



January 2010



Greetings in Christ Jesus our Lord,
 For the January Newsletter I have taken excerpts from my Charge Conference Pastor's Report prepared in November. This will bring you up to date with the happenings of PUMC.

"As I reflect over the last 12 months this verse comes to mind.
"When you pass through the deep waters, I will be with you."
 Isaiah 43:2

Though it has been a difficult year we have known God's presence and God has brought us to the other side. At the beginning of 2009 it became apparent the slump in the economy was quickly becoming a downhill slide. The Finance Committee realized some hard decisions needed to be made. Every area was asked to cut their budget. The Staff Parish Relations Committee faced the task of trying to cut an already bare bones budget. Difficult decisions were made that affected salaries of many of our staff. These sacrifices made it possible for the Church budget to be balanced and kept us from going into debt.

The Finance Committee took other actions as well. The first was to encourage everyone to stay current with their pledge. Choosing electronic giving helped even out income for

the year instead of stacking it in December as had happened in the past. An additional action was taken to form the "Seeds of Strength" campaign that helped raise capital to be a permanent buffer during the high winter heating and plowing season as well as the summer slump. Thanks to all who made this possible.

In spite of these cuts many have made sure that programs, activities, and outreaches of our church have continued to not only survive but to grow. We joined with other churches in 2008 and 2009 for our Thanksgiving Basket outreach and were able to help more individuals than before. Second Hand Rose reached a wonderful milestone, the \$1 million dollar mark for outreach this year. PUMC continues offering us an opportunity, not an obligation, to be vehicles of hope. Our Healing Prayer Team has grown, led its first "School of Healing Prayer Level 1", and continues to offer healing prayer on Holy Communion Sundays, between services, at Thursday evening suppers and any time a person wishes to schedule a prayer time.

For many of us the death of our long time church secretary Lorraine will mark 2009 with sadness. As a new pastor here 12+ years

Continued on pg 2



Please pray this week for our members: Barbara Bates, Joy Beurket, Catherine Carroll, Tyler Carroll, Blanche Cole, Janet Croushore, Margarett Dillinger, Eric Eichenhofer, Jean Glass, Pam Harris, Faith Krzywicki, Dana Jones, Danny Jones, 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 and Roy VanVoorhis. To renew names on the prayer lists, call the Church Office (452-2933) by the third Sunday of each month.

ago I can say she was a Godsend! Lorraine always made sure my "i's" were dotted and my "t's" were crossed. She was invaluable in keeping me straight in all things. She is missed.

Whenever I am going through "deep water" Frances is the life preserver God has placed in my life. She, and Alicia and Justin, are certainly my blessings from God.

Louise Dalton, our part time church secretary, has filled in the gaps caused by Lorraine's loss. Although not full time due to the budget cuts, Louise certainly gives full time. I am incredibly grateful as a complicated situation became less stressful. Thank you, Louise.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention the greatest hope that God has given PUMC—**YOU!!!** Each of you who work in outreach, sit in the pew, teach Sunday School, lead small groups, play and sing in music groups, count the offering on Sundays, ushers, serve dinners, prepare devotionals, sit on committees, help the youth, drive people to appointments, pray for our church, etc. etc. etc. is part of the hope that we have together in Jesus Christ. THANK YOU!

Other church staff has been just as giving. As pastor I have watched with great appreciation that in spite of the lack of financial resources, and diminished salaries they have pulled out "old" material, stretched what they had, discovered new uses for old items, and led our church admirably. Each of them deserves our thanks!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Bob Thompson-Gee

Thank You!

Christmas brighter for 122 children and their families.

Thank you angels. Hope your holidays were a bit brighter knowing You made

Thank you for the prayers and concerns during my operating and recovery,

Nora Hunt



United Methodist Women

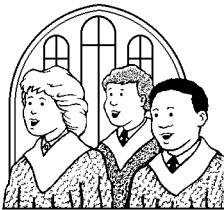
United Methodist Women unit shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the worldwide mission of the church. Our meetings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

UMW The December storm cancelled our Christmas luncheon. If you have money for "Thank Banks" or pledges, please see/call Gladys Bierce (463-6143).

