



Ben Salem Voice

**Ben Salem United Church of Christ
PO 128, Andreas, PA 18211**

December 2009 - January 2010

Dear Members and Friends of Ben Salem UCC,

The Advent season has started. Christians felt that a festival honoring Christ's birth should be preceded by a period of preparation. The word Advent means coming or arrival. It refers to the historical coming of Christ in human form some 2000 years ago. The season of Advent challenges us to fulfill John the Baptist's exhortation: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

In the beginning Advent did not have a fixed length of time. In the 5th century Advent had grown to forty days. In the 9th century it assumed its present form and began with the Sunday occurring nearest to November 30. Between the 6th and 8th century it replaced Easter as the beginning of the church year.

The Advent Wreath lends itself to the teaching of the meaning of Advent. The circular form represents eternity. It holds four candles which remind us of Christ as the light of the world.

It was not until the 4th century that the Church set December 25th at the celebration of Jesus' birth. The actual date of the birth of Jesus has never been ascertained with certainty. The Romans celebrated Saturnalia, a feast in honor of Saturn, their god of agriculture. The early Church realized the advantage of having a major Christian celebration fall at the same time so that new converts might be more ready to forget their old pagan holiday if they had a new Christian festival at the same time. Pope Julius I established the date of December 25 as the most probable date of Jesus' birth, and this became the standard date for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

It was thought that the Wise Men came some days later than the birthday of Jesus and so their arrival was celebrated on Epiphany (the 12th day after Christmas).

The origin of the Christmas tree is uncertain. It may be a revival of the pine trees the Romans used in their Saturnalia celebration, which were trimmed with trinkets and small masks of Bacchus. A later tradition suggests that Martin Luther (1483-1564) popularized the Christmas tree in Germany. He was so impressed by the many stars in the winter sky and by the beauty of the evergreen that he attempted to transplant this beauty into the home by means of the decorated Christmas tree. By 1800 the Christmas tree was used throughout Germany, and by 1850 it was used throughout the world. In our increasingly secular society it is becoming "the holiday tree" rather than just associated with Christmas.

The origin of Christmas carols is associated with Francis of Assisi. He was eager to present to the common people popular songs in their own language that dealt with the Christmas message. He is also associated with the introduction of the crèche or nativity scene. He built the first crèche in 1224 in the Italian town of Greccio in an effort to convey visually to the townspeople the message of Jesus' birth.

There is the danger that the real spirit of Christmas is lost in commercialization and secularization. Almost all Christian customs have a Christian origin or a firmly established Christian interpretation. If we familiarize ourselves with them we can understand that they point to the Christ Child in whom the Christmas spirit finds its highest expression.

May this Advent and Christmas season be one of celebration in your life this year as we recognize God's gift of love as He came and lived among us to offer us forgiveness and newness of life.

Pastor Quayle

Worship Services for December and January

Upcoming Worship Schedule:

- December 6 - **10:30 A.M. ONLY** Advent II "The Shepherd's Story" [Luke 2:8-21]
Congregational Meeting to Vote on 2010 Budget & Officers
2:30 PM Christmas Hand Bell Concert with "Lost & Found"
- December 13 - Advent III 8:15 AM [Sermon] "Fully God, Fully Man" [Phil. 2:5-11]
10:30 AM Christmas Music Sunday with Children's Message
- December 20 - 8:15 A.M. Advent IV "Preparing for Jesus" [Matt. 3:1-12]
10:30 AM Sunday School Pageant "Live from Bethlehem"
3 P.M. "A Light in the Lord" Blue Christmas Service in Chapel
- December 24 - 2 PM Christmas Eve / Communion "A Miracle" [Luke 1:26-30]
7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service Prelude
7:30 PM Communion/Candlelight Service "A Miracle" [Luke 1:26-30]
- December 27 - 8:15 and 10:30 A.M. Service of Lessons & Carols
"Maintaining the Joy in Christmas"

Joyful Noise

Offerings:

December 13
January 10, 2010



Communion Services

December 24

2 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.

