



December 2009



Greetings in the Name of the Christ Child,

In our family birthdays are special. When the kids were young you got breakfast in bed and also your choice of whatever you wanted for dinner and of course you got to choose what kind of cake you wanted. Presents were purchased with attention to detail and the desire of the birthday boy or girl. Hopefully by the end of the day each person felt like it was “their” day.

But for Christmas—it’s not your birthday! From the looks of things that may come as a surprise to some. Our society has really gone overboard with Christmas, and I don’t mean the birth of Christ, I mean the commercialism of Christmas. There’s a great internet video clip illustrating how we spend \$450 billion on Christmas! Check it out: www.hoaymaw.org/spend-less-on-gifts-give-more-presence

The week before Halloween I was walking through the grocery store and the Christmas candy, wrapping paper, tree stands, and other paraphernalia were already edging out the Halloween items. I, as I am sure we all do, love Christmas music. But starting in stores and on radio two weeks before Thanksgiving? I’d rather they’d extend the time into the week between Christmas and New Years. But they end

with Christmas Day. Why? Because the shopping season is over?

I am going to challenge each of us this Christmas season (yes, I know it’s Advent but you know what I mean) to focus on the One whose birthday it really is—Jesus’ birthday. Perhaps we could ask the question, “What does Jesus want for His birthday from me this Christmas?” Maybe we should start this new tradition with our children. Bake a birthday cake together and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. Invite each member of your family to think of a gift for Jesus. Who knows what the Christ Child might want: a couple of extra hours helping those in need, more time in God’s presence, an attitude shift. Second Hand Rose, Tubman Academic Skills or Love INC would love to get a call from any of us. Or perhaps the Child of the manger would ask us to commit to read through the Bible this year or some other activity that would draw us closer to Him.

Ask Jesus: “Jesus, what would you like for your birthday from me this year?” No matter what this Child asks for let us all strive to remember December 25 is His birthday and not ours.

Wishing you a Christ filled Christmas!

Pastor Bob



Remember in Prayer

REMEMBERED IN OUR PRAYERS

Members: Barbara Bates, Joy Beurket, Catherine Carroll, Tyler Carroll, Blanche Cole, Janet Croushore, Margarette Dillinger, Eric Eichenhofer, Pam Harris, Faith Krzywicki, Dana Jones, Danny Jones, Jean Patrick, Joanne Polivka, Elaine Van derKruik, Phyllis and Bob Wagner.

Please keep friends of our church in your prayers:

Melva Anthony, Kelvin Arden, Irene Feller, Ron Germano, Rich Koretsky, Hans Mueller, Helen Murnin, Diane Platt-Keil, Pat Smith, Tag Thayer, Roy VanVoorhis and Peg Young. To renew names on the prayer lists, call the Church Office (452-2933) by the third Sunday of each month.

Thank You!

Please note that the Journey deadline for the January newsletter is one week early due to Christmas. It is on Wednesday, December 9

Thanks to Brian Lundin, Toni Simeone and Matthew for helping out with the fall Highway Clean Up in September.

Bill Richardson

Dear PUMC friends: Thank you again for your loving gifts during Pastor Appreciation month.....for beautiful greeting cards and notes of appreciation, delicious food, a variety of gift cards, and generous checks. Your kindness and generosity touch me deeply. It's a joy to serve among you. Lot's a' hugs.

Pastor Marty

PUMC is happy to welcome three new families into our fellowship:

The Davis family, Bob, Bette, and Bryan. Bob and Bette also have a daughter, Katherine.

Thomas and Annemarie LeCount and their infant daughter Isabella

Margaret and Lou Varuzzo, Jr.



United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women unit shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the worldwide mission of the church. Our meetings are open to all women. Come join us!! For information call Geri Hoernes, president (462-2316).

“Thank Banks” and UMW Pledges Remember the extra coins we were collecting in our “thank banks” over the summer, please bring them to our December luncheon. We will dedicate them then. Also, many of you *pledge* yearly to UMW and if you haven’t given your 2009 pledge to Gladys Bierce, our treasurer, she would love to receive it. *Thank you, Gladys, for all your hard work and reminders. We appreciate all you do for us.*

Friendship Circle Wed Dec 9 7:00pm Lounge
Program: Christmas Party Please bring warm gloves or mittens, hats and scarves for the children of the Beacon Community Center. All sizes are needed. For more information call circle president Anne Christmas (914-474-3438).

