

GOOD NEWS from Christ Church



510 South Central Avenue, Laurel, Delaware



February 2010

Acres of Diamonds



We hope you had a very merry Christmas and a safe one; our new year has begun and what a cold one it has been with snow and freezing rain!

The end of 2009 was a busy one at CUMC. Our youth presented a skit, our bell choir played and our cantata was presented. Yes, we had to postpone the cantata for a week since church services were cancelled on December 20th due to the snow storm that hit the East Coast, but we did get to present it the following week. Our altar was decorated with pointsettias purchased by some of the congregation in memory or in honor of someone.

Our Angel Tree Program was a success, but yet again, the party for those families had to be cancelled the weekend of the snow.

Our UMW Christmas Dinner was a success. We were pleased to have Pastor Julie Lewis join us and do a skit. And the dinner at St. Phillip's was delicious. A big thank you to the group at St. Phillip's for all their work.

The Fall Bazaar was back and did very well. And, our famous pepper relish was also back and a big hit.

However, it is time to get back in the swing of things once again. There is a lot planned for the next few months so be sure to check your bulletin in addition to our newsletter.



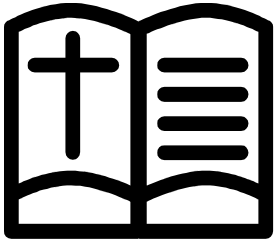
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



OUR VISION STATEMENT

We are a Christ-centered family of believers committed to helping people relate to God in life-changing ways.

Following Christ's example, we aspire to spread the Good News by serving one another and by sharing God's love and hope with our community.



*From
the
desk of
Pastor Donna*

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

At this start of a new year, it's always a good idea to look back and celebrate the ministries of the past year...and look ahead to where God is leading us next.

2009 has been a year filled with opportunities for study, fellowship and outreach:

- 14 New Members including 3 young adults.
- Weekly Soup Social started on Tuesday nights and going strong.
- Living Water Ministry gave out about 1200 bottles of water and granola bars to Middle and High School students who walk home past CUMC.
- Disciple I Bible Study - wrapped up in the Spring with 11 people including 3 from nearby churches.
- Disciple II began with 11 attending for the first 8 week session.
- Several small group studies were offered by Pastor Barbara Wilson
- 5 month focus on the 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations.. (do you remember what they are?)
- FOG (Friends of God), the young adult fellowship, started this year and is going strong.
FOG members have been seen working at our weekly soup social, helping members with yard work, going on the Cherokee Mission Trip, leading worship and much more.
- Christ UMC has six lay speakers, with some taking classes for certification in the spring 2010.
- Cherokee Mission Trip with Mt. Olivet in August 2009
- All Day Vacation Bible School ministering to 30 children from the church and surrounding communities with church van offering transportation.
- Community Sundays honoring various groups in our community (Fire, EMT's, Farmers, etc)
- Bulldog Sundays lifting up our local middle and high school sports teams.
- Transportation Ministry to DAPI (using the church van to drive girls to the Pregnancy Care Center).
- Worship Design Team has met quarterly to plan worship.

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- Youth Group provides lunch monthly after worship and our Youth Group is meeting weekly with new youth leader, Jeff Dulis.
- Sunday School continues to be a cornerstone of CUMC, offering children and adults biblical learning with a caring and committed group of people.
- The return of our Fall Craft Bazaar was a huge success. It joins our other fellowship and/or fund raising opportunities which include Spring Yard Sale, Fall Craft Bazaar, Christmas Yard Sale, Mother/Daughter Banquet, UMW Christmas Dinner.
- Other Outreach Ministries include: God's Table, Angel Tree, Holiday Food Baskets, School Supply Drive, support for Bear Hugs for Babies, Care Packages for soldiers.
- SO MUCH MORE!!