Friendship Circle Wed Jan 20 6:00pm Dining Out
Our January meeting "dining out"! Please watch the Sunday bulletin for reservation information. You will also receive a call from our circle telephone chain. If you should miss these, you can call our Circle President Anne Christmas (914-474-3438). This is always an enjoyable time.

Wesley Circle Wed Jan 27 1:00pm Lounge
Program: Our circle president, Wanda Traver, who is an experienced traveler, will entertain us with slides of her visits to many of our National Parks – creation handiwork of God!! Everyone is welcome. A short business meeting and refreshments will follow Wanda's presentation. For information call Gladys Bierce (463-6143).

During our cold days of winter, please remember projects for the fall bazaar, prayer shawls or other projects that you have for mission. It warms the heart to be active and brings the love of Christ to others



After a very busy and hectic musical season, your Chancel Choir and Organist wish each of you a blessed, peacefilled New Year! My personal thanks to our wonderful choir who, despite illnesses and snowy nights, continue to inspire and lead us in our worship! Blessings and Love to all.

Polly James

INTERESTED IN BIBLE 101?

I will lead a four week introduction to the Bible during the Sunday School hour, 9:45 to 10:30 a.m., on January 10, 17, 24, and 31. What is the Bible? How was it put together? What is an "Old Testament"? What is a "New Testament"? How do I find things in the Bible? Come and learn how to find your way around the Bible. No experience needed!!!! Tell me of your interest or just show up. Watch the bulletin for location. For your info: frances.tgee@gmail.com; 462-2468.



Youth news:

It's a new year and an exciting fresh start for our youth fellowship. During the Christmas season, our youth were involved in some great opportunities to serve and bless others in need as an overflow of God's love, while having fun at the same time!

For example, our youth joined with the Bell choir to sing Christmas Carols, shared the Christmas story and spent time with the elderly at the Manor at Woodside. We are also very proud to have been a part of the wonderful ministry Love INC does in the local community. Our final report for the Love INC Rally and November Collection is that 429 items were collected during the rally -- and the Love INC personal care item pantry shelves are FULL!! Thanks to the congregation for generosity for bringing items to PUMC and to youth during rally.

We truly appreciate our church family's support of the Christmas candy sales and enjoying the handiwork of our youth! We got covered in chocolate while making those delicious candies to raise funds for our summer missions. Timothy was par-

ticularly supportive of this initiative!

We went out bowling together for TGIF and also enjoyed a lot of dancing and fun at our Christmas Ball outreach. The Christmas Ball was beautifully decorated and all our youth were dressed for the occasion! Many new people came to enjoy the party and got to hear what we're all about as a youth fellowship – a Christian community of love who are in love with Jesus Christ. We are looking forward to what God has in store for 2010!

Need for Mexico:

We have an urgent need for adult participation in our international mission to Mexico in August 2010. We are also looking for someone who may be willing to lead the Mexico mission team. If we do not get enough adult support by January, 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."*

Jan. 8	FRI	TGIF
Jan. 10	SUN	Youth Fellowship
Jan 15 - 17	FRI-SUN	Senior High Retreat
Jan. 17	SUN	Youth Fellowship Junior High – Grill the Pastor
Jan. 24	SUN	Youth Fellowship
Jan. 31	SUN	Mission Fundraiser
		Youth Fellowship

Missions and Giving

There are numerous mission opportunities at the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church. It is great that this church's members have been moved to love one another enough to reach out to others and to help them in various ways. From the Harriet Tubman After School Program to UMCOR, this church has encouraged and inspired its members to get involved in volunteering and financing many programs in the Poughkeepsie area and in other parts of the country (Biloxi and Philadelphia) and in other countries like Mexico and Burundi.

This can be overwhelming to its members and especially new members who wish to

join the church. We should note that every member should never feel obligated to get involved in all of these mission opportunities. As our pastors have taught us many times, be involved in what your heart is leading you to do. Just as we decide individually which charities we wish to contribute to outside the church, we also have the opportunity to pray about which opportunities to support and contribute to within the church.

