



Pastor's News

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plain.
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strain:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

A couple of weeks ago the conductor of a choral group I'm in asked the chorus to vote on which Christmas carols we should invite the audience to sing with us at our December concert. As I recall we ultimately had to narrow it down to three. What a tough choice that was!

Nearly a year ago now I asked you to share your favorite hymns. Now I'm curious about your favorite Christmas carol. If you had to choose just one, which would it be? I'll leave a basket with cards and a pencil in the vestibule; take a moment to share your answer! I'm not promising that we'll sing them all, but I'll certainly try to work in the most popular ones during the Christmas season.

Christian Education

During the month of November our children and youth talked about ways that they can give through the church to help people in our community and throughout the world. **Both the Sunday School children and the Youth Group have decided to raise money to make sure that people have enough to eat.**

The Sunday School children talked about how they might use offerings that they bring

every week. After considering a number of worthy causes, they decided to give their offerings to the **Tunbridge Food Shelf**.

The Youth Group decided that it would participate in the **Heifer International "Read to Feed"** program. Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty by providing families in need with livestock from which to obtain food and income while teaching self-reliance. Families that participate in the program are expected to pass offspring of their animals to another family. Youth group members are looking for sponsors to pledge any amount per chapter of the books they read during the month of December to go toward buying an animal for a family.

Special Advent Event

The second **"Ways of Knowing God"** event will start at **4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8** in the Parish House. Anne Leeds and Deadra Ashton will lead a contemplative reading of an Advent scripture after which participants will create an art piece inspired by the text. It's the perfect opportunity for a little bit of quiet reflection during this busy holiday season.

DivorceCare

DivorceCare will host "Surviving the Holidays," a warm, encouraging and helpful one-time event. Featuring video instruction and group discussion, it helps participants deal with the intense pain of separation and divorce during the holiday season. The event will be held at the Tunbridge Church

Parish House on Tuesday December 11, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The regular DivorceCare series begins again January 8, 2013 ends April 9, 2013. All sessions are held on Tuesdays between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. at the Parish House.

December Events

Every Sunday our **Worship Service** is held at **10:00 a.m.** and **Sunday School** for children is held during worship. **Adult Bible Study**, led by Rev. David Wolfe, is held at **8:45 a.m. in the Parish House.**

The Weekday Bible Study group meets every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the **Parish House.**

Rev. Ashton's Parish House Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. except December 26-January 4 when she will be out of town.

Regular Meetings:

- **Parish Council:** First Sunday of the month in the Parish House after the worship service.
- **Christian Education Committee:** Second Sunday of the month after worship in the Parish House.
- **Adult Choir:** Wednesdays 7:15 p.m. October-May.
- **Children's Choir:** Wednesdays 6:15 October- May.
- **Community Food Shelf:** open every Friday between 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Youth Group:** Third Sunday of the month at 2:30 p.m., October through May.
- **DivorceCare:** Support Group — meetings, Parish House, Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Special Events:

- **Church decorating and carol Sing:** Friday, December 7 beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- **“Ways of Knowing God”:** Saturday, December 8, 4:00 p.m. at the Parish House.
- **Gift Items for Christmas Baskets:** drop off in church on Sunday, December 16.
- **Caroling:** Friday, December 21, meet between 5:30-6:00 p.m. at the Parish House. We will leave the Parish House at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments at the home of Matt and Amy Frost following caroling.
- **Candlelight Christmas Eve services:** Monday, December 24; 6:00: Children's Pageant, 8:00 Lessons and Carols.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who helped to make November 4, Stewardship Sunday, such an enjoyable event. **Kathi Terami** led the **Fundraising Committee** in crafting an annual appeal packet. **Elaine Howe, Nancy Howe and Sue Barnaby** made presentation boards filled with memorabilia from the Tunbridge Congregational and Methodist Churches and **Euclid Farnham** provided facts about the churches. Thanks also to **Gordon Mitchinson** for an entertaining presentation on what it means to be a Methodist and to **Elsie Farnham** and her crew for organizing the potluck luncheon.