Wesley Circle will attend the UMW Christmas Luncheon on December 9.

Christmas Luncheon Wed Dec 9 12:00 Fellowship Hall
For our December Christmas meeting will be joining with our young “Christian mom’s” group. We will share our lunch and program. If you would like to join us for buffet luncheon, please call Geri Hoernes (462-2316) or Sally Joseph (486-8054) for a reservation. Our meeting is open to all PUMC women. This will surely put extra joy in your Christmas season!!



Christmas Eve Services **Thursday, December 24, 2009**

6:00 pm Family Service
Child care is available

8:00 pm Service of Light
Child care is available

11:00 pm Candlelight Communion Service
No child care available

Seeds of Strength Wrap-Up

The Seeds of Strength committee would like to thank everyone for their enthusiastic support of our 6-month campaign. Through the 6-month "growing season", we were able to raise **\$22,075** for our PUMC cash reserve. This will greatly alleviate the cash flow issues which are often encountered during the first quarter of the year when heating expenses are highest. As an additional bonus, we have a beautiful flower garden brightening the windows of Fellowship Hall.

While the official Seeds of Strength campaign is now complete, contributions continue to be welcome. If you have a special event that you would like to celebrate through a Seeds donation, you may use a Seeds of Strength envelope, or simply write "Seeds of Strength" on the memo line of your check.

The Seeds committee would like to express their special thanks to the following people whose generous contribution of time and resources lent greatly to the success of the campaign:

Our gardeners who designed and painted the garden in Fellowship Hall:

Joy Benson, Gretchen Gould, Alexxis Hoernes, Gerianne Hoernes, Tony Krzywicki, Debbie Kudzia, Bea Northway, Doris Stahl

Our gardeners who opened their homes for our Garden Tour:

Will and Cheryl Cass, Warren and Kathy Hochlowski, Dave and Earlyn Kiesling
Doris Stahl, Bob and Frances Thompson-Gee, Curtis and Carla Vinson, Priscilla Wendover

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to our bookkeeper Joe Olah and secretary Louise Dalton, both of whom patiently and graciously accommodated our special requests every step of the way. They and the rest of our wonderful PUMC staff are truly a blessing to us all.

Wishing blessings to all from the Seeds of Strength committee:

Dale Borchert, Gerianne Hoernes, Patty Little, Gael Morey, Doris Stahl, Carla Vinson, and Curtis Vinson



The Angels are coming

Oh- they have been here all year. They are YOU! Here at PUMC we have served the homeless children at Hudson River Housing for many years. This year we have 120 names to choose from. Up from years past. You and your family can be an angel to one or more children just by picking a tag and purchasing a gift. The gifts on the tag are just for suggestion. We would request that gifts remain in the modest category since all the children open their gifts together. You may have chosen a child from the same family as another so we would like them to be similar in giving. If your heart is still wanting to give more consider choosing an additional child. One gift and a pair of pajamas or a sweatsuit should be purchased, wrapped, tagged with the tag you take from the tree and returned under the tree NO Later than Dec 13. Thank you from the bottom of my heart- you all really do make a difference. For more info- Pam Terwilliger 452-7022

Lenten Devotional

Once again the Adult Discipleship Committee will be compiling a Lenten Devotional written by members of the congregation. The booklets will be given out on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, February 17. Sign-up will begin on Sunday, January 3 and entries will be due on January 31. Please consider being a part of this inspiring project as each person shares their faith walk with all. Guidelines will be available when you sign up.

Advent Family Night

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT will be Saturday December 5 from 5-7 pm. Join your fellow PUMCers as we celebrate the season by having a Pot Luck dinner together, make banners, decorate the church for Christmas, and sing familiar Carols. O Come all ye faithful, sign up on the bulletin board outside of the Fellowship Hall for a main dish, salad or dessert. For more information contact Kathy Betz 226-3387.

