

January



2011



### THOTS FROM TOM

Happy New Year! I always wonder at the new year what will be in store for all of us. What new opportunities will God place before our congregation in 2011? We will have to be patient, and see what develops.

I wonder what new opportunities or challenges await all of us in our personal lives and families as we embark on this new year. Some will find employment after being out of work. Some will retire after many years of service. Some may have children or grandchildren. Some may marry, or have weddings for their children. There will be beautiful tranquil days when the sky is blue and the sun is bright, and there will be stormy days of wind, and either snow or rain, causing trees that have stood for over a hundred years to be toppled as happened on my street this past July. We never know what might happen next, and in the new year, I find myself wondering what is in store for us in 2011?

Some events have already been set in our church calendar. We will have another First Friday worship service on January 7 at 6:30 in the sanctuary. The Worship Team has developed a service around an epiphany theme. Later this month, on January 23 the Finance Committee will present the church's 2011 budget at a budget hearing to be held after coffee time in the fellowship hall. On that day please grab a few donut holes and some coffee and take a seat in the chairs that will be set near the stage so that the committee can make their presentation. This budget hearing represents a culmination of a lot of work as the Finance Committee has considered all the committee budget requests and the mission and property needs of the church, weighed those needs against our projected income for the coming year, and developed a budget.

Please plan to attend so that you can be a part of the process. The next Sunday, January 30 we will have our annual meeting. At the meeting will be electing new committee members and renewing the terms of our church officers, and voting on the church budget that was presented the previous Sunday, including any revisions that were made after the budget hearing. The meeting will be held as a part of our morning worship, and the day will conclude with lunch downstairs in fellowship hall. Please plan to attend this important annual event in the life of our church, so that you can be a part of deciding how we will be the church for this coming year.

I hope and pray that the new year before us will be wonderful. On a personal note, Lois and I had a wonderful Christmas, made special by the many cards you sent and ways that you in the church family worked hard to make our holiday special. Thank you so much for your love and care. It means so much! As the new year dawns, there are a few clouds on my horizon. My mother, who along with my step-father, lives with my sister and her husband, spent the week after Christmas, and into the new year in the hospital seriously ill with a lung infection that included double pneumonia. She is now home convalescing. My sister continues to struggle with Multiple System Atrophy, but at the current time her doctor is pleased with her condition, a situation that we all celebrate. If I appear distracted at times, it is largely because of my worry and concern for all of them in Ohio.

I wish all of you a most blessed and fulfilling new year. I hope that 2011 will bring all of you all the happiness and blessings that you desire and deserve.

Peace,

Tom



## Pledge Envelopes

Weekly pledge envelopes are now available for 2011. Anyone who needs them please contact Teri Schlosser or leave a message in the church office.

## Intentional Giving

**It is with sincere appreciation that we thank the Congregation for their support through this year's Intentional Giving campaign and subsequent second effort.**

The annual giving campaign wrapped up on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. At the conclusion of the campaign we had received 94 pledges and promised pledge income of about \$116,000. We then embarked on a second effort in church and through the mail. We asked everyone who pledged to consider increasing their pledge and asked those who had not yet pledged to consider doing so. Forty responded to the request. We have increased to 120 pledges and ten are new! We now have over \$151,000 in promised pledge income. With the support of the Congregation and the hard work of the Intentional Giving committee and Church Council, we have done the best we can and should be very proud. Now the Finance committee will use that data as part of the process to create our church budget for next year.

## COSA MATTERS

COSA – the Christian Outreach and Social Action committee – focused on local outreach for the holiday season. We worked with the Food Bank, Family Advocacy and the Department of Children and Families. The Congregation responded to the high demand for support this year and took 60 tags from our giving trees this season. Every tag was taken and every gift returned. What a great out reach for our community. What a great testament to the generosity of our Congregation. Sixty families were

touched by our spirit of giving.

We are also working with our church's Helping Hands program and the community when there is need for a truck to help move or transport things. Look for the sign-up sheet at the COSA table if you are able to help with this.

We have some great news from our October CROP Walk. We raised a total of \$4,422.06 with twenty five per cent going to the East Hampton Food Bank (\$1,105) and the remainder going to Church World Service projects. We raised \$462 more this year than last year. We also had 12 more walkers.

Our next project is a Blood Drive that will be held from 8:00am to 2:00pm on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the church. Look for sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall beginning January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## FOOD BANK

The Food Bank provided Christmas dinners, clothing and gifts for nearly 150 East Hampton families on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Our church provided clothing for several of the families and donated several boxes of food. We want to again thank Carol Mandigo and crew for baking homemade pumpkin bread for the holiday dinners for those in need.

The Food Bank and all the offices at the Town Hall annex will be moving in January 2011. They will be moving to the Palmer Building near the intersection of Rte. 66 and Rte. 16.



## 1ST FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

1st Friday Worship Service January 7 at 6:30 PM  
Join us for an alternative worship time centering on the Epiphany season of the church year.

## Women's Potluck

Women's Potluck  
Monday, January 3 6:30 pm  
at the home of Colleen Mellen

Bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and conversation.

Read the following book title for our February 7th meeting-"The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" (Crown) by Rebecca Skloot. This non fiction book is the account of the writer's search for the family of a woman whose cells, harvested without her permission, were pivotal to medical research.

