflection by Martin B. Copenhagen**

What's your favorite name for God? There are so many choices. The Bible contains dozens of names for God. Some names remind us that God is powerful and mysterious: I Am, Alpha and Omega, Sun of Righteousness, Bright Morning Star, Ancient of Days, Holy One.

Other names seem to bring God to our side in an intimate way: Abba, which means, "Papa," or "Daddy", Comforter, Counselor, Love. In this Advent season, we particularly call upon God in Christ with the name Emmanuel, which means "God with us".

Many of the names for God in the Bible are masculine, but others, are feminine, and still others are gender-neutral.

So why do we have so many names for God? Quite simply,

each name says something about God, but not all that can be said. No one name is sufficient, so we draw on a rich treasure-store of many names. One of our hymns charges us, "Bring many names, beautiful and good".

So what is your favorite name for God? May I suggest that you use that name now to call upon God in prayer?

Prayer: I know you by many names, but the name that seems to draw me closest to you is _____. Thank you for giving me a name with which to address you because that means that you long to be in relationship with me. Amen.