Stewardship

Hopefully by now you have joined the other participants of our church in "Bringing in the Sheaves" by turning in your pledge card. If not please do so as soon as possible. The Finance Committee is anxiously awaiting the results of our Stewardship Drive. Without all of our support and input they cannot put together our 2010 budget. So let's help them by bringing in the full harvest.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY!!!

When: December 12
Where: Fellowship Hall
Who: Children of all ages!!

Join us for a fun time celebrating the birth of Jesus. Sign up by December 5 on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.



FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Where did this year go? Here it is Advent and Christmas-for the record, my favorite season.

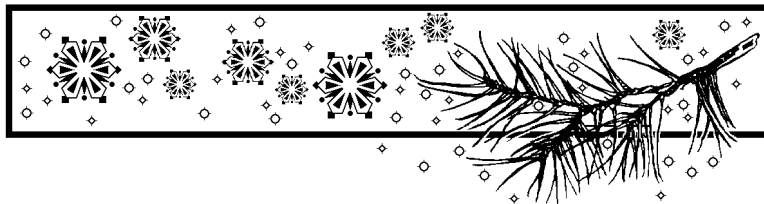
Why? A welcome to Mary's Son and the hope He brings to this world. His birth fills me with a joy that almost leaves me breathless. Let us all welcome the Babe this season. Let us welcome Him into our hearts. Let us welcome His love and promise of new life if only we believe in Him, serve Him, worship Him, and spread the news of His birth!

I invite you to worship Him this season with music-a gift we all share. Begin with worship on the First Sunday in Advent as the Chancel Choir sings "The King is Coming Soon". Continue in worship while the choir sings "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come", "Sweet Lamb", "King, Ting King", "Still, Still, Still", "Glory To God" from Handel's MESSIAH, and Gretchen Gould's "Little Holy Child". Come, sing the hymns of the season and let God's gift to us fill your hearts with His Love!!

In Christ's Service, Polly James

CHARGE CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Many thanks to those of you who were able to attend the November 8th Charge/Church Conference at Trinity LaGrangeville UMC. We heard about the UMC's activities on the District and Conference level. We met with 7 other churches in our area for a little over an hour. Each of the churches present had paid their apportionment in full and each of us received a certificate in thanksgiving. At our own business meeting all the members and officers proposed by the Committee on Church Leadership (Nominating Committee) were voted in, reports were received, Martha Epstein's candidacy for ordination was continued, and our Lay Speakers: Dale Borchert, Chris Garrett, Don McNeil and Frances Thompson-Gee were continued. We finished our business in about 45 minutes. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii, indicated that doing the Charge Conferences this way was an experiment. She'd like to know if you liked it or didn't like it. Your responses can be sent to the District Office Email: [nyctnyac\(at\)aol.com](mailto:nyctnyac(at)aol.com). Charge Conference booklets are available at the church for those who would like to read what our church has been up to in 2009.





Notes on Praise

Joyful Ringers will be presenting a concert for the residents at the Manor at Woodside in Poughkeepsie on Monday evening, December 14, at 6:45. The concert will feature our own bell choir, playing well-known carols and other festive seasonal pieces, a special bell presentation by the residents of the Manor, and some additional entertainment provided by our youth. All are invited to come join in the fun!

Participating in a nativity is a meaningful way to celebrate the birth of our Lord. It brings a sense of reality to the story which we retell every Christmas. We are looking for children, youth and adults to populate a nativity scene, which will be created on the stage throughout our 6:00 PM Family Christmas Eve service. No speaking parts, just be willing to be a visual part of the story of Jesus' birth. Please contact Marcy Conners, through the church office, to volunteer, or for more information.

Last year we had a Caroler's Choir on the stage to help lead musical worship during our 6:00 PM Family Christmas Eve ser-

vice. It was such a success that I'd like to invite families and individuals, young and old, to join us again this year. I'd love to be able to fill the choir loft with carolers to enhance our celebration of Jesus' birth! There is no rehearsal involved, just contact me to let me know of your interest. We will meet a few minutes before the service for instructions and to distribute music.

