



# NBUMC NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008



New Baden United Methodist Church 107 W. Hanover St. New Baden, IL 62265 (618) 588-3588  
Church E-mail: nbumc1@charter.net

## The View From Here

by Pastor Pam

*Once again, we find ourselves entering the season of Advent. Many may find themselves feeling anxious this season with all the uncertainty in the air. It's enough to distract us from the one who really matters. As we enter the Christmas season, I share with you the thoughts of Alistair Begg, in hope that his words will turn your thoughts to Jesus who made himself nothing for us.*

Sometimes you may hear of someone who is doing something of exceptional worth or kindness, and someone else says about the person, "I'll tell you what's remarkable about her. If you knew where she came from, the fact that she comes down here to do what she's doing is really amazing." They're saying that while what she is doing is significant, if you knew her background, where she came from, and what she left behind, you'd understand that it is all the more remarkable she is here. The Holy Spirit wants us to understand where Christ came from. Paul tells us in Phil. 2:5-7, "Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."

Coming in the very form or nature of God, Jesus didn't consider equality with God something to be grasped. In other words, instead of holding on to his own uninterrupted glory, he chose to set it aside.

Paul tells us that "he made himself nothing," or literally, "himself he emptied." In the King James Version we read he, "made himself of no reputation." What does this say?

### Inside this Issue

<i>The View from Here</i>	1
<i>Greeters and Liturgists</i>	2
<i>Caroling/Christmas Eve/Bible Reading Guides</i>	2
<i>Clinton Manor/Birthday Party</i>	3
<i>Christmas Tree/Church Directory</i>	3
<i>Calendar/Birthdays/Anniversaries</i>	4
<i>December Reading</i>	5

It says that coming into the world, Christ chose not to arrive in a fashion that was so marked with dignity and style that it would immediately cause people to say, "Oh, this must be God incarnate." In fact, remember what the angel said to the shepherds: "This will be a sign to you. You will find the babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." What a strange site. What child is this that would be laid in a manger? The sign is not a chariot parked outside. It's not a scepter, but a stable.

He "made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant." In other words, he became as much of an earthly servant as he had been a heavenly sovereign.

Jesus did not approach the incarnation asking, "What's in it for me, what do I get out of it?" In coming to earth he said, "I don't matter."

*Jesus, you're going to be laid in a manger.*

*"It doesn't matter."*

*Jesus, you will have nowhere to lay your head.*

*"It doesn't matter."*

*Jesus, you will be an outcast and a stranger.*

*"It doesn't matter."*

*Jesus, they will nail you to a cross and your followers will all desert you.*

And Jesus says, "That's OK."

This is what it means. He "made himself nothing, taking on the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."

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## ***Greeters***

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December 7 Carol Bequette &  
Ruth Chapet

December 14 Paul & Doris Pratt

December 21 Larry & Pam Buck

December 28 Allen & Donna  
Williams

January 4 Dave & Pat Lewis

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## ***Liturgists***

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December 7 Joe Jackson

December 14 & 21 Terry Mason

December 28 & January 1  
Steve Lehr

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*"You cannot strengthen the weak  
by weakening the strong. You  
cannot help small men by tearing  
down big men. You cannot help the  
poor by destroying the rich. You  
cannot lift the wage earner by  
pulling down the wage-payer. You  
cannot keep out of trouble by  
spending more than your income.*

*You cannot further the  
brotherhood of man by inciting  
class hatreds. You cannot build  
character and courage by taking  
away a man's initiative and  
independence. You cannot help  
men permanently by doing for  
them what they could and should  
do for themselves." --Abraham Lincoln*

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## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

Our annual Christmas caroling trip to Clinton Manor Nursing Home will be on Mon., Dec. 22, at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join in spreading some holiday cheer to the residents there. We will meet at the church at 6:50 p.m., then carpool to Clinton Manor. Afterward we will return to the church to enjoy some fellowship time with cookies and hot cocoa.

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## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

Please join us in celebrating our Lord's birth with a candlelight Christmas Eve service, to be held Wed., Dec. 24, at 6:30 p.m. We will have a traditional service of lessons and carols along with special music on the harp, played by Joan Witte.

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## **BIBLE READING GUIDES**

In January of this year, a few people of the church started on an adventure together of reading through the entire Bible in a year. It hasn't always been easy keeping up with the daily readings when our schedules get busy, but it has been a tremendous blessing and a rewarding experience nonetheless. To help us in our pursuit of hiding God's Word in our hearts (Ps 119:11), we have been following daily Bible reading guides, which are available at the entrance to the sanctuary next to the bulletins.

If you have not been using the guides but would like to take up the challenge to spend time each day reading God's Word, then why not make it a New Year's resolution to start this coming January? New monthly guides will be available for 2009 following a different reading schedule than this year's. The reading plan does not go straight through the Bible from cover to cover, but introduces the books in an order that is most easily accessible to someone who has never read through the entire Bible before, beginning with a general historical overview, then going back and filling in the rest.

If you have been intimidated at the thought of reading through the entire Bible and didn't know where to begin, why not pick up one of the reading guides and give it a try? You will definitely be blessed by the effort!

