



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

Under the Bell Tower

The Peace Surpassing Understanding

In Paul's letter to the Christians in Philippi (Macedonia) he used the phrase: "the peace of God that surpasses understanding." Do you have this peace? Have you missed it somehow? Or do you know anybody who has it? And just what is it?

"Peace" is the English translation of the Greek word EIRENE, from which the name "Irene" comes; but for Christians the word "peace," in whatever language, goes much deeper. For more than three thousand years "peace" has been a greeting, a farewell and a blessing among God's people. It's original was in the Hebrew language: SHALOM. It means not just the absence of anxiety, or noise, or war. SHALOM/ EIRENE/ PEACE means that your soul is firm, your heart is settled, your "self" is "together." It means wholeness—both feeling whole and actually being whole. When Paul wrote to the Philippians "May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds," he really meant the sense of SHALOM that "goes all the way down."

The Navajo people have a similar word. The Navajo language is almost impossible for non-Navajos to pronounce correctly, but the sound of their word is something like "hozhoh" or "hozroh." They think of HOZH OH as a combination of a solid life and health within and "beauty." The common Navajo blessing is "May you walk in beauty." Of course the modern Navajos take advantage of modern medical care, but they also continue to practice their traditional healing ceremonials, because a person can be physically well but not whole—cured of an illness but not at peace, out of HOZH OH. They desire to be restored to "beauty." So the diagnostician comes (a "hand-trembler," or a "listener") and determines what kind of ceremonial the person needs. Then they call a "singer," or maybe a whole troupe of singers to conduct the proper ceremonial. Nobody believes that a sand painting, a day full of dances to traditional songs, or an emetic can cure cancer or a broken arm; but within the community of "beauty" these traditional practices can and do continue to restore Navajos to HOZH OH—to that deep peace of soul that's worth more than money.



"May the peace of God that surpasses understanding keep your hearts and minds": EIRENE, SHALOM, HOZH OH. These words are about spiritual health and healing. So also our church's quarterly anointing with oil and prayers for healing are about more than curing an illness: they are about "the peace of God surpassing understanding."

-Dan

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT THROUGH
DECEMBER 30, 2008**

Annual Church Budgeted Income	\$221,705
Income Weekly	4,264
Budgeted Income to Date	221,705
Income Received to Date	208,472
Budget Expenses to Date	- 221,705
Net Difference	\$-13,233.

ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER

	2007		2008	offerings
12/02	124	11/30	102	2,577.30
12/09	115	12/07	141	5,046.55
12/16	131	12/14	129	1,894.30
				Transfer 15,000.00
12/23	<u>182</u>	12/21	162	3,025.50
12/30	<u>99</u>	12/28	<u>77</u>	<u>4,499.14</u>
	651		611	\$32,042.79

January Birthdays

01/01	Taylor JONES
01/01	Thomas HASTINGS
01/03	Lillyanne GROVE
01/05	Ethel SEDULE
01/05	Judith REED
01/07	Michelle Hufnal DAVIS
01/08	Barbara VAN SANT
01/08	Arthur S. LEWIS, Sr.
01/08	Ruth Ann KEMP
01/10	Sarah COLE
01/14	Robert ROOS, III
01/20	Tina POTTS
01/20	Tracy SALMON
01/21	Peter BORTZ
01/21	Walter WOREK
01/23	Avery MAYAN
01/24	Jessica CHASE
01/25	William WHARTON
01/25	Jennifer GOLDSMITH
01/27	William MUNTZ
01/28	Jane KENT
01/29	Sylvia LATOURETTE
01/30	Elinor Lee BAKER

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

May God Bless You on Your Birthday



PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS

- Mary Alice Bailey** – beginning new round of radiation therapy.
Dorothy Biddle – continues physical therapy for her knee.
Marian DePue – in Kent General Hospital briefly Dec. 17-18 for heart-rhythm problems.
Tomris Eldridge – family stress.
Mary Reed – recuperating at home
Dale Stewart – resting at home after a stroke.
Fred Stites – recuperating at home from a stroke.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS

- Tyler Banez** – Cleah Muntz's co-worker's son, recuperating after a wreck.
Drexel Biddle – Cliff's nephew in GA, heart and lung problems.
Pamela Bush – Connie Biddle's sister: recurring GI problems, dehydration.
Eichelberger family – Allbees' friends: several medical problems.
Casey Garcia – Friend of Jane Dodd, in treatment for respiratory problems.
Michael Harris – Ruth Harris' son, hospitalized Nov. 21 following a seizure (complications from surgery two years ago).
Bill Henry – Dodds' friend suffering from advancing Alzheimer's Disease.
Lucille Horsey – Carol Skadsberg's friend.
Seth Kopp – Carol Skadsberg's son-in-law, hospitalized for tests.
Sue Leonard – Cleah Muntz's sister: pain from spinal deterioration.
Keith Nicolls – Fred Hotchkiss' uncle: kidney failure.
Janice Rice – Jerry Rice's sister-in-law: ruptured disk.
Diane Smith – Dodds' friend with abdominal problems.
Eva Smyth – Connie Biddle's mother: recuperating from fractured hip.