We are so happy to have some new folks joining us in leading worship. VIP always welcomes new singers who can stay reasonably on key, as well as instrumentalists with talent to share. Joyful Ringers is also happy to receive new members, who come with experience, or a desire to learn.

Please contact Anne at (845) 462-5582, or by email at [bobeepbeep\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:bobeepbeep(at)hotmail.com) for information about any of these events or ministries.

Celebrating the Child...Who is the Light!

Anne Ciraulo
Worship/Music Leader
Handbell Director

BE A LAY SPEAKER

Classes will soon be underway to train lay speakers. Currently we have 4 members of our congregation who are Lay Speakers. We'd love to have more, especially women. If you are interested please speak with Pastor Bob or one of our current Lay Speakers. See pg 13 in the Journey for more information.

HEALING PRAYER CORNER

The Healing Prayer Team works quietly behind the scenes praying with those who come to pray about a physical problem or health issue, or for a loved one, or for a neighbor or co-worker. You are most welcome to come for prayer. Don't be bashful! Come and let God surprise you with His presence and His goodness.

Opportunities for prayer:

1. Every Holy Communion Sunday during and after both services. There is a team in the back of the sanctuary waiting to pray for you after Communion and there is a team just down the hall, second room on the left (follow the signs).
2. Every Sunday between services, 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., you are

invited to come to receive prayer in Room 34, upstairs, last room on left.

3. At the Thursday night dinners: this month: December 10th in Room 34 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
4. Just about anytime by calling to set up an appointment for prayer. (Frances Thompson-Gee, 462-2468; frances.tgee(at)gmail.com). We'd love for you to call!

Did you know our prayers are presented before God in heaven in golden bowls? Check out Revelations 5:8. Our prayers matter. Our prayers are important to God! Something always happens when we pray. God asks us to pray so we do. Let us pray with you.

SPR Committee

This month we highlight our Church Secretary, Louise Dalton. Louise has done a wonderful job of taking on this responsibility full-time since the illness and passing of Lorraine Lingad. Louise shared time with Lorraine before and had her own responsibilities for the days she worked. It is amazing how she made this adjustment and had put her own special mark on all that she does. The church office is always a busy place but in the last month it has been especially so. There has been the compiling and production of the charge conference booklet, Stewardship mailings, Thanksgiving bas-

kets, assistance with the needs of events by groups in the church such as the Bazaar. Through it all, Louise has been gracious and helpful and always willing to do whatever is asked of her. Frequently she has to stop what she is doing, like the Sunday bulletin, to tend to someone's need. She also greets anyone who comes into the office with warmth and compassion. We at PUMC are surely blessed to have Louise as our church secretary and we should take every opportunity to thank her for all she does and if you are able ask if she is in need of something. It is the least we can do for this special lady in our lives.

December Calendar

<p style="text-align: center;">Tues. Dec 1</p> <p>9:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Trustees</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thurs, Dec 10</p> <p>3:00 pm Collate Bulletin 5:00 pm Down Home Dinner 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sun, Dec 20</p> <p>6:00 pm Youth Fellowship</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wed, Dec 2</p> <p>7:30 am Prayers 6:00 pm Joyful Ringers 7:15 pm VIP's</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fri, Dec 11</p> <p>11:00 am Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mon, Dec 21</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thurs, Dec 3</p> <p>3:00 pm Collate Bulletin 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sat, Dec 12</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Breakfast 1:00 pm Jesus B-Day Party</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tues, Dec 22</p> <p>9:00 am Bible Study 3:00 pm Collate Bulletin</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Fri, Dec 4</p> <p>11:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm TGIF Bowling</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sun, Dec 13</p> <p>1:00 pm Sandy's Share Gr 6:00 pm Youth fellowship</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wed, Dec 23</p> <p>7:30 am Prayers 6:00 pm Joyful Ringers 7:15 pm VIP's</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sat, Dec 5</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Breakfast 11:00 am Candy Making</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mon, Dec 14</p> <p>4:00 pm 2nd HR Giving</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thurs. Dec 24</p> <p>See Journey for Christmas Eve Schedule</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sun, Dec 6</p> <p>6:00 Youth Fellowship</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tues, Dec 15</p> <p>9:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm SPR</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fri. Dec 25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mon, Dec 7</p> <p>7:00 pm Visitation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wed, Dec 16</p> <p>7:30 am Prayers 6:00 pm Joyful Ringers 7:15 pm VIP's</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sat, Dec 26</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Breakfast</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tues, Dec 8</p> <p>9:00 am Bible Study 8:00 pm Program Council</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thurs, Dec 17</p> <p>3:00 pm Collate Bulletin 7:00 pm Book Club 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sun, Dec 27</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wed, Dec 9</p> <p>7:30 am Prayers 12:15 Christian Mom's and UMW lunch 6:00 pm Joyful Ringers 7:00 pm Friendship Circle 7:15 pm VIP's</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fri, Dec 18</p> <p>8:00 am Collate Journey 11:00 am Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mon, Dec 28</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Sat, Dec 19</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Breakfast Youth Christmas Ball</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tues, Dec 29</p> <p>9:00 am Bible Study</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">Wed, Dec 30</p> <p>7:30 am Prayers 6:00 pm Joyful Ringers 7:15 pm VIP's</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">Thurs, Dec 31</p> <p>3:00 pm Collate Bulletin 7:00 pm Book Club 7:00 pm Choir</p>