So what lies ahead for 2010? We know some of the great things that will be happening, but the truth is God reveals God's plan in God's time. Some of you may be sitting on an idea and this may be the year to bring it forward...a new ministry, a new bible study, a gift that you are ready to share. I get excited just thinking about it. Here's what we know so far:

- MORE new members...2 have joined so far in 2010 and 5 are already planning to join at Easter.
A new members class will be held Tuesday nights in March at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall.
- MORE Lay Speakers - 2 more members of CUMC intend to attend Spring Lay Speaking Class.
- More involvement with DAPI - We are now "managing" the little store at DAPI...keeping track of inventory, organizing the shelves, calling other churches with list of needed items.
- Year-long relationship with Angel Tree families. What was a once a year event is now a year-long relationship. A Valentine's Day party is being planned and an Egg Hunt.
- Fall Craft Bazaar has already had their first planning meeting.
- All of our 2009 ministries will continue and listen for God's voice for direction & guidance.
- YOU!! - What new thing will you do in 2010?

In Faith,

Pastor Donna

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ANGELS EXPLAINED BY CHILDREN

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- Bell Choir Practice:** Monday evenings, 7:00 PM
- Praise Team Practice:** Tuesday evenings, 5:30 PM
- Weight Watchers:** Wednesday evenings, 5:30-6:30 PM
- Choir Practice:** Every Wednesday, 6:30 PM
- Men of Faith Breakfast:** First Saturday of every month
- Soup Social:** Every Tuesday, 5:30 PM
- Bible Study:** February 2, 9, 16, 23, Miracle House
- Deborah Circle Meeting:** February 4, 7:00 PM, Miracle House
- District Leadership Training:** Saturday, February 6, 9-12
- Priscilla Circle Meeting:** February 8, 7:00 PM, Miracle House
- Bazaar Meeting:** February 11, 7:00 PM, Miracle House
- Valentine's Day:** Sunday, February 14
- Wesleyan Circle Meeting:** February 16, 1:30 PM
- Ash Wednesday Service:** February 17, 7:00 PM
- Ruritan Dinner:** Thursday, February 18
- Fundraiser, F.O.G., Pizzeria:** February 22, 5:00 PM
- Board Meeting:** February 25, Miracle House, 7:00 PM
- 30 Hour Famine:** February 26-27
- 1st Annual Chili Cook-off:** Sunday, March 7th
- UMW Meeting:** March 11, 7:00 PM, Miracle House

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BIBLE STUDY:

There will be a 4 week Bible Study beginning Tuesday, February 2, 6-7 PM. We will examine the following areas:

- Feb. 2 How am I fitting into God's plan for me?
- Feb. 9 What is my S.T.O.R.Y.?
- Feb. 16 Do I fear doing the wrong thing and end up doing nothing?
- Feb. 23 Do I see myself as "gift" deprived?

No books required. Bring pen, paper, and your favorite Bible. Each class is dealing with one of the above topics. Come to all if you can, or pick and choose.

Pastor Barb

YOUTH IN THE NEWS

Pyromaniac Youth Rally 2010: The weekend was a huge success, with 4,000 youth and youth leaders in attendance. Our own Christ United Methodist Church sent a contingent of 16 from both the youth and F.O.G. groups.

From 8:00 PM Friday night to noon on Sunday, minus 2 or 3 hours of sleep, we were worshiping, disciplining, and growing in our faith and our relationship with God. Our worship band, Starfield, was awesome. The messages from our worship leader, Justin Lookadoo, were shocking, eye opening, and powerful! We also enjoyed the biblical sand art stories of Joe Castillo. No one will forget the on fire message of Bishop Violet Fisher as we closed our weekend with worship. I wasn't just on my feet, I was on my toes.

If you want to know more ask our youth who attended. Part of what some of us practiced was to give our testimony, and practice in a safe environment one on one will be great. My own personal experiences I will never forget.

THANK YOU to all of you who so generously supported the fundraising efforts of the your group, and to those who made donations to defray the cost of feeding 16 people all weekend long. Those kids can eat!!