## Y2K January Calendar

Wednesday, January 5th 5:30-6:45 pm  
Bring \$4 for pizza Friends welcome!  
Monday, January 17th 4:00-5:30  
Bowling Party at East Hampton Lanes  
(Martin Luther King school vacation day)  
\$10 for 2 games and shoes.  
Meet at the lanes at 4:00  
Friends welcome!

## Helping Hands

Please let Jill Walker (860-267-7180) or the church office (860-267-4959) know if you or someone you know of from our church family is in need of some helping hands. We have folks who can provide meals, rides, help with simple household tasks or just come by to visit.

## Silent Auction Suggestions

Okay- we know the auction is not until July, but right now is a great time to set aside some re-gifts or purchase extra items on sale to set aside until July for the Silent Auction. The success of our auction depends on everyone providing one or more items for bidders to enjoy purchasing. Thanks for thinking ahead!

## Seeds of Hope Update

We still have a few spaces for anyone interested in being part of our mission team to Back Bay in Biloxi Mississippi June 26-July 2

**Deadline to sign up to participate is Sunday January 9th after worship at our Seeds of Hope meeting.**

\*\*Thanks to everyone that bought pre-paid/gift cards during the Christmas season. Cards for STOP AND SHOP and all the other merchants can be ordered every Sunday in Fellowship Hall. Remember to use Goodsearch.com for all your web searches and to shop on line and earn us donations. Empty bottles and cans can be left in the furnace room for recycling by Tom Quackenbush.

\*\* Plan to stay for lunch after worship on Sunday January 30 for our annual "Souper Bowl Lunch" with a variety of homemade soups. A free will offering will benefit our mission trip.

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### Secret Prayer Partners Wanted

Later this month our 3rd,4th, and 5th grade class will be participating in a new type of "secret friend" experience and willing adults are needed. From February 6 until March 6th a child and adult will be secretly paired. They may pray for each other, send each other notes either thru the mail or by placing the item on our temporary post office table in Fellowship Hall, do a act of anonymous kindness, etc.

On Sunday, March 6th there will be a "Mardi Gras" pancake breakfast after worship for the whole congregation, and at this event the secret pals will reveal themselves and join their pal to eat. You can sign up to be a prayer partner by calling the church office or by completing a sign up form that will be in the Sunday Bulletin later in January. Deadline to register is Sunday, January 30th.

### Kudos Korner

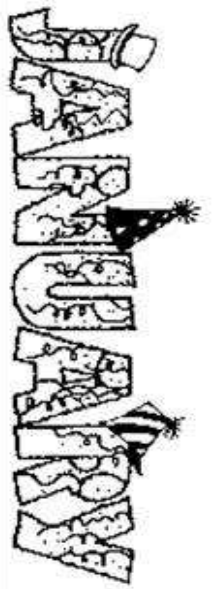
Thanks to the Church School classes for presenting our wonderful pageant, and to Jodi Brazal, Christine Tkaczyk and Amy Hackett for directing the production. Thanks to the choir and bell choir for the seasonal music, and to all who decorated and then undecorated the sanctuary.

During the holiday season the congregation was treated to many beautiful sounds from our dedicated choir, musician's and bell choir under the fantastic direction of Keumok. We are truly blessed with such angelic sounds each Sunday. Thanks to all who give so much of their talent and time to make our worship so meaningful.





Thanks to all who pledged during our Intentional Giving campaign. Our pledges are far reaching.





2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 New Year's Day!
2  Communion Sunday Worship, 10am AA, 8pm	3  Women's Potluck 6:30pm Host: Colleen Melien	4 Tiger Cubs, 6:30-7:30pm Boy Scouts, 7pm	5 Bible Study, noon Y2K, 5:30-6:45pm Cub Scout Leaders/Parents, 7-9pm AA, 8pm	6 Epiphany Senior Choir, 7:10-8:30pm	7 1 <sup>st</sup> FRIDAY - 6:30pm 	8
9 CE Meeting, 9:30am Worship, 10am Deacons, 11:30am Seed of Hope, 11:30am AA, 8pm	10 Cub Scouts, 6:30-7:30pm	11 DEADLINE for the Annual Report Boy Scouts, 7pm	12 Bible Study, noon Daisy Troop, 6pm AA, 8pm	13 Bell Choir, 6-7pm Sr. Choir, 7:10-8:30pm	14	15
16 Worship, 10am Eagle Scout Court of Honor, 2pm AA, 8pm	17 Y2K Bowling at East Hampton Lanes 4-5:30pm	18 Church Council, 7pm Boy Scouts, 7pm	19 Bible Study, noon AA, 8pm	20 Bell Choir, 6-7pm Sr. Choir, 7:10-8:30pm	21	22 Project Graduation Scrapbooking, 9am
23 Worship, 10am <u>Budget Hearing, 11am</u> AA, 8pm	24 Mom's Group, 10am	25 Boy Scouts, 7pm	26 Bible Study, noon AA, 8pm	27 Bell Choir, 6-7pm Sr. Choir, 7:10-8:30pm	28	29 Cub Scout Pack 57 Pinewood Derby 9-5pm
30 Worship, 10am ANNUAL MEETING, 11am AA, 8pm	31					