Youth update:

November was an eventful month for our youth group! Our youth had opportunities to welcoming their friends, many of whom do not go to church, have fun and create new friendships in a loving Christian community. This was modeled through TGIF, Rock the Sound concert and other fun social events, such as informal football on the church lawn! We also encouraged our youth to think about how to physically show God's love by serving and providing for the needs of others. This happened through the Love INC service project, the Thanksgiving dinner for the seniors of our church family and Homeless shelter support. Thank you to all of those in our church body who gave of their time and donated items and basic commodities to make this happen! All of this happened within the context of the spiritual discipleship that happens as youth fellowship.

The Christmas season means goodies and gift-giving. Let our youth help you

with both! We will be selling our delicious homemade fudge and truffles each Sunday until Christmas, beginning December 6th. These make great gifts for friends, family, teachers, bus drivers, hair dressers, paper carriers, scout leaders, and everyone else! (And don't forget to buy a box for yourself!) All proceeds go to our PUMC youth mission teams.

We also have a need for adult participation in our international mission to Mexico in August 2010. Many of the leaders who helped last year are unable to go again this year. We are also looking for someone who may be willing to lead the Mexico mission team. If we do not get enough adult support, we may not be able to go this year. We believe strongly in the mission trips of this church as it encourages all of us to be faithful to God's passion for the world, as Jesus said to the disciples in Acts 1:8 *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Dec. 4	FRI	TGIF! Bowling @ Mardi-Bob
Dec. 5	SAT	Christmas Candy Making
Dec. 6	SUN	Youth Fellowship
Dec. 13	SUN	Youth Fellowship
Dec. 14	MON	Outflow service project: Visit nursing home
Dec. 19	SAT	Christmas Ball Outreach
Dec. 20	SUN	Last Youth Fellowship night of 2009
Dec. 22	TUE	Angel Tree

**To The Poughkeepsie United
Methodist Church Family**

The annual Friendship Circle “pie bake” was held on Monday, November 2 and Tuesday November 3. The chairladies of this event were Polly Huff and Bea Northway. My roll was in getting all the supplies needed.

I feel it is important to mention all the donations that were made to us which helped immensely in cutting the cost which made our profit that much more.

The following stores and there donations (vouchers) were:

Stop and Shop	\$20.00
Price Chopper	10.00
Wall Mart	25.00
Hannaford	20.00
Adams	50.00
Totaling \$125.00	

In addition to the voucher donations, the following orchards donated apples:

Hurd Family Orchard – Clintondale, N. Y.
Pavaro Orchard – Highland, N. Y.
Meadowbrook Farms – Wappingers Falls, N.Y.

Approximately 232 pies were baked and sold in those two days.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who put in many hours peeling, coring, mixing and toping all the pies.

Grace Raunick

KEEP INFORMED

Our Conference and District both publish newsletters that let you know what is happening in our local and national Church.