PRAYERS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

- Meena Ball** – preschool friend of Dale & Betsy Stewart.
Faye Denkenberger – friend of Marie Clement.
Mary Ford – Betsy Stewart's friend.
Barbara Jackson – Cleah Muntz's cousin.
Howard Killian – Angela Downs' father.
Kathie Latourette – Sylvia's daughter-in-law.
Gordon Minner – friend of Jeff and Judy Reed.
Charlena Murdock – Reeds' friend in South Carolina.
Christina Neustad – Betsy Stewart's niece.
Diane Nickelson – friend of Brenda Polasko.
Lillian Schrantz – Cleah Muntz's sister-in-law.
Judy Smith – Phyllis Simkins' niece.
Michele Stevenson – friend of the Allbee family.
Jean Stulir – friend of Lyn Arnold: has 3 small children.

Ethan Williams – 7-yr.-old friend of Hotchkiss family.

"Ann Marie" – friend of the Allbee family.

Deborah VanNeff – friend of the Allbee family.

Others whose friends or family have requested prayers without names.

DEPLOYED MILITARY PERSONNEL

Spc. Adam Conard – Joan Conard's nephew: Army: to Iraq.

Darlene Casebeer – Cleah Muntz's niece: Air Force: to Iraq.

SYMPATHY

The church's love and sympathy are expressed to Irene Deamer and her family in the death of her beloved sister **Hazel Olliver Lightner** on December 16 after a long illness. She was in a Hospice facility in southwestern Ohio, near her home.

BAPTISMS

During the 7:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Service three children who are no longer infants were baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ:

Dylan Allbee and **Jordan Allbee**, sons of Heather Allbee; and **Kerah Dill**, daughter of Erica Dill, who comes to church with the Lindseys.

Address Changes

Helen Singleton has moved from The Heritage assisted living facility to Silver Lake Center. **Daisy Hill** has moved from Capitol Nursing Home to her son Rick's home where she is continuing to receive therapy after a stroke.

ANNUAL MEETING

Every January the members of People's Church hold an Annual Meeting to receive reports from the various boards, the pastor, and the updated directory of active church members. The next Annual Meeting will take place after worship on Sunday January 25, 2009.

Confirmation Classes

Youth between the ages of 11 and 14 years who have not confirmed their Christian faith, or who have not received Christian baptism, please contact the church office or let Rev. Griggs know if you are interested in participating in Confirmation Classes this winter. 674-4177.

SPECIAL THANKS

In worship on December 7 Sylvia Latourette gave to the church a new **Chrismon Tree** in memory of her daughter Linda. Also, appreciation to Richard Johnson for working with Sylvia in the selection and transportation of the tree, and to everyone who stayed after worship Dec. 7 to decorate.

Thank You

To our church family for all your cards, gifts and holiday greetings. Your kindness means a lot to us.

Harriet and Dan Griggs

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW

Men's Breakfast – 3rd Thursday each month, at the Countrie Eatery on N. State Street.

BOARD OF DIACONATE

HELP !

We *need more volunteer USHERS*. If you can help, please contact Sandy McNinch soon (698-0186) sandymcninch@comcast.net

The next Diaconate meeting will be January 18, 2009 at 11:10 AM.

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.

100 Years at Peoples Church of Dover

Come Celebrate May 17, 2009

Cornerstone Removal
Cover Dish Luncheon
Choral Society Concert

May 23, 24, 2009

Special Speakers and Quests
Special Services
Catered Banquet
View History Display
(do you have anything to display)
Plan to Attend

The Centennial Plate has arrived for observation and ordering!

Please see **Louise Warfield** or **Contact the office to order!**

The price is **\$20.00!**

The picture of the Church in different phases is on the front and a brief history is on the back of the Plate. Each Plate is boxed for giving as a gift. Order now so that you will be sure to get one.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Happy New Year! Our new year begins with the following Christian Education classes and activities:

- Sunday School classes begin January 4, 2009
- The Board of Christian Education meets January 11, 2009, after the worship service
- The new Youth Group meets for the first time on January 18, after worship, and lunch will be served. There is more information about this event under Youth Group News
- The Adult Learning Opportunity meets on January 25, 2009, with a light lunch provided.

Jean Hitchens, Chairperson

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.

This year, the Youth Group will meet monthly to talk about Jesus, have fun and engage in community services. The tentative plan is to meet one month, perform a community service the next month and so on through the year. The meetings shouldn't take more than 60 to 90 minutes, with event days running a little longer. There will also be fun social activities throughout the year.

