



People's to People
The Newsletter of the People's Church of Dover
United Church of Christ
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DECEMBER 2009

Under the Bell Tower

A CHRISTMAS STORY

It had been a very hard year. I had finally broken from the denomination of my childhood and was seeking a call to a “mainline” congregation in the Pittsburgh area (if possible—I was in school there). Bill was four years old, and in August Beth was born. When I accepted the call to Brightwood Christian Church, a half-hour away, we said goodbye to friends and moved—with two small children, on a hot September day, and a car without air conditioning. When we got to the new (to us) parsonage Beth was crying, Bill was crying, and Harriet couldn’t hold it together either. I went out into the front yard so I wouldn’t cry. The movers got all the furniture and books in and drove the truck away, and there we were. The church had “pounded” us—put a pound of every basic for cooking in the pantry; but who wanted to cook? The ceiling in Beth’s nursery was the angle of the roof, and we kept bumping our heads when we leaned over the crib. Bill’s room was enormous and had a fireplace—we hoped it was sealed up well. The Pittsburgh trolley tracks ran by our house, and the trolleys ran once an hour through the night. The smells of the new house were different, the sounds were different.

Slowly over the next three months we began to get accustomed to a new house, a new yard, a new church, the trolleys—but it was a difficult transition, a hard autumn. December came around, time to decorate for Christmas. Harriet said, “We have enough room in this house for a tree that’s a little larger than before,” so I took Bill in the Ford Pinto station wagon and we went to a Christmas tree lot. The tree I selected was expensive! I don’t remember what species it was, but I do remember that it was huge—and I had only a Ford Pinto station wagon to get it home in. But I reasoned, “Harriet is really depressed, Christmas is coming, the first Christmas in this house, we have the space—why not!” So for the next fifteen minutes the salesman and I crammed that great tree into my tiny car. Then I asked, “How do you keep it standing up?” The salesman smiled, “Well, you can nail a wooden stand onto the bottom—we sell those, you know. But for a tree this big you really need to anchor it with concrete. For \$20 I’ll sell you a concrete stand with a water dish.” Sold! The stand weighed 25 pounds, a circle of concrete 4 inches thick, with a tin bowl held to the top with a large steel bolt buried in the concrete. We laid newspaper on the hardwood floor—we should have used something that wouldn’t bleed, because the stand leaked. I struggled and strained and finally got the great tree onto the bolt. We poured some water in the bowl. Wow! Now for the decorations. We had one string of lights, one string of tinsel, one box of icicles, and a home-made star covered with aluminum foil. When we finished you could hardly tell there was decoration on the tree! But we were happy. Harriet set the children on the floor in front of the tree and I snapped a black-and-white picture. Beth looked like she was sitting in a forest.

But we had Christmas that year! Did we ever have Christmas! Because—even though that great tree helped, Christmas is about the heart. Love flowed among us—our first Christmas for four. We laughed about the decorations. And on Christmas eve, we joined with our new church family to welcome the Christ-child. And Beth tried to sing along with “Silent Night.” I hope you and your loved ones have as joyful a Christmas this year as that Christmas is for us in our memory.

Dan



STEWARDSHIP REPORT THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2009

Annual Church Budgeted Income	\$216,390
Income Weekly	4,161
Budgeted Income to Date	187,740
Income Received to Date	182,249
Budget Expenses to Date	- 185,100
Net Difference	\$ -2,851

ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER

	2008	2009	offerings	
11/02	115	11/01	99	3,526.00
11/09	136	11/08	96	4,306.50
11/16	118	11/15	105	3,072.10
11/23	128	11/22	116	3,021.25
11/30	<u>102</u>	11/29	<u>96</u>	<u>3,213.35</u>
	599		512	\$ 17,139.20

December Birthdays

12/02	David L. CHIDESTER
12/02	Harrison TIMMONS
12/03	Karl ANDERSON
12/04	Bruce COLE
12/06	Karen WHARTON
12/07	Theresa LLOYD
12/07	Nancy OTTO
12/10	Dylan ALLBEE
12/11	John DODD
12/11	Thomas DODD
12/14	Barbara McCLEARY
12/14	J. Kenneth MOORE, JR.
12/14	Harry COOKE
12/15	James RAINIER
12/16	Stephanie HOTCHKISS
12/16	Earl CLINTON
12/18	Amanda LINDSEY
12/20	Sidney PALMER
12/22	Carol SKADSBURG
12/24	Meghan HANE BUTT
12/25	Ruth HARRIS
12/26	Dori HILL
12/28	Alexander SENATO
12/29	Dorothy COX
12/31	Lloyd BARRETT

If we missed anyone, please notify the church office to get your name on the list.