For our District Newsletter send an email to our District Office at nyctnyas@aol.com and the District secretary will gladly put you on the list.

For the Conference Newsletter, “The Vision” go to the Conference web site: www.nyac.com under the list of quick links click on “*The Vision*” (not Newsletters) and read about what is happening. While there you can of course look at the rest of the site. Happy reading.


Message from the Finance Committee

As we entered our last two months of the year, the Finance Committee was encouraged by our church's financial situation. We exited the month of October in a positive cash position. However, it is noteworthy that the church budget was planned to finish the year with income and expenses balanced and, as expected, our November and December contributions this year, like previous years, are key to meeting our full year balanced budget objective.

Our pledge contributions for the full year make up 84% of PUMC's budget income for 2010. The Finance Committee would like to encourage all of us to ensure that our pledges are up-to-date by year-end. As of the end of October, \$286,532

pledges were contributed against a full year pledge total of \$383,970. The \$97,438 difference is the outstanding pledge contributions anticipated for November and December. Those contributions are critical to achieving our year-end balanced budget. If you are unable to fulfill your pledge, please do inform Joe Olah, our church bookkeeper, by calling the church office. You may also speak to Pastor Bob. A reminder that all contributions for the 2009 tax year must be in the church office or postmarked by Thursday, December 31, 2009.

The Finance Committee joins the Stewardship Committee in encouraging everyone who has not done so already, to turn in his or her pledge card as soon as possible.

	<p>The NY/CT District Lay Speaker Ministry Course for 2010 prepares laity to provide a ministry of caring, leadership, and communicating God's word.</p>	<p>This is <u>for all lay people</u>, to open new doors for ministry and energize your church. Our District Superintendent and our Bishop, strongly support this course.</p>
<p><i>Current Lay Speakers: You may also take certain classes as an Advanced class. Tell your friends who may <u>not</u> want to become a Lay Speaker that they are welcome to sign up for individual classes.</i></p>		<p><u>Six Saturdays from 8:30* am to 3:45</u> January 9 & 23; February 6 & 20; March 6 & 20. *first day is 8am</p> <p>Cost: \$35.00 (Scholarships available and travel time considered. Also early bird, if you sign up by Dec. 1 deduct \$5.00)</p>
<p>Where? @ Jesse Lee Memorial UMC, 207 Main St., Ridgefield, Ct. 06877</p>		<p>Questions?: Elaine Winward: ewinward@optonline.net 914 669-5264</p>

Make Ornament Cookies!

Make Christmas ornament cookies to hang on your Christmas tree.



You will need:

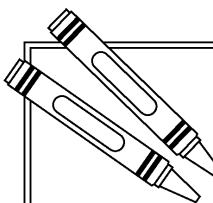
- * package of refrigerated cookie dough
- * rolling pin
- * cookie cutters (star, bell, tree, etc.)
- * cookie sheet
- * icing
- * a drinking straw
- * ribbon
- * an adult to help!



How to make them:

1. Roll out the dough and cut shapes with the cookie cutters.
2. Place on cookie sheet.
3. Use the straw to make a hole near the top of each cookie.
4. Bake according to the package directions.
Important: Have an adult help!
5. When cool, decorate the cookies with icing and tie a ribbon through each hole.
6. Hang them on your tree or give them as gifts to friends!






Just for KIDS

The Angel Appeared

Luke 2:10-12

There were shepherds in the fields watching their flocks. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to them. Find the words that the angel spoke. First fit the words from the list into the squares. Next, write the words on the correct lines.

Do This
be sign
has find
all baby
for lying
not bring
you great
joy Today
town David
that afraid
good people
news Savior
will Christ
been cloths
born manger
Lord wrapped



“ _____ . I _____ of
 _____ 24 26 1A 5 _____ 3A 8 13 18
 the _____
 _____ 4 27 16 9A 1A 2D 7 _____ 15 _____ 12
 in the _____ of _____ a _____
 _____ 28 _____ 23 _____ 20 _____ 22 1D _____ 3D
 to _____ ; he is _____ the _____ .”
 _____ 8 _____ 19 _____ 10 _____