January 3[both services]



A Christmas Concert of Singing and Ringing

Sunday, December 6, 2009

2:30 PM at Ben Salem UCC

Featured will be Men's Gospel Quartet, "Lost and Found," and the Ben Salem Hand Bell Choir. The concert is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served following the concert.



A Light in the Lord... A Lonely Event Blue Christmas Service[Matt. 1:18-25]

A Healing Prayer Service

Sunday, December 20 - 3:00 PM

A Service to help us remember and mourn loved ones who have died...in the preparation for the Celebration of the Birth of Christ...

All are welcome, whether or not you have recently lost a loved one.



Christmas Music Sunday

December 13, 10:30 A.M.

"The Reason for the Season is Jesus"

Participation by Church Music Groups/Children's Message



Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 20, 10:30 AM
featuring Sunday School classes,
Cherub Choir

Pageant Title:

"Live from Bethlehem"



Christmas Eve Services

2 PM Christmas Communion Service

7:00 PM Prelude

7:30 PM Christmas Eve Communion &

Candlelight Service/ Senior Choir

Hand Bell Choir, Men's Chorus

Sermon Theme: "A Miracle"

Luke 1:26-30



January 2010 Worship Schedule:

January 3 - 8:15 and 10:30 A.M.

[Communion at both services]

January 17 - 8:15 and 10:30 A.M.

January 24 - 8:15 and 10:30 A.M.

January 31 - 8:15 and 10:30 A.M.

Interested in Membership...If you are not currently a member of Ben Salem Church but are interested in becoming one please contact either Pastor Quayle at 570-386-3870 or Lonnie Christoff at 610-462-0883. An Information Session will be set up to accommodate those who are interested.



Scheduling Events at Ben Salem Church: To prevent scheduling problems...Prior to calling meetings or events, please check with the Church Secretary at 386-3870 to make sure that the date you have planned is available.



***** N U R S E R Y *****

NOW AVAILABLE DURING THE 10:30 A.M. SERVICES

[for children ages 1-5]

**Attendants will be down-stairs in Nursery Sunday School Room beginning at 10:15 A.M.
Please bring diapers and wipes for your child, and a snack if desired.
If your child is sick, please do not bring to nursery.**

Mission News

Email : missions@ptd.net

Next meeting: Monday, December 21, 2009 at 10 AM in the parlor



Hunger Relief ... December WORLD VISION HIV & AIDS Care

The AIDS pandemic impacts millions of families across the globe. In fact, it is estimated that 6,000 children lose a parent every day to AIDS and AIDS-related illnesses.

With your help, World Vision will continue working to reduce the impact of HIV and AIDS on children and families through innovative and compassionate care and prevention efforts. Your gift can help provide basic necessities like food, clean water, and health care. Additionally, you'll support our programs in HIV-prevention education, HIV testing and counseling, and outreach programs and alternative vocational training for high-risk sex workers, truck drivers, and migrant workers.

World Vision has been working on the global AIDS crisis for nearly 20 years, assisting the most vulnerable victims. With your help we can continue providing desperately needed care to children and families. And thanks to government grants, your gift today will double in impact.

Please consider supporting the Hunger Relief Program for the month of December.



Please watch upcoming bulletins for Christmas Mission Projects!



**Bethany Bows,
Gift Cards for Children of Prisoners
Christmas Fund**

Church Business

How to Contribute to Our Operating Budget: [to pay Ben Salem's bills]

- + Use your weekly envelope [in your envelope packet]
- + Designate "Current Expenses": [Benevolence is only for Missions - OCWM]
- + Place in offering plate or send to the Church: Ben Salem UCC, PO 128, Andreas, PA 18211

2009 Church Board Members:

President: Sharon Elder

Vice President: Michael Barndt

Secretary: LaVaun Shanton

Elders: Sharon Elder, Brian Nothstein, LaVaun Shanton, Dayle Smith

Deacons: Michael Barndt, Sally Beck, Barry Fink, Walter Keeck, Terry Lusch, Bernice Steigerwalt, Ron Steigerwalt, Kelly White

Interim Pastor: Rev. Don Quayle

Church Secretary: Dollie Behr

Treasurer: Dawne Beidleman

Financial Secretary's Address: Susan Messina, 66 River Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252

Next Church Board Meetings: December 21, 7 P.M.
January 18, 2010, 7 P.M.