I hope that parents will encourage their children to make the commitment to attend the Youth Group meetings and participate in the community service projects. Parents are always welcome to join us on outings.

Why only 6-11 year olds?

The reason the Youth Group is limited to this age group is that I feel it is the best age group to work with for the purpose and mission of the Youth Group. All children of the church will be invited to social activities, but I believe the younger children will not easily understand the concepts that will be introduced in the meetings and are too shy at this stage to engage in the community service projects that we are going to undertake. Also, teaching to the 5 and under age group requires a

different approach. This will be a youth driven group and it requires children who are willing to be open. It will not work if I have to force participation on them. As the group grows and ages, it will transform into different age groups but at the start, to give it the best possible chance of success, it will be limited to the 6 to 11 years old.

Jennifer Myer, Youth Group Director

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management met on December 17th. Improvements to handrails in both the stairs to the balcony and basement stairs are complete. This included adding a new handrail on the opposite side of the existing one up to the balcony. Some of the molding was bad and was replaced.

Bids are being obtained for improvements to the Bell Tower, sanctuary beam work, painting parts of the sanctuary in preparation for the centennial celebration, and for replacement of select windows in the basement. Bids are also being acquired for replacement of the air conditioning system damaged by vandals. A wireless sound system for the sanctuary is being investigated for costs and efficiency.

A few people have volunteered to apprentice for operation of the chimes in the Bell Tower. If you are interested, there is still time to contact the board and attend the training.

If you have any questions or concerns for the board, please do not hesitate to contact BJ VanKavelaar, Chair, or any of the members. The next meeting of the Board of Management will be after service on January 25th, 2009.

BOARD OF MISSION & OUTREACH



Food Bank Sunday is January 4th. 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 September. There were 50 food items donated and \$55.00 collected. All gifts were given to the **Holy Cross Samaritans Food Bank** for the month of August. Your generous offerings are greatly appreciated.

Sue Hunt and Ruth Harris,
Board of Mission & Outreach

BOARD OF FINANCE

TRUSTEES BUDGET

The trustees have struggled with the budget this year. Next year we find that expenses will exceed the anticipated income. In an attempt to make a realistic budget, the trustees has dispensed with using "what we hope and pray for" figures in the categories of 'estimates of giving' and 'in lieu of pledges'. Taking the actual figures from 2007 and the first three quarters of 2008, the 2009 budget was developed.

You will see that the church has roughly 100 pledging families pledging less than \$20 per week to equal \$100,000. As a tithe, that is equal to 10% of \$1,000,000 per year income. The operating expenses of the church total more than \$200,000. The church draws \$55,000 from the investment income.

The large deficit has to be made up by 'in lieu of pledge,' special offerings, renting the facility, and fundraising.

Included in the 2009 budget is a line for Acts of Faith. This is a way to give to the church for specific items in the budget. These contributions are in addition to your estimates of giving.

Your sponsorship will help the church pay for needed services such as electricity and heating oil. The list below provides some of the choices. Each month we will announce how much in Acts of Faith the church received. The Acts of Faith contributions will help even out the cash flow so that the church can pay its bills.

AMOUNT * #	EQUALS SUM	EQUAL TO THE COST OF
\$200 x 4	\$800	1 MONTH'S OFFICE SUPPLIES
\$300 x 12	\$3,600	1 MONTH PHOTOCOPIER LEASE & SERVICE CONTRACT
\$1100 x 8	\$8,800	1 FILL UP OF HEATING OIL
\$300 x 3	\$900	1 QUARTER'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
\$164 x 2	\$328	1 HALLWAY CARPET SHAMPOOING
\$125	\$125	ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SPECIAL BULLETINS
\$800 x 2	\$1,600	1 FIRE SYSTEM INSPECTION
\$325 x 12	\$3,900	1 MONTH'S CLEANING
\$156 x 52	\$8,112	1 WEEK'S SALARY FOR THE ORGANIST
\$100 x 12	\$1,200	1 MONTH'S SALARY FOR THE NURSERY ATTENDANT
\$1,000	\$1,000	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM
\$100	\$100	MONEY TO STOCK COKE MACHINE FOR YEAR
\$270 x 52	\$14,040	1 WEEK'S LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR CHURCH
\$195 x 12	\$2,340	1 MONTH'S VERIZON BILL
\$363 x 26	\$9,438	2 WEEK'S ELECTRICITY
\$200 x 4	\$800	1 QUARTER'S CLEANING SUPPLIES FOR CUSTODIAN
\$365	\$365	THIS YEAR'S WATER & SEWER BILL
\$350 x 2	\$4,200	1/12 OF THE COST OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT

If giving in one lump sum is too much to handle you can promise to give an amount above your pledge to cover the specific expense.