May God Bless You on Your Birthday



IN OUR PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS

- Millard Biddle** – in Westminster Heath Center for therapy after hip surgery.
- Thorpe Caldwell** – in Westminster Health Center fighting a severe infection.
- Sally Childears** – recuperating at home from spinal surgery.
- Irene Deamer** – in and out of Kent Gen. Hosp. for pneumonia and arrhythmia.
- Sylvia Latourette** – recuperating at home from broken ribs.
- Barba Merriwether** – in chemotherapy for abdominal cancer.
- Mary Reed** – in treatment for cardiac arrhythmia.
- Cameron and Caroline Ridgeway** -- in Christiana Hospital for a couple of months of growing before going home.
- A.J. Senato** – waiting after spinal-cranial surgery for re-assessment.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS

- Drexel Biddle** – Cliff's nephew in GA, heart and lung problems.
- Leon "Buddy" Carter** – Brenda Polasko's brother: COPD.
- Faye Downey** – Marian DePue's friend in MO with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.
- Bill Henry** – Dodds' friend suffering from advancing Alzheimer's Disease.
- Lucille Horsey** – Carol Skadsberg's friend.
- Carol Lamphier** – Kathy Hanebutt's friend, recuperating from back surgery at son's home in North Carolina.
- Sue Leonard** – Cleah Muntz's sister: pain from spinal deterioration.
- Keith Nicolls** – Fred Hotchkiss' uncle: kidney failure.
- Tom Rice** – Jerry's brother in PA is scheduled for triple bypass surgery on November 4.
- Debbie Yates** – friend of Pat Thompson, chronic health issues.

PRAYERS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

- Faye Denkenberger** – friend of Marie Clement.
- Melanie Giangrant** -- friend of Judy Reed.
- Michelle Hill** – Sue Dodd's cousin.
- Barbara Jackson** – Cleah Muntz's cousin.
- Howard Killian** – Angela Downs' father.
- Jimmy Littieri** – Kerishers' friend had eye surgery Nov. 19.
- Gordon Minner** – friend of Jeff and Judy Reed.
- Christina Neustad** – Betsy Stewart's niece.
- Diane Nickelson** – friend of Brenda Polasko.
- Lillian Schrantz** – Cleah Muntz's sister-in-law.
- Ethan Williams** – 7-yr.-old friend of Hotchkiss family.
- Michael Williamson** – 12-year-old grandson of Pat Thompson's friend.

Home-Bound Members & Friends

The holiday season is a wonderful time to remember our home-bound members and friends with a card or a phone call. Addresses and phone numbers are in the church directory or available from the church office.

At Westminster

Monti Bowen Thorpe Caldwell
Millard Biddle

At Pinnacle Nursing Home

Betty Tomlinson

At The Heritage of Dover

Thelma Lewis

At Home

Irene Deamer Ginny Read
Leonard Guth Rose Mary Ressel
Daisy Hill Dale Stewart
Fred Stites

CONGRATULATIONS

to Chris and Wendy Reed Ridgeway on the birth of twins Cameron and Caroline Ridgeway at Christiana Hospital on Nov. 7. Because the twins are eight weeks premature they will remain in NICU for the next few weeks.

SYMPATHY

The church's love and sympathy are expressed to the extended family and all the many friends of **Anna Louise Moore** in her death November 14, at home, after a long illness. The funeral was at People's Church on Wednesday Nov. 18.