Cemetery Association Officers:

[Meetings held on first Thursday of each month at 7 P.M.]

President: Paul Kuehner

Secretary: Brian Beidleman

Treasurer: Kelly White

Trustees: Richard Bealer, Cliff Snowberger

Caretaker: David Fritz

Note from Church Office and Financial Secretary:

Remember, it is important to keep us informed of any address changes. Please give changes of address to either Dollie Behr or Sue Messina.

NOTES FROM OUR TREASURER: When paying for Bulletin Sponsorship and Flower Sponsorship, please make checks payable to Ben Salem United Church of Christ. Our bank will no longer accept checks payable to individuals and endorsed back to the church. All checks for these items must be made payable to "Ben Salem UCC" or they will be returned.

All Memorial Fund Donations: Checks should be made payable to Ben Salem UCC. Bank policy will not allow us to deposit any memorial fund checks made payable to the Building Fund. All memorial donations should be made payable to Ben Salem UCC. After our Treasurer receives the donations, monies will then be disbursed to whichever fund they are to be deposited in [ie Memorial or New Building Fund]

Needed for 2010...

Altar Flower Sponsors: [Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC]

A sign up sheet is located in the narthex. Cost of flower sponsorship is \$20.00. If you would like to sponsor flowers call Cindy Smith at 570-386-4248. ***Payment should be sent directly to: Cindy Smith, 707 Hoffman Rd., Lehighton, PA 18235.

Bulletin Sponsorship: [Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC]

Sue Messina is taking sponsorships for Bulletins. Please call 570-386-2880 with your sponsorship information or e-mail Sue at suemess@ptd.net. Cost of Bulletin Sponsorship is \$7 per week. *** Payment should be sent directly to: Susan Messina, 66 River Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252.

Call to Congregational Meeting December 6

after the 10:30 A.M. Worship Service
Purpose to Elect Officers
and to vote on the 2010 Budget [on next page]
[There will be no 8:15 A.M. Service that day]

Committee Meetings in Dec. & Jan.:

Called to Care - January 11, 2010 - 1 P.M.
Property Committee - Dec. 17 & Jan. 21, 2010 - 7 P.M.
Missions Committee - Dec. 21, 10 A.M.
Fundraisers - January 4, 2010 - 7 P.M.
Membership/ Church Growth - Dec. 7, 7 P.M.
Christian Education - Dec. 2, 6:30 P.M.
Worship - Jan. 11, 2010, 7 P.M.

Ben Salem History Books are still available

Contact the Church Office [570-386-3870] There is a book on display in the narthex for anyone wanting to browse.

Note from Financial Secretary & Treasurer

Envelopes for 2010

Your 2010 offering envelopes have arrived. You can pick them up on the table in hallway next to the Church Office.

Contribution Deadline for 2009: December 27

All contributions must be received by December 27 to be credited to 2009. Also, please submit all bills for 2009 to our treasurer, Dawne Beidleman by that date.

Special Prayers

Prayer Chain: This is a way for anyone to request prayer for a specific need....[or thanksgiving or joy]. To have

our Prayer Chain pray for you: Contact Betty Nothstein at 570-386-5644. If you would like to be called with others' prayer requests as part of the Prayer Chain, also call Betty.

Called to Care: Trained volunteers from our church are available to assist the Pastor in visiting people. If you would like a "Called to Care" volunteer to visit you, please contact Pastor Quayle at the Church Office [570] 386- 3870. **The next "Called to Care" meeting will be held on January 11, 1 P.M.**



Support Our Troops - All military personnel

Chad Wehr - deployed to Iraq [2nd tour of duty]

**Please notify us if you know of anyone who is serving at this time or if any names are missed or if status changes.

Our Sympathy is extended to the Family of Robert A. Arner. Robert passed away on Nov. 1.
to the Family of Kirby Miller. Kirby passed away on Nov. 4.
to the Family of Glenn Nothstein. Glenn passed away on Nov. 18.

Welcome New Members: Hans and Stephanie Krause were received as members of Ben Salem UCC on November 8, 2009.

