

# Messenger

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VOLUME LVI - Weekly Publication

December 15, 2008

## Morning Watch

Sundays 9:00 am

## Christian Education

Sundays 9:15 am

## Traditional Service

Sundays 10:30 am

## Fellowship Hour

Sundays 11:30 am

### Staff

**David P. Turner**

*Senior Minister*

**Renita Lewis Whitaker**

*Office Manager*

**Anthony Shackelford**

*Custodian*

**Sue Taylor**

*Music Director*

**Dan Oliver**

*Bell Choir Director &  
Director of Audio/Visual*

**Lois Sutherland**

*Organist*

**Jenny Garner**

*Nursery Care Provider*

## A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS



You are invited to A Birthday Party for Jesus this Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, during the Fellowship Hour. The Christian Ed. (Children & Youth), Elders, World Outreach and Christian Family Life ministries are hosting a Birthday Party for Jesus. Join us for cake, decorations and a fun hour with your church family as we rejoice and celebrate in the coming of our King. Since birthday parties mean presents, we are asking everyone to bring one non-perishable food item for the food pantry. Help us to help our community during the most wonderful time of the year! If you have any questions, contact Melissa Moody at 626-6503 or via email at [mmoody5409@yahoo.com](mailto:mmoody5409@yahoo.com).

## Family Christmas Eve Service

&

## Traditional Candlelight Service



The joy of Christmas is reconnecting with family and friends, sharing the love, laughter and music as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior. Join us on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> for our Family Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m. This contemporary service is designed with children in mind. The Traditional Service will be at 7:30 pm. The choir will sing and the bells will ring as we celebrate the coming of the newborn King.



## 2008 Christmas Offering

*"God has done great things...Luke 1:47-55"*

At the heart of the "Nineteenth Century Reformation" led by Stone and the Campbells was the call to form congregations modeled after the simple essentials of the church of the apostles. State Evangelists were charged with the responsibility of forming numerous congregations and preaching points. But early Disciples soon discovered that cooperation was necessary for congregations to get their start, to survive in times of need, and to minister effectively. As mission societies developed, the position of State Secretary was created to coordinate the mission of the church. With the adoption of the Design for the Christian Church, Disciples affirmed the covenant relationship between "Regions" and the other institutional expressions of the church. Each Region is led by a Regional Minister who not only serves as a programmatic leader and as an administrator for the many and varied ministries of the church, but gives general pastoral oversight of all members of the church in a given Region. Each Region is charged with the responsibility for working to fulfill the mission of the church and providing for the continuing renewal of the life of congregations, members, and ministers. With your Christmas Offering on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, you support the ministries offered by the Region that serve your church.

## Serving In December

**Deacon Captain:** Mark Sigman

**Deacons Serving:** Jenness Sigman, Shirley Wilcox, Don Wilcox, Bob Cochoy, Jean Cochoy, John Willman, Lora Davidson, Don Voys, Joe Albrecht, Tiffany Zimmerman and Matthew Pence

**Deacon Prep/Clean Up:** Lourdes Giles

**Elders for Communion**

**Dec 21<sup>st</sup>** Doug and Mary Lou Pence

**Dec 28<sup>th</sup>** Steve and Pam Bowser

**Jan 4<sup>th</sup>** Lynn and Darlene Rogers

**Lay Leaders**

**Dec 21<sup>st</sup>** Larry Merkle

**Dec 28<sup>th</sup>** Mary Lou Pence

**Jan 4<sup>th</sup>** TBA

**Fellowship Hour**

**Dec 21<sup>st</sup>** Birthday Party for Jesus

**Dec 28<sup>th</sup>** Trustees

**Jan 4<sup>th</sup>** Christian Family Life

## Wall Calendar

The wall calendar located outside of the church office lists the scheduled activities of the church ministries. To get an activity listed on the wall calendar, please contact the church office.