THANK YOU

to all those who worked to make the **Spaghetti Dinner** a great success. Special appreciation to Jean Hitchens for organizing and guiding the whole process, to the youth for serving, and to Dave VanKavelaar and Chris Senato for their art of cooking the spaghetti and sauce.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday December 6 at 11:10 A.M.

**To elect new church officers
and approve a 2010 budget**

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion on Sunday December 6.

Your ESTIMATE OF GIVING card—

If you have not yet turned in your 2010 estimate of giving, please do so right away, so that the Board of Trustees can finalize a balanced budget.

Inquirers' Meeting

Sunday Dec. 6, at 11:10 A.M.

For anyone interested in learning more about The People's Church of Dover, and for those who would like to inquire about joining. Stay for the Annual Meeting and then gather in the Fellowship Room for discussion.

Church Van Policy

1. Driver must have at least 3 years' driving experience.
2. Driver must be at least 25 years old.
3. Driver must have a valid driver's license.
4. Driver must have no more than 4 points or 2 moving violations in the past 3 years.
5. Driver is responsible for leaving van clean after each use.
6. Driver is responsible for completing the usage log (recording date, driver, purpose of trip, and beginning and ending mileage and times).
7. All traffic violations are the responsibility of the driver and any moving violations that result in points against the driver's license must be reported to the church.
8. Driver must be insurable.
9. All minor (under the age of 18) passengers must have releases signed by parents or responsible adult.
10. Van will be used for church related purposes only as requested.
11. Driver is responsible for leaving the gas tank at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
12. Driver is responsible for turning in any gas receipts to the office.
13. Driver is responsible for picking up and returning the keys to the church office immediately after stated use or as soon as possible after using the van.

Obtain a **Van Use Request Form** from Mrs. Hotchkiss in the church office, complete it and return it signed. The Board of Management will receive the request and vote on approval.

Mar.2009

Men's Breakfast

Thursday December 17
8:00 AM at the
Countrie Eatery

SNOW CLOSING NOTIFICATION

If People's Church should be closed on a Sunday morning due to a snow storm, it will be broadcast on the following stations.

WDOV-AM radio
WBOC-TV

WRTX-FM radio
TV channel 27/47

BOARD OF DIACONATE

Our Church's Website

Have you looked at our church's website lately?
www.peopleschurchofdover.org Special thanks to Elinor Baker for all the work she puts into her job as our webmaster.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In true Thanksgiving spirit, the Board of Christian Education has many members to thank:

SPAGHETTI DINNER: successful because we had the help of 21 kids and as many adults. Thanks to all who helped and those who dined with us, we raised over \$700 for our church's missions! We also thank those who underwrote the costs.

ADVENT WORKSHOP: Successful angel-making under the leadership of Cheryl and Jenny Goldsmith and Jennifer Downs. The angels are beautiful!

ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY: Thanks to Pat Thompson for her leadership in the class "optimizing your health through deep breathing and gentle movement" We had 22 attendees and perhaps some members who would wish to continue this practice after the first of the year.

SECRET SANTA SHOP: Again, our thanks to Pat Thompson, who provided leadership in this effort, with sponsorship and the help from the Women's Fellowship of our church.

Advent offers many opportunities for our church family to enrich their faith as we wait for the birth of Jesus Christ. There will be beautiful decorations, the Chrismon tree, special musical presentations and two worship services on Christmas Eve. The earlier service will be geared toward families...the time and additional details to be available in the coming weeks.

The Board of Christian Education will next meet on January 10th of the new year. I am most proud of the entire board for its hard work and total commitment this past year. We all wish the entire church family a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jean Hitchens,
for the Board of Christian Education

Youth Group 2009 Children Ages 6-11

Purpose: To create a group that not only teaches children about Jesus, but also involves them in community service and social activities that reinforce His teachings.

Mission Statement: Teach children to incorporate the lessons of Jesus into their own lives through community service and social activities.

Jennifer

A separate newsletter was mailed to the children the last week of October. If your child is between 6 and 11 years old and did not receive a newsletter, please let me know and I will get a copy to you.

The Youth Group is getting ready for an exciting holiday season.

