

From the Editor....

After reading many Church Newsletters from 2008 and seeing all the varied Outreach Projects that Eastminster Churches participated in, we commend all of you!

A special thank you for supporting a Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering, one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



The receipts are distributed equally for assistance programs of the Board of Pensions and to Racial Ethnic schools and colleges of the PC (U.S.A.)

The theme for 2009 is "What Child Is This?" and the offering will be received on December 20, 2009.

Winter 2009 subject:

- Highlight a mission your Congregation supports (\$ and/or service).
- Share individual experience/reward of Mission trip.
- Youth involvement in Mission Programs.
- Other

Articles due by December 11, 2009.

Send us your articles of 200 words or less.

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EASTMINSTER EVANGEL

Champion Presbyterian Church Advent Outreach

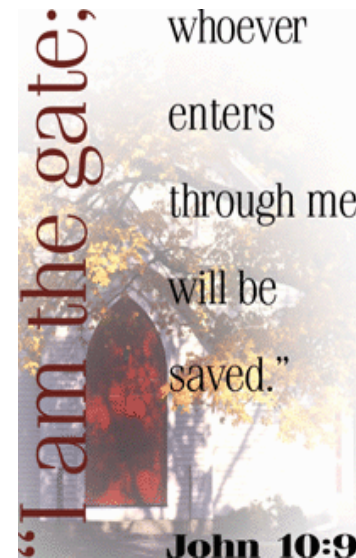
By: Joan Watson

As Director of Children's Ministries at Champion Presbyterian Church, I would like to share with you what our children (Pre-K through grade 6) do each year for an Advent Outreach. It has become tradition here to have an Advent Activity Day where the children come and celebrate the upcoming Advent Season.

We start the celebration with a kid-approved lunch, giving God thanks for all He has provided. We move on to our craft center where we make "Gifts of Love" that we will take to a local Nursing Home/Assisted Living Center.

While glue on the gifts dries, we keep busy with other things. The Christmas Story is always presented by a seasoned teacher who is able to keep the attention of the boys and girls, as they are once again reminded of the "Reason for the Season".

If time allows, several games are played before we head out the door and down the street to share this joyous season with the residents of Clearview Lantern, where we will decorate the tree and give each resident a "Jingle Bell Necklace". We close our day with the singing of traditional Christmas Carols.



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ADVENT OUTREACH

Be an Evangel! Send Articles!

Winter: See Page 4



Teddy Bear Sunday Celebrated Heritage Presbyterian Church

Heritage Presbyterian Church has a special Teddy Bear Sunday in late November where they invite everyone to bring a new teddy bear or any kind of stuffed animal to worship.

The Mission Committee then donates them to the fire departments, hospitals, Sojourner House, Rescue Mission and the YWCA. These teddy bears really do make a difference for a lonely child during the holiday season *(from November 2008 newsletter.)*

Create-A-Smile Project First Presbyterian Church, Salem

Tubes of mini M & M's were placed at the entrance of the First Presbyterian church in Salem. Invitations were extended to take the tubes, enjoy the M & M's and then fill tubes with quarters. Toys were purchased from the proceeds by Sunday School youth and wrapped by LOGOS youth. The church has supported this worthy endeavor for quite a few years and knows the contribution means a lot to "Santa" and the recipients of the gifts *(from December 2008 newsletter.)*

Fred Whitney, Sebring Presbyterian Church, Mission Chairman

The Session of the Sebring Presbyterian Church has established a relationship with Alexandra Buck, a Presbyterian Missionary who is working in the mountains of Peru in South America. Alexandra is a project facilitator for Bridge of Hope, a fair trade project developed in 2005 by the Joining Hands network. Her past experience was as a seminar program coordinator with the Presbyterian United Nations office in New York. It is anticipated that her support will become a continuing effort of the Sebring mission program.

Christmas Greeting Cards First Presbyterian Church, Akron

In lieu of sending cards to your church family members, First Church urges you to pin your Christmas greeting on the Church Family Bulletin Board and give the postage you would have used to

EASTMINSTER

the food pantry for its mission. The cards will then be recycled and given to Rockynol Presbyterian Retirement Community at the end of January for its card making project *(from Dec. 2008 newsletter.)*

First Presbyterian Church, Warren Welcomes Visitors

The First Presbyterian Church joins downtown Warren in kicking off the Christmas season with the special lighting of the tree and opening the skating rink.

First Church hosts visitors from 8-9 pm where they are treated with music in the beautifully decorated sanctuary, tours of the building, hot cider and treats *(from Dec. 2008 newsletter).*

Food Baskets

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Akron

Westminster Presbyterian Church once again delivered 250 Christmas food baskets to families whose Christmases would be bleak without some help. They asked for a \$45 donation that would buy a basket of food to feed a family for several days.

EVANGEL

They suggest that a great way to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child would be to donate a food basket in the name of everyone on your Christmas gift list. And then to double your opportunity to impact your monetary gift, take part in the Christmas Basket deliveries *(from December 2008 newsletter.)*

Love Lights North Springfield Presbyterian Church, Akron

The tradition continues at North Springfield Presbyterian Church with their tradition of remembering loved ones by having shining bulbs on the sanctuary tree. Each light represents a \$5.00 donation in honor of or in memory of someone. A listing of donors is printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin for you to send a loved one, stating that a love light has been lit in their name *(from December 2008 newsletter.)*

Heifer International Project Canfield Presbyterian Church

Think about giving an alternative gift to a friend or relative this Christmas.

Like a stone dropped in still water, these gifts ripple out for years to come alleviating poverty, hunger and despair for families in the United States and all around the world *(from Dec. 2008 newsletter.)*

Eileen, from Rochester, NY says, "I loved my Heifer gift, I don't need more chocolate or knick-knacks. Knowing that a family gets a goat for milk, and can be self-sufficient is a great positive thing to bring into the world."