30 Hour Famine: This event is approaching quickly. This is a Youth/F.O.G. sponsored open event. We are partnering with World Vision to build a better world for children. Every day more than 13,000 children die from hunger related causes. That's one every seven seconds. With this event we join with nearly a million youth and leaders to fight against hunger. As a participant we "go hungry" for 30 hours. While we are fasting we will be reading scripture, doing devotionals, praying, and growing closer to the Lord; as well as other physical and mental exercises that will mark changes due to our hunger. Every \$30 we raise will help feed and care for a child for one month. The fund raising will save lives, but we may also "save" some young people too. This can be a powerful life changing experience.

Youth Luncheon: This event is year round because our program is year round. It will continue to defray the costs of curriculum, materials, trips, and activities. As well as allow us to plan for the future: V.B.S., Cherokee Mission, Camp Pecometh, etc.

1st Annual Chili Cook Off: Will be on communion Sunday, March 7th, following service. All you need is to pay the \$10 entrance fee, provide a recipe (may be published with your permission), and a large crock pot of your Chili. Judging will be done by public opinion. Every dollar collected in your basket is a vote for your Chili, so get your supporters behind you and bring them out to church with you. Breads, beverages and prizes will be provided.

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PASTOR DONNA SAID "I lived in Texas, and you haven't tasted my best Chili!" A challenge has been made, and the only question that remains is; Which is hotter your Chili or your Fire for Christ?

Where He Leads Me I Will Go! Jeff Dulis

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SUPPORT A SOLDIER

Bryan Dykes and Steph Harp are currently serving overseas and needs our support. Please send them a note or card to let them know we are thinking about them.

Bryan Dykes
PRT Bagram
APO AE 09354

and:

Steph Harp
380 ESFS/S30VSA
APO.AE 09853

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FALL BAZAAR MEETING:

We have held our first Fall Bazaar Meeting and the date is set for Saturday, October 2, 2010. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 7:00 PM, Miracle House. If you are interested in helping with crafts please join us.

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NEW LIFE FOR OLD GREETING CARDS:

Give your old greeting cards a new life. St. Jude's Children Ranch accepts old cards and re-makes them into new ones. Children who reside at their ranch earn money to do this. There will be a box in Straughn Hall to collect these until February 14th.

Thank you,
Janet Walker

THANK YOU

We would like to thank you for all the prayers, cards, food, visits and transportation provided during my recent surgery and recuperation. We really appreciate all your time and efforts.

Rosemary & Bill Sudduth

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Many thanks for those who have so graciously provided the coffee hour in Straughn Hall every Sunday morning. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

Ann Blake

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Thank you one and all for the wonderful Christmas cards and generous gifts to me and my family. Thanks to your generosity, I will be taking Grace to visit my sister in Phoenix in February. Your prayers and support mean more then words can say. Thank You!!

...Pastor Donna

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FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR:

If you are interested in placing flowers on the alter for any Sunday, please contact:

Carole Lynch
875-3261

CHATTER HATTERS RED HAT GROUP:



What a fun time we had at the Pizzeria on January 21st. As always there is fellowship and a good time with our group. If you are interested in joining us, just let one of our ladies know and you will be invited to the next outing.

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SCRAPBOOKING DEMO

We are looking into having a demo for those who might be interested in learning to scrapbook. There is a sign-up sheet in Straughn Hall. If you are interested please let us know. It will depend on the number of those who would like to do this whether it will be worth setting a date.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Instead of giving people a piece of your mind, give them a piece of your heart.

OBITUARY:

I am sure many of our congregation remember Rev. Robert O'Reiley Wallace who served as pastor at Christ United Methodist Church in the '90's. It is with a saddened heart that we have been advised of his passing on December 26th.

Rev. Wallace retired in 1994 and has been residing in Tennessee with his family.

Cards of sympathy may be sent to:
Mrs. Ebba Wallace and Family
2649 Varnell Rd, SW
Cleveland, TN 37311

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please notify Judy Vickers of all meetings and their times, so they will appear in the church bulletin. Deadline for these announcements is Wednesday.

Please call Judy at 875-4306 or email judy_vickers@hotmail.com

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LAY VISITATION TEAM:

The Lay Visitation Team needs a few more people to visit the sick, the bereaved and many of those on our prayer list. We also need some help to take Holy Communion to those in nursing homes or our home-bound.

Come be "the hands and feet of Christ".