The Youth Group will be adopting an Angel from the Angel Tree and shopping for gifts. I will contact the children to arrange for our shopping spree.

On December 19th, the Youth Group will host a Christmas Party for the Angel Tree children.

BOARD OF FINANCE

Budgeted income is lagging behind the budgeted amount. The Estimates of Giving are short by \$710. The I Lieu of Pledge category is short \$7,740.63 based on the budget.

Acts of Faith have been truly successful this year. In addition to monetary donations, people were generous with white goods, office supplies, and other materials essential to running the church. Kudos for stepping up and helping. This program will continue through December and perhaps next year. Thank you for contributing.

The independent audit from Book & Associates is complete and available for review at the church office.

We are in the final stages of the budget preparation. The trustees prefer a realistic budget based on actual expenditures and donations. The People's Church budget is roughly 50% supported by the congregants' estimates of giving. The church uses money from the endowment funds to cover its obligation to Our Church's Wider Mission. Endowment money makes up 25% of the income needed for church operations.

Mission and Outreach needs an administrative person to take minutes, contact folks, and organize meetings. In addition, your help is always needed for events that fund the local missions. Among the local ministries, Missions feeds the homeless, collects gifts for children of prisoners [Angel Tree] and supports House of Pride.

The Finance committee is responsible for counting the weekly collection and the audit. The team members are only responsible to count the collection four months out of the year. There are at least two openings on the finance committee.

The Board of Management has purview over the operation of the building and the capital improvements. It is a huge job. All the things that apply to the building are the work of the Board of Management. Thank the Board of Management for replacing the air conditioner in the fellowship hall. Thank the Board of Management for the new sidewalk. The list goes on. If Building Maintenance and Capital Projects float your boat, please join the Board of Management.

The Board of Christian Education conducts the Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. Sunday School teachers are always in demand. The Christian Education board provides the Nursery. The Board of Christian Education listens to the congregant's suggestions to bring you interesting and useful Adult learning programs.

The Board of Diaconate is responsible for the liturgy. Communion is one of the visible activities of this board. Much is done that one would not notice unless it was missing. The Pastor and the Organist are paid out of the Diaconate budget. The Diaconate oversees the Memorial and Diaconate funds. The Diaconate fund helps people in need.

People give with their heart. Your talents are much appreciated by all the boards that make the People's Church run. Please look inside your heart and remember all the benefits that the church has given you. Please ponder how you can give back in gratitude for the blessings you receive daily. ACTS OF FAITH received \$2,525.46 to date. Thank you for all your donations.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Next Board of Management meetings -
Sunday, 12/20 at 11:10am

BOARD OF MISSION & OUTREACH

"COOKIE WALK"

The holidays are fast approaching, which means among other things, the need for cookies, lots and lots of cookies.

If you bake them or buy them, your opportunity to do so will be **Sunday, Dec. 13th** immediately after church service. Bakers start baking, buyers start deciding how many you will need.

As is our custom we will be selling the cookies for \$5.00 a pound. You can buy all one kind or mix and match.

It's called a "cookie walk" because you walk by tables of delicious cookies picking out what you want in your box, weigh them, pay for them and you are set for the holidays.

Bakers can bring their homemade cookies to the church Sat., Dec. 12th - 9 to 11:30 AM or Sunday before church.

The Board of Mission and Outreach thank you!

In preparation for the Angel Tree project we will have a couple of fund raisers

Please look for information to follow in upcoming newsletters regarding our hosting evening meals for the Homeless men from the Interfaith Mission for Housing Shelter. We are planning to obligate People's Church to a couple of weeks in the upcoming months. I would like to ask anyone who is interested in helping to coordinate these evenings to give me a call or talk with me at church. The Interfaith Mission for Housing Shelter is an ongoing project in the Dover Community that is growing in size and expanding its services. They will be renovating their new building in the next few months and are looking for all kinds of volunteers for construction and renovation. If you have an interest in helping the shelter in their remodeling efforts please let me know and I will be sure to connect you to the right person. I continue to support their efforts by serving on their board of directors and providing laundry pick up and drop off every Monday. Anyone interested in getting involved with this mission is encouraged to call the Shelter manager Erich Gillespie at the Shelter intake center at 736-3600 or contact me anytime and I will be happy to answer your questions and help in any way that I can.