## The Weeks Ahead

<b>Sunday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	Waffle Breakfast
	<b>9:00 am</b>	Morning Watch
	<b>9:15 am</b>	Christian Education Crusaders Class Max Lucado Class Unbinding the Gospel Class
	<b>10:30 am</b>	Traditional Service Godly Play
	<b>11:30 am</b>	Birthday Party for Jesus
<b>Monday, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>11:40 am</b>	Bethany Choristers
	<b>12:30 pm</b>	Senior Fitness Class
<b>Wednesday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	CFW Meeting
	<b>12:30 pm</b>	Senior Fitness Class
	<b>5:00 pm</b>	Family Christmas Eve Service
<b>Thursday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>	Traditional Candlelight Service
		<b>Merry Christmas</b>
<b>Friday, Dec 26<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Church Office Closed</b>

<b>Sunday, Dec 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	Morning Watch
	<b>9:15 am</b>	Christian Education Crusaders Class Max Lucado Class Unbinding the Gospel Class
	<b>10:30 am</b>	Traditional Service Godly Play
	<b>11:30 am</b>	Fellowship Hour
	<b>11:40 am</b>	Bethany Choristers
<b>Monday, Dec 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12:30 pm</b>	Senior Fitness Class
<b>Wednesday, Dec 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>12:30 pm</b>	Senior Fitness Class
<b>Thursday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup></b>		<b>Happy New Year</b>
<b>Friday, Jan 2<sup>nd</sup></b>		<b>Church Office Closed</b>

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR  
*Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year*

## Members & Friends

<b>Hospice Care</b>	-	Pat Farnsley Home
<b>Home Care</b>	-	Ruby Kreider Thelma Harman Robert and Frances Mayes Earline Grice Norma Kirkland Marian Herron
<b>Autumn Health Care</b>	-	June Tate
<b>Bethany</b>	-	Kathy (Golda) Anderson
<b>Harborside Healthcare</b>	-	Jim and Eleanor McNulty
<b>Heartland of Centerville</b>	-	Nancy Tossey
<b>Liberty Retirement Home</b>	-	Ed Bausman
<b>Oaks of West Kettering</b>	-	Virginia Moore
<b>Summersville</b>	-	Marjorie Barkalow Eugene Griffith
<b>Spring Creek</b>	-	JoAnn Reichbauer
<b>Sycamore Glen</b>	-	Anne Walters
<b>Trinity</b>	-	Garnia Moses
<b>Waterford Retirement</b>	-	Mary Rothenbuhler

**The Sanctuary Flowers** on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> were given by Ron and Louise Bennett in memory of Signe Bennett

## Memorial Fund

### General Fund

**In Memory of Veda Smith**

Ron and Louise Bennett  
Rollin and Temple Ann Hanson

### Christmas Basket Fund

**In Memory of Veda Smith**

Lynn and Darlene Rogers

## Worshiping at Central

Sunday, December 14, 2008

<b>Christian Education</b>	26
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<b>Nursery/Godly Play</b>	21
<b>Morning Watch</b>	30
<b>Traditional Service</b>	<u>159</u>
<b>Total Worship Attendance</b>	<b>210</b>

### Our Offering (Operating Fund)

<b>Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup></b>	\$7,598.00
<b>2008 Offering to Date</b>	\$276,601.00
<b>2008 Expenses to Date</b>	\$275,593.00

## Food Pantry

Last week we were able to feed **9** families. Let's continue to feed the hungry in our community by donating. **Pantry Hours:** Mondays and Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Donations can be placed on table located in Narthex.

## Messenger Holiday Schedule

Due to the following three day holiday work weeks, the Messenger will not be published the weeks of December 22<sup>nd</sup> - Christmas and December 29<sup>th</sup> - New Year

## Christmas Program Thank You

Thanks to everyone who came out Sunday evening for our All-Church Carry-in dinner and Christmas program! We had well over 100 people in attendance for dinner and the program. Our grade school and CYF put on a very heartwarming, amusing and unforgettable program. Thank you to all those who participated in both programs - your hard work made for a truly enjoyable evening!

### Attention: Elders

The Elders will not meet on Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. Your next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Merle Kidd.

### Attention: Executive Board Members

**Please note:** The Execution Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled back to its original date, Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Lyon.

### Faith Finders Meeting

When Faith Finders reconvenes on January 11 at noon, the first meeting for the 2nd through 5th grade class will include a working discussion with the children about the classroom rules and discipline plan for the balance of the year. We would like all parents to attend this first session and provide input and suggestions as well. If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact Melissa Moody (CE Chair) or Brad Kassner or Laura Seaman (Faith Finders Leaders).