Baptisms & Dedication:

Thomas Elton Blair, son of Terry and Nadine Blair was baptized on November 8, 2009

Sierra Melody Loch, daughter of Eric and Jessica Loch was dedicated on November 8, 2009.

Kolton James Krause, son of Hans and Stephanie Krause was baptized on November 22, 2009

New Building Fund

Next Fundraisers Meeting: January 11, 2010 at 7 P.M. at Social Hall

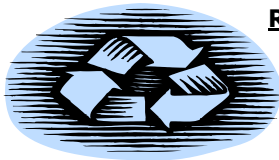
How to contribute to the New Building Fund:

To contribute money to the New Building Fund:

***Make check payable to Ben Salem UCC but designate "New Building Fund"

***Use a separate envelope -included monthly in your 2009 envelope packet or available in the Church narthex.

If you use your weekly envelope it causes much extra paperwork. If you have any questions pertaining to the New Building Fund...please contact Dolores Kuehner at 386-4877.



Recycle...save your soda cans...

Larry Nothstein and Herlin Haberman continue to take aluminum cans to Zaprazny's. To help with this project...bring your **aluminum soda cans** [crushed or uncrushed] to the Old Social Hall and drop them off at the lower basement entrance. Benefits the New Building Fund. **Please do not throw any other garbage items in with the aluminum soda cans.**

HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS CANDY SALE

to benefit the Ben Salem U.C.C. New Building Fund

[Help needed to make candy, Dec. 7, 8,14, and possibly the 15th, 8 A.M. each day]

Orders must be received by Wednesday, December 2 - Pick-up on Thursday, December 17

Candy is packaged in half-pound containers. - Cost: \$4.00 per half pound

Please specify # of half-pound containers.

Kind	Milk	Dark
Peanut Butter Cups		
Peanut Butter Rolled in Peanuts		
Butter Creams		
Peanut Rolled Creams		
Peanut Clusters		
Raisin Clusters		
Coconut Creams		
Chocolate Truffles		
Molded Choc. Mini Pieces		
Chocolate Covered Mini Pretzels		
Non-Pariels		

Fudge	# of ½ lbs.
Chocolate	
Peanut Butter	

Assortment (Peanut Butter, Peanut Rolled Creams & Coconut Creams)	Milk	Dark
Sold in pound boxes only - \$8.00 for 1 pound box		

Chocolate Covered Pretzel Rods Decorated for Christmas	Milk	Dark
\$2.00 for a package of 4 rods		

Christmas Lollipop	Cost \$1.00	
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Name _____ Phone # _____ Total \$ amt. ordered _____

Make checks payable to "Ben Salem U.C.C."
Orders may also be placed by calling Sue Messina at 570-386-2880.

The AVON Christmas and Holiday Display was held on Nov. 14-15

Thanks to everyone who participated. The profit from the project was \$540.22.

November Hoagie Sale Profit: \$1,265.28

Thanks to Sue Messina and Shirley Frantz, who organize the sales and all of the faithful helpers, also to those who sold and purchased hoagies throughout the year...your help was greatly appreciated. Since September 2006, we made 10,025 hoagies [22 sales]. In 2009, we made 2,985 hoagies. Total profit since 2006 was \$18,751.85.

Soup, Filling & Bake Sale profit - \$682.03



UCW Homemade Cookie & Fundraiser Candy Sale -

Dec. 19, 9 AM to 1 PM [Help is needed...Please bake your

favorite Christmas cookies [we need a wide variety of cookies] and bring

them out for the UCW to sell!] Also, if you forgot to order your candy supply

for the holidays...there will be homemade candy on sale from the Fundraisers.

Dec. 19 will also be the last day to purchase tickets for the Blanket

Makers Quilt Raffle.



Looking Ahead to February - Our Fundraisers will be holding their Annual Longaberger Basket Bingo

on February 13 at the Mahoning Valley Ambulance Building.

Watch bulletin for advance ticket sales.



Blanket Makers/Quilters

The Blanket Makers and Quilters will take a break from their work until January 14. On Jan. 14 they will begin meeting Thursday mornings at Social Hall upstairs in the classroom area. Contacts for the group are Dollie Frantz [386-4034] and Betty Nothstein [386-5644]. Helpers are always welcome! Come out and join them.