Call Janet Walker at 875-7677 or 229-8177.

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DIAL DAILY DEVOTIONS

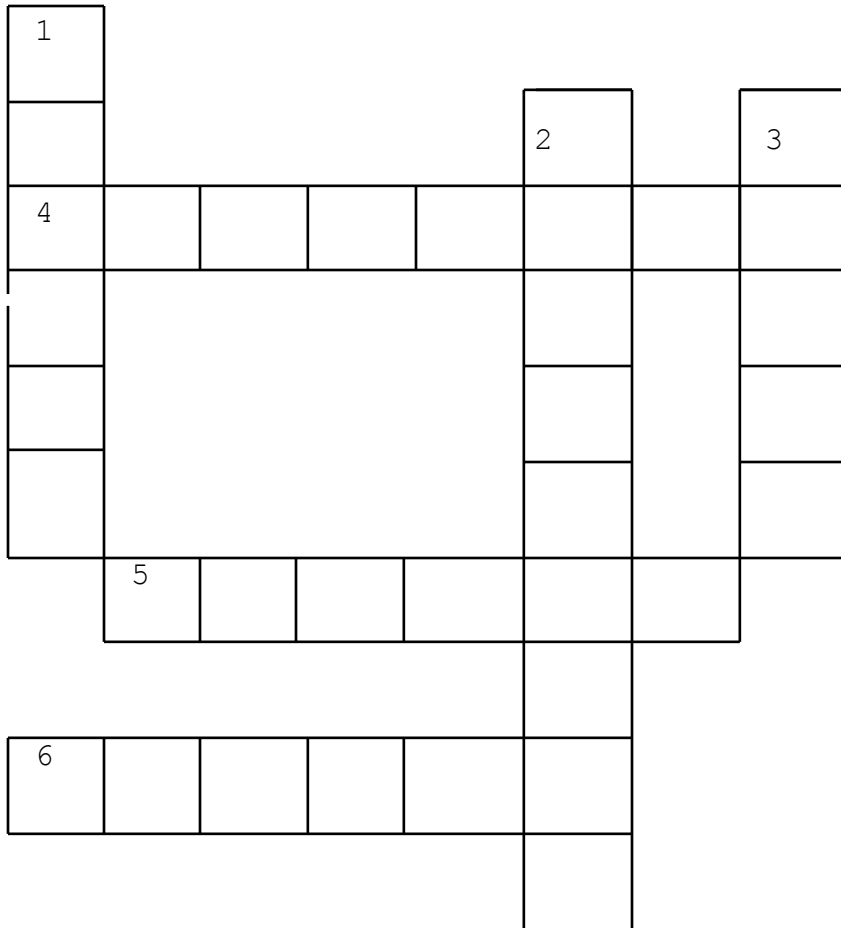
Pastor Donna has revitalized Dial Daily Devotions. Give our DDD number - 875-4309 to your friends and watch for your e-mails.

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The Birth of Jesus

(Hint: You'll find help in Matthew 1 and Luke 2)



ACROSS

DOWN

4 Joseph took his wife from _____

5 Mary rode on her journey on a _____

6 There was no room for Joseph and Mary so they stayed in a _____

1 Mary placed the baby in a _____

2 Mary and Joseph traveled to _____ for the birth of their baby

3 In the nearby fields shepherds were tending their _____

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:



- Feb. 3 Cindy Matthews
- 4 Tony Rubino
- 5 Doris Collins
- Richard Joseph
- 6 Samantha Dykes
- 7 Breanna Rubino
- 9 Bethany Benson
- DeEnna Wedding
- 10 Roger Hall
- Laura Harrison
- 11 Brian Vickers
- 14 Mark Elliott
- 15 Robert Goodman, Jr.
- 16 June Unrah
- 19 Aaron Givens
- Katie Minton
- 25 Gene Bailey
- 27 Olan Matthews
- Mona Wright
- 28 Mae Fischbeck
- Fran Muir (29)
- Mar. 3 Shirley Sommers
- 5 Mark Harrison
- 6 Deanna Nack
- 7 Lynne Bradley
- 9 Lisa Wedding
- 12 Mike Larmore
- Mark Lewis
- Dominick Queen
- 16 Sarah Anthony
- 17 Todd Ruark