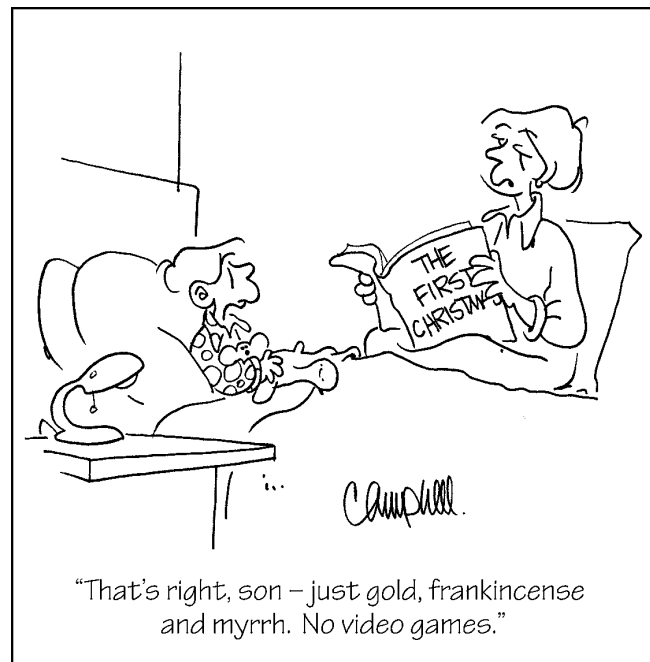
Answer: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Hi Everybody, it's Timothy!

The weather this year has not helped me get in the mood for Christmas! I mean Pastor Bob said frost still hasn't killed some of his plants and many of his summer flowers are still blooming. By this time last year we already had snow on the ground! Geez! I was hoping to get in the mood for Christmas sooner rather than later. I guess the weather is not going to help me. Pastor Bob reminded me that there are a lot of people who celebrate Jesus' birth with no snow. I told him I felt sorry for them and would ship them some. He then reminded me that Christmas is not about weather, food, presents, music, or anything else but it is about remembering that on this day, December 25, many years ago God came to be with us. God became that Child in the manger.

When he said that, I remembered last year my family and I made sure to get the Advent devotional from Church so we could read stories and prayers about Jesus' coming and how special it was. We also lit our Advent Wreath to help count down the days 'til Christmas. We went to Advent Family night, too, and tried to be at every service between Thanksgiving and Christmas so that we'd be ready to welcome Jesus. I hope that all of you will think about doing some of these things. And help your parents too. They sometimes get distracted by all the things of Christmas.

And remember,
God loves you and so do I,
Merry Christmas,
Timothy



Look for the **POINSETTIA TREE** in Fellowship Hall starting on Sunday Dec 6. There are ornaments (made by our Sunday School children) on the tree with names of our members who are at home (and rarely get out) or are in a nursing home.

All you need to do is:

1. Look for a name of the shut-in on the back of the ornament.
2. Remove the ornament from the tree, sign your name next to the shut-ins on the delivery form...then
3. On Christmas Eve after the 11:00 Worship Service or anytime in the next few days, pick up a poinsettia and deliver it to the person named on the ornament.

Let's make a special effort this Christmas to remember those who were at one time very active among us in this church. We can show our appreciation to them by taking some time out of our day to visit with them. Thank you and may God bless you this Christmas Season.

Poinsettia Order Form

(Deadline to order is December 6, 2009)

Help decorate the altar for Christmas!



GivenBy _____

In Loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

Phone _____ Cost \$10.00

I will take my flowers after the 11:00 Christmas Eve Service (circle one)

YES _____ NO _____

Flowers remaining will be delivered to our shut-ins by the Visitation Ministry.

Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church
2381 New Hackensack Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-4260
(845)452-2933 FAX (845)452-3103

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The Deadline for January Journey is **December 9, 2009**

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Robert Thompson-Gee, Pastor

Martha Morrison, Pastor of Visitation	Polly James, Music Director, Organist
Jeff and Katie Sanchez, Directors of Youth	Anne Ciraulo, Worship-Music Leader
Marcy Conners, Director of Children's Ministry	Karyn Millham, Editor, Newsletter