The group is now selling chances on a "Wig Rose" Quilt that was made by the Quilters. The last chance to purchase tickets will be at the UCW Cookie and Fundraiser Candy Sale on Dec. 19.

Fashion Republic Clothing and Toy Drive: We are grateful to everyone who participated in this fundraiser. There was a very large amount of items donated. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way. The amount raised was \$401.31 which will be given directly to the Ben Salem General Fund. **Thanks to the Blanket Makers** for coming up with this idea for a fundraiser & for their hard work in organizing it.

Another Project that the Blanket Makers worked on was **Children's Clothing & Children's Needs Drive for Methodist Services**...The blanket makers group collected many useful items and Methodist

Services sent a beautiful thank you note to the group telling them of how grateful the recipients of these items were. Several of our families contributed to this project... If you or anyone you know has children's clothing or useful children's items, Methodist Services will find a home for them.



Membership & Church Growth

EVANGELISM OUTREACH

A Slogan contest was held during November. There were approx. 50 slogans submitted...thanks to everyone for their great ideas...it was very hard to choose. The winner of the contest was Nancy Keeck with her entry "Come Visit God at Our House". Nancy was presented a \$20 Gift Card to Wal-Mart during the Nov. 22 Worship Service. A flier was also designed to highlight our Christmas Services and activities. The flier was inserted in the Nov. 23 edition of The Times News.

Next meeting -December 7, 2009 - 7 P.M.

The Discipleship Group has been meeting each Sunday evening from 7 to 8 P.M. at the Church.

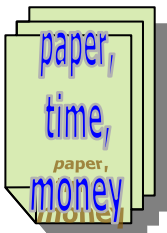


Christian Education Meeting:

The next Christian Education Meeting will be held on December 2 at 6:30 P.M. at the Church. All Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders are asked to attend this meeting.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Bible Study Group will meet on Thursday mornings at 10 A.M. in the Church Parlor. Join the group in a time of faith sharing and fellowship as we consider Warren W. Weirsbe's book: "Heirs of the King / Living the Beatitudes".



WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HELPING BEN SALEM CHURCH SAVE PAPER, MONEY AND TIME?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL?

If so, please fill out the following form and place it in the box located in the narthex or mail it to Ben Salem UCC, PO 128, Andreas, PA 18211.



Name/s _____ e-mail: _____

We will be compiling a list of e-mails of those people who would rather just receive an e-mail and starting with the February 2010 newsletter we will try this method.



United Church Women News:

**Christmas Party / Luncheon: Sat., December 5, 11:30 AM to 2 PM
Bring a covered dish and join the group for a Christmas get
together...games & singing...Join the fun!**

THE PRAYER PARTNER PROGRAM

Ben Salem's Prayer Partner Program is a way of reminding us to pray regularly for one another. Everyone, including members and friends of all ages, is invited to participate. Each person should agree to pray regularly for the secret "partner" and to send a brief note or card periodically to let the partner know someone is thinking of them. [The program will begin on Nov. 29, 2009]



Here's how it works:

- * **Fill out the attached form for yourself**
- * **Place it in the box in the narthex no later than December 20, 2009**
- * **Please do not pick a name from the box...your Prayer Partner name will be assigned to you.**
- * **Next Christmas, reveal who you are to your Prayer Partner**

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6)

Name _____

Address with zip code _____

Date of Birth _____ Wedding Anniversary [if applicable] _____

Thank You Note:

To our friends at Ben Salem United Church of Christ,

The family and friends of Kirby E. Miller would like to thank all of you who prayed for Kirby and our family and friends. He had the prayer shawl with him at the hospital. Kirby went to be with his Lord on November 4, 2009. Thanks to Betty and Janice for having this special project. You are all very special to us and we all care about all of you. Times like this when words just are not enough, our family is truly blessed to have friends like all of you. Sincerely and God Bless...Charlotte

and the Kirby Miller Family

Dear Ladies [Prayer Shawl],

I would like to thank you for the prayer shawl you gave me. I am making good use of it every day. I am always cold, it keeps me nice and warm. Love, Lillie