On behalf of the Members of the Board of Mission and Outreach I would like to Thank ALL of those who continue to help and support our missions. We believe that one of the church's most important functions is to serve the community around us. Your continued support makes it possible for us to reach out to as many in need in our community as we can. Thank you!!!



Food Bank Sunday is December 6th. The items needed this month include **Beef Stew, Spam, Applesauce (cans), Jello, small boxes, and any other non-perishable items.** All donations will go to **First Baptist Church Food Bank.** Thank you for your kind donations, they are greatly appreciated. People's Church is asking that all checks be made payable to the **People's Church of Dover**, so that one check can be given to the designated Food Bank for that month. Thank you for all your generous donations.

There are folders provided in each **pew hymnal rack containing Food Bank envelopes.** Your donation can be put in the collection plate on any Sunday.

Thank you for your kind donations to the **Holy Cross Samaritans Food Bank** for the month of June. There were 60 food items donated and \$60.00 collected. All gifts were given to the **Holy Cross Samaritans Food Bank** for the month of June. Your generous offerings are greatly appreciated.

Sue Hunt and Ruth Harris
Board of Mission & Outreach

VOLUNTEERS

Flowers

12/06	Fred Hotchkiss
12/13	Fred Hotchkiss
12/20	Poinsettias
12/27	Poinsettias

Liturgist

12/06	Betsy Stewart
12/13	John Downs
12/20	Richard Merriwether
12/27	Jennifer Myer

Greeters

12/06
12/13
12/20
12/27
11/29

Ushers

12/06	Karl Swift Bill Hufnal
12/13	
12/20	Karl Swift
12/27	Phyllis Simpkins

If you would like to usher or greet on any given Sunday, please sign the sheet in the back of the church or call Sandy McNinch. We need 1 or 2 greeter and 4 ushers each Sunday, so if you can take a turn please do so.

Sermons & Scriptures

December 6 **"Peace Requires Something of Us"**
Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6

Holy Communion

PEACE

December 13 **"With Joy Draw Water"**
Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 1:46-55

JOY

December 20 **"Love in a New Key"**
Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:1-7

LOVE

December 27 **"Holy Ground"**
Quest – Rev. Gallihue
Luke 2:41-52; Exodus 3:1-15

Women's Fellowship

The members voted to sell RADA cutlery, etc. as a fund raiser. Catalogues and samples will be available at the spaghetti dinner and from WF members.

Additional decorated glass plates are still available for \$2 and \$3 each.

Marian brought Karen, our adopted client from Stockley Auxiliary Center, a gift bag and sugarless cookies for her birthday.

Our next meeting will be Monday, December 7 at 12:30pm. . All are welcome to attend.

Caring Hearts Helping Hands (698-1900)

We are not currently accepting any adult clothes, and only fall or winter clothes for children, please. We accept furniture, small appliances, kitchen items, linens, gently used board games (with all the pieces included) and always need cleaning supplies, paper products, personal hygiene items, and gifts for teen birthdays.

Our office hours are every Tuesday, 10 am - 2 pm; the first Wednesday evening of each month, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm and the first and third

Saturday of each month, 10 am - 12 pm. We are always looking for volunteers to help sort and hang gently used donations that come into our warehouse next to Jonathan Landing Golf Club house. Please feel free to come by any time.

If you are interested in helping or know of any teens or college students who need hours of community service, we would be happy to have their help as well.

Thanks again for all your support.

Fran Clinton and BJ Van Kavelaar

Your Church on the Internet

www.peopleschurchofdover.org

webmaster: Elinor Baker

www.chesapeakeucc.org

our local UCC association

webmaster: Rob Cox

www.cacucc.org

Central Atlantic Conference

www.ucc.org

National Setting: United Church of Christ

→ www.ucc.org/news

denomination's magazine: United Church News

www.iucc.org

web community and Twitter contact

www.ucc.org/disaster/swine-flu.html

information & resources about the H1N1 virus