### Christian Ed Meeting

The next Christian Ed (Children & Youth) meeting will be on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Anyone interested in participating in the spiritual development of the children and youth of our church are encouraged to attend. If you have questions, please contact Melissa Moody at 626-6503 or via email at mmoody5409@yahoo.com.

### CYF

On Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> we'll meet at 6:00 p.m., at the home of Alexis Garybush for our annual Christmas Party and White Elephant gift exchange. Please bring \$5 for food plus either a 2 liter drink or a bag of chips and a gift white elephant gift – don't buy anything, just bring something from home – the funnier the better!!! The party will last until 8:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lou Pence at 434-8157.

## Celebrate Christmas

Decorate your Christmas tree.

Ring a Christmas bell.

Sing a joyful carol with a jubilant noel!

Light your Advent candle wreath.

Rejoice with friends on Earth.

Give thanks to God for sending Christ in this, His Christmas birth.

Share your joy of Christmas and God's blessings from above.

Celebrate God's Graciousness!

Celebrate God's Love!

## Central Christian Honors 50 & 60+ Members

On Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> we honored:

### 50 Year Members

*Carol Kromer*

*Jim Robinson*

*Marty Robinson*

*William Warren*

### 60 + Years

*Louise Bennett*

*Velma Fansler*

*Phyllis Hagerty*

*Rollin Hanson*

*Margaret Hawkins*

*Norma Kirkland*

*Jean Knee*

*Jean McCall*

*Eleanor McNulty*

*James McNulty*

*Mary Catherine Stewart*

*Dorothy Strasser*

*Roger Sutherland*

*Anne Walters*

## UN Seminar information

As many of you know 5 of our CYF – Hannah Bentley, Monica Bentley, Alexis Garybush, Tim Green, and Matt Pence will be attending the bi-annual UN Seminar in February. The kids have been busy writing their application papers – the second one is due on January 9<sup>th</sup>. We've also been holding fund raisers to help defer some of the expense to each CYF member. Each of the age-eligible CYF members (you must be a junior or senior in high school) to go has many reasons they want to go. Tim Green writes "The UN Seminar has been something I have looked forward to for a long time. My father has been talking about it ever since I was old enough to listen and I can't wait for my turn to go on this prestigious trip." Matt Pence says "The trip would mean having the chance to meet people in our government and grow in my faith as I travel with other youth from across Ohio." Monica Bentley hopes to meet new friends, grow in her faith and learn about herself in new ways. As a State CYF officer, Hannah Bentley is excited to go on the trip and cites her older brother's Craig and Rob great experiences as further reasons to want to go. Alexis Garybush writes "Going on the UN Seminar will be a very memorable experience for me. I believe that it will help me grow in my faith and share it with others." Bottom line – the trip costs money and the CYF is asking the congregation to help with sponsorships. You have been very generous in your support of our fundraisers to date. Right now we are asking for donation sponsorships to insure each of the five kids can go. When the kids send in the final paper in early January, their final payment of \$450 is due and then each person needs to bring \$300 in cash for public transportation and meals not included in the base trip cost. In return for sponsoring the UN participants, each participant will prepare a 'trip highlights' presentation for an upcoming worship service. Should you be willing to help sponsor these CYF members, please place your donation in Sunday's offering plate or send it directly to the church office – marking it "UN Seminar sponsorship". The donations will be divided among the 5 participants. The youth "THANK YOU" in advance for your generosity.

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR  
*Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year*

## *Christmas Greeting from The Senior Minister*

Who else but God could have been clever enough to invent Christmas? Who else would have known that sometimes it is easier to take and hold an infant to ourselves than it is to invite a demanding man into our hearts? But that is precisely the danger and brilliance of Christmas – because once we have knelt beside the manger, we are not far from kneeling beside the cross.

Christ is coming into our world as a vulnerable little baby – but watch out! That baby might just change your life. As the poet, George White, wrote: *“Watch your step as you take this Bethlehem baby into your arms and whisper to him... You may find him taking you into his arms and whispering new life into you...”*

Our Christmas Greeting to you this year is one of joy, gratitude and love. You have shared your love and support for me and my family in so many ways. We feel blessed to be a part of this caring church family and wish for you the very best in all things. Our prayer is that the joy and deep meaning of the first Christmas will be yours now and in the New Year.

May God bless you all. Merry Christmas!

*Rev. David Turner*