The members of the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church program Council encourage you, through deep prayer and heartfelt conviction, to contribute to those mission opportunities as you are led. May God's grace, peace, and joy be with you all of your days.

HEALING PRAYER CORNER JANUARY 2010

Healing Prayer ministry continues at PUMC in many ways with many answers to prayer! You are welcome to receive prayer for yourself or on behalf of someone else during Holy Communion at both services the first Sunday of the month. There will be a team in the back and a team just down the hall next to the choir room for more quiet and privacy. (There is a sign on the door.) Please come!

You are welcome to "drop by" for prayer between services on any Sunday. We are in Room 34 upstairs (last room on the left) prayerfully awaiting your visit.

We have a team available during the Thursday night dinners from 6 to 7 p.m. and would love to pray with you. Watch the bulletin for upcoming dates. We are available to pray with you at other times by appointment. Just let us know and we'll be there. God WANTS us to bring our requests to him. Remember to include God when you are going through something and ask the healing prayer team to pray with you.

For more info: speak with Frances Thompson-Gee (462-2468 or frances.tgee@gmail.com) or call the church office (452-2933)

Mary Lorefice

A big smile. An even bigger hug. And a heartfelt thank you from the parents of young children who spend part of their Sunday morning in the Child Care Program with Mary Lorefice.

Mary has been part of our church program for many years. She truly enjoys her time in the cribbery and provides young children with love, care, and a safe environment. She always has time to play a special game or read a favorite story, and snack time is usually filled with enthusiastic chatter. Her "regulars" greet her with a big smile each week, and there are a few sad faces on those rare occasions when she's not able to be in church.

Mary's ministry goes beyond the young children in her care. A number of adults and older children stop by each Sunday for a hug and a kind word from her. There are often visitors in the room between services to share their special news with her.

If you'd like to help Mary, please sign up on the sheet posted on the Cribbery Room door. All of our volunteers have enjoyed their experiences. With two or more children, it's often helpful to have an extra pair of hands.

Please stop at the Cribbery to give Mary a big "THANK YOU!" and let her know how much we appreciate her!

SPR Committee

Don't throw them away - recycle them.

Hand to Mouth Weavers at Red Hook UMC needs **used jeans** (blue or any other color - adult sizes- whole or with holes in knees) for their weaving project to raise funds for the food pantry. What's not good enough for a Thrift Shop or Midnight Run is perfect for our projects. Bolts of fabric/yard goods are also needed.

Rev. Tom Theilmann
NY/CT District Office
redhookrev@aol.com

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.



Notes on Praise

I've really enjoyed our Advent devotional booklets this year. They challenged me to consider areas of my life that might otherwise have escaped my scrutiny. For example, one day I was asked to reflect on the times when God did not answer my prayers according to my expectations, but according to my needs. Jesus was just such an answer to the generations of prayers seeking the coming of the Messiah. God did not send who or what people expected; He sent what we needed...a Savior. My reflections on the ways that God has answered my prayers over the past few years brought a sense of gratefulness to my heart for a God who cares so intimately about me that He has indeed sent me what I really needed. My life is vastly different at this time because of those answers, rather than if my expectations

had been immediately realized. God saw long term, and best outcome, when I sometimes only sought a way out of a difficulty. My prayer has become that I would trust God more while He works His answers in my life.

As always, VIP 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 bobeep-beep@hotmail.com for information about any of these ministries.

Praise to God for the gift of His Son, Jesus!

Anne Ciraulo
Worship/Music Leader
Handbell Director

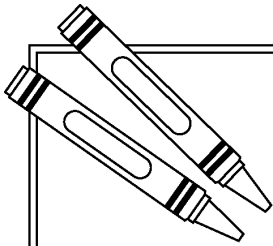


Dorothy M. Young, the mother of church member Nancy Matzek, passed away on November 24. We send our sincere regrets to Nancy and her family.