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## Gifts Sought for Clinton Manor Residents

Many of the residents at Clinton Manor have little or no family and do not receive gifts at Christmas. As a result, the staff there are seeking donations of gifts to ensure that everyone receives something this Christmas. The following items would be especially appreciated: candy (sugar free as well as sugar), socks, body lotion, jewelry, body wash, VHS & DVD movies, art and craft supplies, sweatshirts/ sweatpants (L and XXL), wall hangings, afghan throws, books, cardigan sweaters (L and XL), pullover shirts (L and XL), puzzles, games, audio tapes, CDs, purses, wallets, photo albums, picture frames, makeup, hair gel, hair spray, posters, room decorations, fingernail polish, hair accessories, hats, bulletin boards.

If you are willing to donate something, a receptacle will be available at the back of the sanctuary to receive your gifts.

## It's a Birthday Party for Jesus!

Christmas is about Jesus and we want to help our children celebrate. So on Sunday Dec. 21, from 2-4 p.m., we are throwing a party, with cake, music, crafts and more. As with VBS, we're opening it up to the children of our community as well. It would help us to have a count of those who plan to attend. If you know of any children who would like to come that day, please let Brenda Lehr know.



### Church Directory

*Please note the following changes for the church directory:*

*Daniel Nottmeyer's phone number should be: 588-5039 (not 4039)*

*Kyle Marshall's address should also include: Scott AFB, IL 62225*

### Christmas tree

*This year our "gift-giving" Christmas tree will include two names of children whose fathers are in prison. There will also be other names on the tree of some families that have been served from our food pantry. We hope that you will take a name or two and help provide a Blessed Christmas to those in need. The amount to spend on each tag will be \$20. The gift should be wrapped and the tag tied on the gift. These gifts will be delivered the Sunday before Christmas with a plate of cookies/candies to each family. Thank you for giving from the heart!*



## Calendar &amp; Events

## December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

December 3	7:00 pm Finance
December 4	7:00 pm Choir Practice
December 5	Mulligan preparation
December 6	Mulligan
December 7	8:00 am Praise Team 7:00 pm Youth Group No Chime Choir Practice
December 9	7:00 pm Administrative Board
December 11	7:00 pm Choir Practice
December 14	8:00 am Praise Team 7:00 pm Youth Group
December 16	No UMW Meeting 7:00 pm Worship Committee
December 18	7:00 pm Choir Practice
December 20	6:30 am Pancake Breakfast and Cooking/ Candy Sale
December 21	7:00 am UMM...Good Ol'Days 8:00 am Praise Team 2:00-4:00 pm Birthday Party for Jesus 7:00 pm Youth Group
December 22	7:00 pm Christmas Caroling
December 24	7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
December 25 & January 1	No Choir Practice
December 28	No Praise Team/No Chime Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group

December Birthdays

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Devon Cook
12 <sup>th</sup>	John Ruth
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Cotten
24 <sup>th</sup>	Joeseph Fischer
24 <sup>th</sup>	Phyllis Honious
25 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Hellige
27 <sup>th</sup>	Dale Bann
27 <sup>th</sup>	John Thole

December Anniversaries

5 <sup>th</sup>	John and Carol Ruth
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The "March to the Manger" collection will be on December 21<sup>st</sup> and designated for the following:

70% Vacation Bible School  
30% NBUMC Food Pantry



## December Reading

### *Why Jesus is Better Than Santa Claus*

Santa lives at the North Pole...**JESUS is everywhere.**

Santa rides in a sleigh...**JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.**

Santa comes but once a year...**JESUS is ever present help.**

Santa fills your stockings with goodies...**JESUS supplies all your needs.**

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited...**JESUS stands at your door, knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.**

You have to wait in line to see Santa...**JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.**

Santa lets you sit on his lap...**JESUS lets you rest in His arms.**

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name? ...**JESUS knew your name before you were born. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.**

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...**JESUS has a heart full of love.**

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...**JESUS offers health, help, and hope.**

Santa says "You better not cry"...**JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."**

Santa's little helpers make toys...**JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.**

Santa may make you chuckle but...**JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.**

While Santa puts gifts under your tree...**JESUS became our gift and died on a tree...the cross.**

We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas, Jesus is still the reason for the season.

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)*

*Provided for your reading pleasure from:  
www.thoughts-about-god.com*

*There are so many wonderful Christmas stories, poems, and music out there for us to enjoy this holiday season. Please take some time out to enjoy these many wonderful treasures by visiting:*

[www.homewithgod.com/mkcathy/MerryChristmas/stories.html](http://www.homewithgod.com/mkcathy/MerryChristmas/stories.html)

*I would like to wish each and every one of you a blessed holiday season!*

*---Andrea Bequette*



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107 W. Hanover St.  
New Baden, IL 62265

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618-588-3588

**E-Mail:**

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Pastor: Pam Hoffman

Music Director: Joan Witte

Newsletter: Andrea Bequette  
[abequette8@charter.net](mailto:abequette8@charter.net)

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[newbadenumc.org](http://newbadenumc.org)

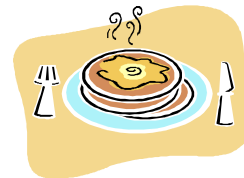
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Pancake Breakfast!!!  
Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

See you there!!!



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