



NBUMC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009



New Baden United Methodist Church 107 W. Hanover St. New Baden, IL 62265 (618) 588-3588
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The View From Here

by Pastor Pam

This Christmas season is my eighth as a pastor. I am astonished by that fact. How quickly the years have passed since my first appointment as a United Methodist pastor. That's eight years of Advent sermons and eight years of Christmas Eve messages. Each Advent, I find myself wondering if there is anything new that I can say about the birth of Jesus. Is there anything I can share that I haven't shared before and that you have not already thought or heard before? I still remember what it is like to sit in the pew and listen to a preacher and then leave at the end of the service thinking, "please, tell me something I haven't heard a dozen times before!"

Sometimes we need to expose ourselves to the thoughts of others in order to get a fresh perspective on old truths. This Advent, I've been dipping into the Christmas sermons of some of the great preachers of the church and they have showed me that I have not in the least exhausted what there is to be said about God becoming flesh. Far from it.

One of those preachers I've been reading is J.I. Packer, who says the key scripture for understanding the birth of Jesus is Paul's words to the Corinthians. "*You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*" (II Cor. 8:9) Here, Paul is not only talking about the birth of Jesus as a wonder of nature, but a "wonder of grace."

The Son of God became poor for our sakes. What that means is that he put aside his glory for a time. He relinquished his

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power and submitted himself to hardship, loneliness, abuse, hatred, misunderstanding and death. He did it all so that we could find pardon and experience peace with God. Pardon and peace. That's where our real wealth lies.

We know that Paul also taught that we should have the same mind about things that Jesus did. In other words, his life and character needs to be reflected in our lives. Packer makes the point that so many of those in the church who pride themselves on their commitment to the Bible, nevertheless fail to do this by ignoring the needs of the poor around them. So many in the church, he says, seem to have no other ambition than to lead nice comfortable middle-class lives while turning away from the needs of others. This in fact is a betrayal of the Christmas spirit which is to live our lives by giving time, care and concern to those in need. I know that I felt challenged by his words in more ways than I care to admit.

In the 16 months that I have been here among you, however, I have noticed that this is a work that many of you seem to excel in. Many of you are eager to meet a need when you see it. All year long, but especially at Christmas. This Christmas, you provided gifts to families in need, gifts to residents of Clinton Manor, gifts even to two children whose father is in prison. I expect some children will get coats in January as a result of your generosity. As in past years, you sang Christmas carols at Clinton Manor as well. And you were generous in remembering me with a financial gift.

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Greeters

- January 4 Dave & Pat Lewis*
- January 11 Steve & Brenda Lehr*
- January 18 Don & Lavada Knight*
- January 25 Laurel Peterson &
Chelsea Lehr*
- February 1 Carol Bequette &
Ruth Chaput*
-

Liturgists

- January 4 Carol Bequette*
- January 11 & 18 Allen Williams*
- January 25 & February 1
 Joe Jackson*
-



Thank you for your faithfulness in this work. It is all too easy to simply wall ourselves off from those in need, especially if we are particularly blessed financially. I expect all of us are nervous about 2009, maybe even scared about what our economic future will look like. But, as a friend has reminded me in her Christmas card this year, we are blessed when we have the little things, like food, heat, clothing, health, family and friends. The rest doesn't matter much. Her point was, we have it better than most.

So again, thank you for being people who are willing to meet the needs of those who don't even worship with us. I urge you, however, in the coming year to consider how to expand your generosity to your church. I urge you not to wait for another public appeal for funds before you increase your giving. Instead, consider how you might excel in the work of giving to your church as well.

May each of you experience the riches of God in the coming year.

Peace,
Pastor Pam



CLOTHING DRIVE

Winter has arrived and there are many children right here in New Baden who need warm winter clothes. I am a member of a Bible study group (we call ourselves the Bible Babes!) and we are having a clothing drive until January 22nd. We have been given permission to use the Civic Center on Saturday, January 24th to offer these items to the residents of New Baden. I am the elder stateswoman of this group of mostly young women who have children in their children's classes and know the needs. This year already we have purchased shoes, clothes and coats for a young boy who uses the same babysitter as one of the women. So parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. see what you can find in clothing that your children, grandchildren, niece, nephews, etc. have outgrown and drop them into the box in the entryway of the church. Thank you!

Terry Mason

Calendar & Events

January 2009

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

- January 4 8:00 am Praise Team
7:00 pm Youth Group
- January 6 7:00 pm Trustees
- January 7 7:00 pm Finance
- January 8 7:00 pm Choir Practice
- January 11 8:00 am Praise Team
7:00 pm Youth Group
- January 13 7:00 pm Ad Council
- January 15 7:00 pm Choir Practice
- January 16 6:00 am-10:00 pm Prayer Vigil
- January 17 6:30 am Pancake Breakfast
- January 18 7:00 am UMM...Good Ol'Days
8:00 am Praise Team
7:00 pm Youth Group
- January 20 7:00 pm UMW
- January 22 7:00 pm Choir Practice
- January 25 8:00 am Praise Team
7:00 pm Youth Group
- January 27 7:00 pm Worship Committee
- January 28 7:00 pm PPRC
- January 29 7:00 pm Choir Practice

January Birthdays

- 4th Michael Banuelos
- 5th Sarah Ruth
- 9th Rachel Friese
- 13th Kay Jackson
- 19th Ralph Bann
- 21st Rene Davis
- 24th Donna Billhartz

January Anniversaries

- 20th Dennis & Shirley Strake
- 27th Glenn & Laurel Peterson



January Reading

The Bell

Provided for your reading pleasure by Rev. L.C. Pruehoner

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)

I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)

I am united with the Lord (1Cor. 6:17)

I am bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

I am a saint (set apart for God) (Eph. 1:1)

I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)

I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt. 5:13-14)

I am a member of the body of Christ (1Cor. 12:27)

I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)

I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil. 3:20)

I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8: 31-34)

I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor. 5: 17-21)

I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)

I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom. 8: 35-39)

I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor. 1:21-22)

I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8: 28)

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)

I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4: 13)

I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)

I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)

I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3: 3). I have been justified (Romans 5: 1)

I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3: 9; 2 Cor. 6: 1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)

I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected (Phil. 1: 5)

I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col. 1: 14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph. 1: 5)

I belong to God

Do you know

Who you are!?

New Baden United Methodist Church

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New Baden, IL 62265

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E-Mail:

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Pastor: Pam Hoffman

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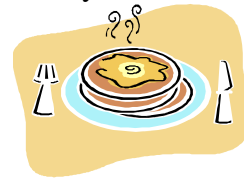
We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

newbadenumc.org



Pancake Breakfast!!!
Saturday, December 20th
6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
See you there!!!



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