- Feb. 15 M/M Calvin Hearn
- 23 M/M Dean Minton
- 25 M/M David Ralph
- Mar. 1 M/M Bill Nack
- 11 M/M Gary Seal
- 17 M/M Jim Bradley

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HAPPY ONE YEAR BIRTHDAY
TO OUR SOUP SOCIAL

We want to wish a Happy Birthday to the Soup Social. It will be one year old on February 2nd and has been a great success.

David Elzey took on this ministry and has really kept it going with many volunteers to help him. If you are interested in helping on any Tuesday evening at 5:30, just show up. There is always something you can do to lend a helping hand.

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BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION:

F.O.G. is collecting Campbell Soup labels and Box Tops for Education to donate to North Laurel and Dunbar Elementary Schools. Collection box is in Straughn Hall with a list of items that are eligible.

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Four-year old Brittany had an ear-ache and wanted a pain killer. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a child-proof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, she asked, "How does it know it's me?"

SOUP FOR SALE:

Once again Priscilla Circle will have Vegetable-Beef soup for sale. Watch your bulletin for an order blank. We plan to have it made the end of February.

PRAVER LIST AND HOMEBOUND:

Prayer List: Sarah Bayley & Family, Bob Blake, Bernice Brittingham, Jay Brittingham, Stacy Davis, Reba Dickerson, Marie Dickerson, Marlene Dulis, Frances Farlow, Alana Foskey, Jackie Fooks, Richard Foster, Pastor Don Hagen, Calvin Hearn, Mary Lou Higgens, Arvalene Hitchens, Barbara Hodges, Isabella Rose & Family, Anna Joyner, Scot Kimberling, Betty King & Family, Blaize Lantana, Alice Layton, Richard Layton, Terry Layton, Robert Lemin, Rose Lemin, Josh Long, Elaine Lynch, Fran Muir, Dot Murphy, Bill & Deanna Nack, Debbie Nack, Conner Nibblett, Cathy Parker, Donna Parker, The Porches' Family, David Ralph, Audrey Russell, Enoch Swartz, The Spicer Family, Rosemary & Bill Sudduth, Chelsea Marie Vogel, Ruth Walker, Shane Warrington, Janice & John Whitby, Betty & Carl Wilkins, Karen Wilkins, Mary Wilson, Tom Wright, Our Troops & Families, The People of Haiti

Nursing Home Residents:

Bill Fischbeck, Jackie Fooks, Arvalene Hitchens, Margeurite Lloyd, Margaret Walls, Martha Windsor

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NEW WEB SITE FOR CUMC:

We have a new web site:

www.christumclaurel.org.

Be sure to check it out and see what is happening at our church.

Pastor: Pastor Donna Hinkle
Editor: Betty Ringrose
Staff: Fran Muir
Shirley Sommers
Joanne Brittingham
Historian: Bruce Farrelly

Answers to "The Birth of Jesus"

	Across		Down
4	NAZARETH	1	MANGER
5	DONKEY	2	BETHLEHEM
6	STABLE	3	SHEEP

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CAT'S MEOW

We still have a supply of the Cat's Meow plaques representing our church which have been donated to CUMC. Please see Pastor Donna if you would like to purchase one or they will be available in the church office.

They are available for \$25.00 each and the proceeds will benefit the Scholarship Fund.

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POWER POINT/SOUND BOARD:

We could still us some help with the power point and sound board. Please contact Jeff Dulis or Clint Nack if you are interested.

No experience is necessary and commitment can be just one Sunday a month.

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*When you get to your wit's end,
you'll find God lives there.*

Church Phone Numbers

Church	875-4233
Dial Daily Devotion . .	875-4309
FAX	875-8201

Pastor's Phone Numbers

Parsonage	280-6254
Pastor's Cell	228-6193

WEB PAGE

www.christumclaurel.com
www.gb-gm-umc.org/cumc-laurel