*\$2 more per week would
stock the coke machine
\$4 more per week would pay
the Verizon bill for a
month
\$21.15 per week would fill
the oil tank once*

Sample Sponsor Card

IN ADDITION TO MY REGULAR
ESTIMATE OF GIVING, I,

Your name

NAME

PROMISE TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH
OF MY FAITH BY CONTRIBUTING

\$ 300 FOR One
month's

Lease on the photocopier

By March 15, 2009

The People's church is your church, the home of your faith. Please help support the church.

Lyn Arnold
Moderator

VOLUNTEERS

Flowers

01/04 Mary & Bob Cooke
01/11 Ruth Ann Kemp
01/18 Cheryl Goldsmith
01/25 Louise Ferguson

Liturgist

01/04 Mary Johns
01/11 Phyllis Tarburton
01/18 Courtney Mys
01/25 Joan Caulk

Ushers

01/04
01/11
01/18
01/25

Greeters

01/04
01/11
01/18
01/25

Sermons & Scriptures

January 04 **"No One Has Ever Seen God"**
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18

Holy Communion

January 11 **"Water and Life"**
Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11

January 18

January 25

Presidential Inauguration
UCC-related services around the Presidential
Inauguration

- Sunday, Jan. 18** – Plymouth Congregational UCC in DC
– evening prayer service 202-723-5330
- Monday, Jan. 19** – Christ Congregational UCC in
Silver Spring – evening prayer service
followed by a reception for UCC
people in town for the inauguration
301-424-6733
- Tuesday, Jan. 20** – Peoples Congregational UCC in DC
- prayer service and big-screen viewing
of the inauguration 202-829-5511
- Tuesday, Jan. 20** – Westmoreland Congregational UCC
in Bethesda – evening “Inaugural Ball”
301-229-7766

Ecumenical Events around the Presidential
Inauguration

- Monday, Jan 19** – Metropolitan AME Church in DC;
2:00 PM
Congressional Black Caucus hosts
Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Space is limited: RSVP the
Conference Minister (Jrdeck@aol.com)
- Monday, Jan. 19** – All Soul’s Unitarian Church in DC
– prayer service 5:00 – 8:30 PM
Well-known ecumenical and
interfaith leaders will be present
- Wednesday, Jan. 21** – National Cathedral –
ecumenical/interfaith prayer service
in the morning

Women’s Fellowship Meeting

Our annual Christmas covered dish luncheon, hosted by Nancy Guth and Jean Hitchens was enjoyed by 22 members including our pastor, Dan; our administrative assistant, Cindy; and our organist, Phillip. Nancy led us in a devotional message accompanied by Phillip on the organ and the singing of Christmas music.

The Women’s Fellowship will sponsor a client from the Auxiliary of Stockley Center. K.W. is a 52 year old woman who has no visitors or family connections; she lives in a group home here in Dover. We will do some shopping for her for Christmas and try to address her extra needs.

Members wrapped the decorative plates for our shut-ins and volunteers were assigned to deliver them before Christmas.

The Judas bag collection of \$307 will be delivered to the Kent Ecumenical emergency food and fuel fund. Thank you to all who participated in that donation.

Final arrangements for food and drinks for Dover First Night Out, 5pm-10pm, were discussed. A sign-up sheet for donations and work schedule is posted for volunteers.

Program suggestions are being requested for next year. We will need to set up a program, budget and brochure for 2009.

Our next meeting will be Monday, January 5th at 12:30pm. Shirley will present a book review of Until My Blindfold Comes Off, written by her neighbor, Craig Harvey, who was blinded at the tender age of 19. All are welcome to attend.

Caring Hearts Helping Hands (698-1900)

On behalf of Caring Hearts Helping Hands, thank you to all who have donated and volunteered for Christmas!! We served 91 families, over 400 people with your help. Families came in on Dec. 16th and 20th to pick up their Christmas gifts.

We are currently accepting gently used fall and winter clothes. We particularly need the larger sizes (XL, 2X etc.) and children’s clothing. We will 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. Merry Christmas and a very happy, healthy new year to all.

Fran Clinton and BJ Van Kavelaar

Opportunity for the People's Church to provide transportation

Jeff Reed has researched getting a 12-passenger van for the church to use on Sunday to pick up church members who need a ride to church.

The van could also be used for going to Church functions and youth group outings.

The van would not require a special driver's license. The cost of the vehicle could come from the investment portfolio.

The ongoing costs of ownership include:

- Insurance
- Gasoline
- Maintenance
- Providing drivers every Sunday

The item and its associated costs are not included in the budget for 2009. Perhaps someone has a creative way to pay for these costs of ownership.

If there are people who would consider using the service or driving the bus on Sunday, please contact Jeff Reed or the Church office.