Church member **Margaret M Varuzzo** died on November 29. Our deepest sympathy is with her family and friends

Calendar - January 2010

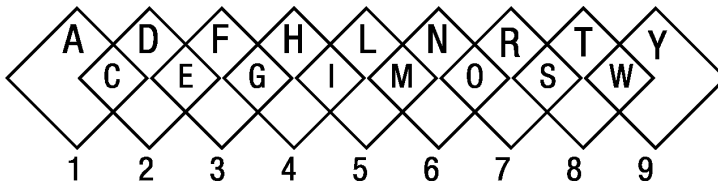
<p>Fri, Jan 1 Office Closed</p> <p>Sat, Jan 2</p> <p>Sun, Jan 3</p> <p>Mon, Jan 4 7:00 pm Visitation</p> <p>Tues, Jan 5 9:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Trustees</p> <p>Wed, Jan 6 7:30 am Prayers 6:00 pm Joyful Ringers 7:00 pm Education Comm 7:15 pm VIP's</p> <p>Thurs, Jan 7 3:00 pm Collate Bulletin 7:00 pm Choir</p> <p>Fri, Jan 8 11:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>Sat, Jan 9 8:30 am Men's Breakfast</p> <p>Sun, Jan 10 1:00 pm Sandy's Share Gr 6:00 pm Youth fellowship</p> <p>Mon, Jan 11 4:00 2n Hand Rose Giving</p> <p>Tues, Jan 12 9:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Finance/Ad Board</p>	<p>Wed, Jan 13 7:30 am Prayers 12:15 pm Christian Mom's 6:00 pm Joyful Ringers 7:15 pm VIP's</p> <p>Thurs, Jan 14 3:00 pm Collate Bulletin 7:00 pm Choir</p> <p>Fri, Jan 15 11:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>Sat, Jan 16 Healing Prayer Class 8:30 am Men's Breakfast</p> <p>Sun, Jan 17 6:00 pm Youth Fellowship</p> <p>Mon, Jan 18</p> <p>Tues, Jan 19 9:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm SPR</p> <p>Wed, Jan 20 7:30 am Prayers 6:00 pm Joyful Ringers 6:00 m Friendship Circle 7:15 pm VIP's</p> <p>Thurs. Jan 21 3:00 pm Collate Bulletin 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>Fri. Jan 22 8:00 am Collate Journey 11:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>Sat, Jan 23 Healing Prayer Class 8:30 am Men's Breakfast</p> <p>Sun, Jan 24 1:00 pm Sandy's Share Gr 6:00 pm Youth fellowship</p> <p>Mon, Jan 25</p> <p>Tues, Jan 26 9:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>Wed, Jan 27 7:30 am Prayers 12:15 pm Christian Mom's 1:00 pm Wesley Circle 6:00 pm Joyful Ringers 7:15 pm VIP's</p> <p>Thurs, Jan 28 3:00 pm Collate Bulletin 7:00 pm Choir</p> <p>Fri, Jan 29 11:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>Sat, Jan 30 Healing Prayer Class 8:30 am Men's Breakfast</p> <p>Sun, Jan 31 Super Bowl Sub Sale</p>
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Just for KIDS

“A New Year – A New You”

Find the words from 2 Corinthians 5:17.



“ e
 8 4 2,3 7 2,3 3 6,7 7 2,3 ’ 4,5 3

1 6 9 6,7 6 2,3 4,5 7,8 4,5 6

1,2 4 7 4,5 7,8 8 ’ 4 2,3 4,5 7,8 1

6 2,3 8,9 1,2 7 2,3 1 8 4,5 6,7 6 ;



8 4 2,3 6,7 5 2 4 1 7,8

3,4 6,7 6 2,3 ’ 8 4 2,3

6 2,3 8,9 4 1 7,8

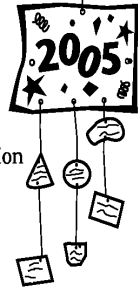
! ”
 1,2 6,7 5,6 2,3

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Make a “Happy New Year!” Mobile

What you’ll need:

- scissors
- white school glue
- glitter
- markers, crayons or colored pencils
- ribbon
- colored construction paper
- paper punch



Here’s what to do:

1. Use markers, crayons or colored pencils to make a construction paper sign. Write “2005” on one side and “Happy New Year!” on the other side.
2. Decorate with glue and glitter.
3. Punch 1 hole in the top center of your sign. Make 3 evenly spaced holes along the bottom.
4. Tie a piece of ribbon to the top hole of your sign for a hanger.
5. Cut out 6 (or more) fun-looking shapes about the size of your hand.
6. On each shape, write a hope for the New Year (things you want to improve about yourself, things you want to do, places you want to go, people you want to help, etc.).
7. Punch a hole in the top and the bottom of 3 paper shapes and in the tops only of the other 3 shapes.
8. Cut 6 different lengths of ribbon – one for each paper shape.
9. Hang the 2-hole shapes from the holes in the bottom of the sign. Hang the other shapes from the bottom of those shapes.
10. Hang your mobile.

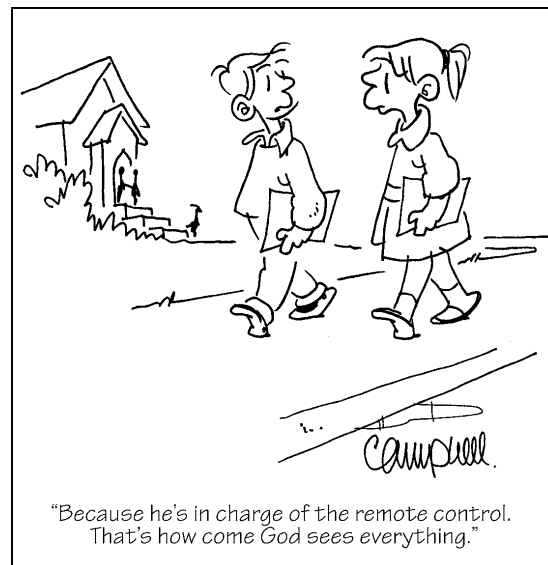
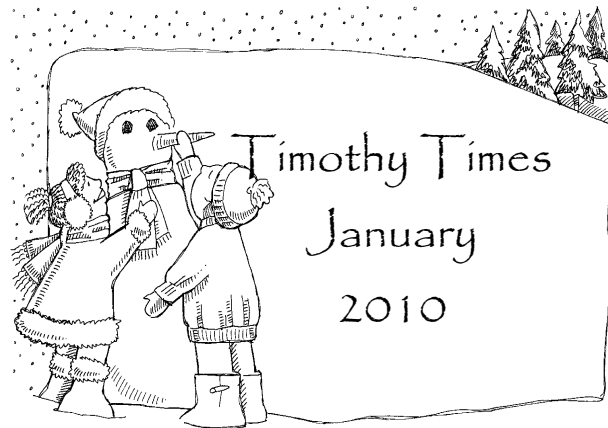
Happy New Year Everybody, It's Timothy,

The beginning of the new year is always an exciting time, even for someone as young as me. For some reason it feels like you're starting new and fresh. Like things that happened just a few months or days ago that you did not like are gone, over, and don't matter anymore. Pastor Bob and I were talking about it and he too likes New Year's Day and how we get to look back on the old year and think about how we might want to do things different in the new year. But he also said that when we want a new start that it could happen at any time. He reminded me that that is what Christmas and Jesus coming to earth is all about, a new start.

He said that God sent Jesus to remind us just how much love God has for everyone. He said that because of this love all the bad things that we do, and all the wrong things that we are part of, we can ask God for forgiveness and start again. So every day can be New Year's Day. I like that. I like thinking that God loved me, Timothy, that much that God always gives me a chance to start over again. God does that for you too.

So as we start the new year let's try to do our best, but when we don't...let's all remember that every day can be New Year's Day because of Jesus.

Remember God loves you and so do I.
Timothy



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Dated Material

Please Expedite

The Deadline for February Journey is **January 13, 2010**

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Newsletter E-Mail Address: trinarosem@aol.com

Web site Address: www.pokumc.org

Robert Thompson-Gee, Pastor

Martha Morrison, Pastor of Visitation

Jeff and Katie Sanchez, Directors of Youth

Marcy Conners, Director of Children's Ministry

Polly James, Music Director, Organist

Anne Ciraulo, Worship-Music Leader

Karyn Millham, Editor, Newsletter