



GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

The Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury

January 6, 2010
Volume 49, Issue 16

Sunday, January 10, 2010

9:30 A.M.

Worship Service

10:45 A.M.

Church School for all ages

12:00 P.M.

**Officer Training
for Serving Communion**

THANK YOU! We want to say a great big thank you to all of the volunteers who have helped prepare the weekly Newsletter for mailing (some for many years): Hazel Skinner, Elsie Dahlstrom, Barbara Allgood, Tooie Craven, Tillie Canning, Geri Petri, Betty MacLeod, Kristen Franchetti, Dorothy Cobb, and Doris Dickensheets and Dick Skinner (posthumously). Thank you for serving your church so faithfully.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE: The Annual Meeting will be held on January 24 at 12:00 p.m. In order for all the reports to be typed, copied and collated, we need them ASAP and no later than **January 8**.

E-MAIL UPDATE: The Church Office has changed internet servers. You can contact the Staff using their addresses through the website:

phil.oehler@pcwoodbury.com;

judy.platt@pcwoodbury.com; [\[ody.newton@pcwoodbury.com\]\(mailto:ody.newton@pcwoodbury.com\);](mailto:mel-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

church.office@pcwoodbury.com (Alison),

and jack.hill@pcwoodbury.com. Milt prefers that you use miltrose@comcast.net.

**Martin Luther King
Creative Worship Service**

Sunday, January 17

7:00 P.M.

"Creating the Beloved Community"

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

The Twelve Days of Christmas are the festive days beginning on [Christmas Day \(December 25\)](#). This period is also known as [Christmas-tide](#). The Twelfth Day of Christmas is the [Feast of the Epiphany](#) on January 6. Since each of the Twelve Days is reckoned as beginning on the evening before, Twelfth Night is celebrated on the evening of January 5. Over the centuries, differing churches and traditions of [Christianity](#) have changed the actual traditions, timeframe, and their interpretations. [Boxing Day](#) is [December 26](#) in the [Western Church](#) and [December 27](#) in the [Eastern Church](#). [Boxing Day](#), the first weekday after Christmas, is observed as a legal holiday in parts of the Commonwealth of Nations and was traditionally marked by the giving of Christmas boxes to service workers in the United Kingdom. Currently, the 12 days and nights are celebrated in widely varying ways around the world. For example, some give gifts only on Christmas night, some only on Twelfth Night, and some each of the 12 nights. The church in the United States has largely forgotten this season.

With the onset of more secular traditions throughout the past two centuries such as "[Santa Claus](#)" also the popularity of [Christmas Eve](#) itself as a holiday and rise in popularity of [New Year's Eve](#) parties as well, the traditions of the Twelve Days of Christmas have been largely forgotten in the U. S. This is also heightened by the commercial practice to have "After-[Christmas Sales](#)" begin on [December 26](#) and run usually until [New Year's Eve](#). Indeed, contemporary marketing and media tend to espouse the erroneous belief that the Twelve Days end on Christmas and, thus, begin December 14.

In our culture, we normally turn to the traditional song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" but have forgotten that this is a sacred time in the life of the church. The hymn was used as a teaching tool for the Christian faith:

One partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love.

Four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Five golden rings recalled the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament.

Six geese a-laying stood for the six days of Creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership, and mercy.

Eight maids a-milking were the eight Beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Disciples.

Twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

A small percentage of Christians of many traditions have held on to their own favorite ways to celebrate, and those who choose to also have their own church to guide them in a spiritual way of marking this reverent holiday. Americans who celebrate various ways include Christians of all backgrounds, religious [Catholics](#), [Orthodox Christians](#), [Lutherans](#), [Episcopalians](#), [Moravians](#) and those of the [Amish](#) and [Mennonite](#) communities.

Today some celebrants give gifts each of the Twelve Days, feast, and otherwise celebrate the entire time through to Epiphany morning. Lighting a candle for each day has become a modern tradition in the U. S., and of course, singing the appropriate verses of the famous [song](#) each day is also an important and fun part of the American celebrations. The song is a reminder of our faith and helps us remember the coming of the Christ-Child beyond December 25th. May you joyfully celebrate the twelve days of Christmastide and remember your relationship with Jesus the Christ.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The Christmas/Epiphany Pageant was the Sermon for Worship on January the 3rd. Because of the snowstorm on December 19, there was no Pageant before Christmas. So we celebrated the coming of the wise men by telling the whole story of the birth of the new born King who they came to worship. Participants in the Pageant: Mary – Casey Barrett; Gabriel – Alexis Klimczak; Joseph – Christopher Barrett; Silver Angel – Rebecca Brown; Angel chorus – Jenna Sprigman, Erica Sprigman, Ben Oehler, Laura Barrett, Evie Barrett, Ciera Vanleer, Julia Gehring, Laken Franchetti, Teagan Franchetti, Megan Witherspoon; Shepherds – Tyler Klimczak, Rob Penrod, Aidan Witherspoon; Herod – Larry Diehlman; Magi – Rob Vanleer, Walter Oehler, Justin Gehring; Narrator – Joey Brown. Thanks to all the participants, the parents behind the scenes, and Sandy Skinner for all the work on the set and the costumes. It was a very good telling of the wonderful story.

ADULT CLASSES FOR JANUARY:

Sunday Mornings:

Bible Basics – led by Charlie Miller and Kathy Cunningham in the Adult Forum room (Room 1) will be starting a new study Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. on *Listening to Scripture – Strategies for Interpreting the Bible*.

Foundations of Faith – led by David Platt in the Lounge is continuing a DVD and discussion series called *Dust to Glory* written by R. C. Sproul. The series is an overview of the whole Bible.

Monday Morning and Wednesday Evening:

How to Spell Presbyterian – a six-week study led by Phil Oehler from 10-12 Monday mornings or from 7-9 Wednesday evenings.

Tuesday Evenings:

Terrific Tuesdays – Sponsored by the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries, begins January 19 at Kemble Methodist Church. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. (\$4); worship and studies from 6:45 – 9:00 p.m. There are five classes to choose from including the Parables of Jesus taught by Bernie Carlson, and Outsiders in Matthew taught by Charles Miller. Registration forms with the list of all five classes are in the Chapel. Sign up by January 10.

Men's Small Group – meeting the 1st and 3rd Thursday and studying the Acts of the Apostles. All men are welcome to join the discussion at 7:30 p.m. at David Platt's house. For more information, see or call David Platt (848-2964) or dplatt6@verizon.net.

PAIRS & SPARES: Pairs & Spares will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13 in the Chapel. Bring a wrapped item (which may be anything at all) for our Chinese auction then enjoy good desserts, fun, and fellowship. Members will be contacted. Others who wish to attend should call Elsie Camplin (845-1046).

THANK YOU! Over \$3,100 was collected from the Christmas Joy and Christmas Offerings. Half of these offerings are sent to the West Jersey Presbytery to support the Board of Pension's income supplement, nursing home care assistance, emergency need grants for retired church workers and the Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The other half is divided between our missionaries and sent as special gifts.

2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES: The first offering envelope is for your Per Capita offering. This offering of \$37.00 per member (\$74 per couple) helps offset the Per Capita Apportionment. If each member were to give \$37 over and above his Pledge, this would free up over \$18,000 for church programs and mission.

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION: There are still a few families who have not registered children attending Church School. We are hoping to have a more accurate list of which grade each child is in so that no one is missed when class rosters are made up and when Bibles are handed out to 3rd graders and seniors. Forms are in the Church School Office.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Louise Fetterolf in Manor Care, Judy Fetty at home, Tom Dolan, Marie Batten, Megan Duble, and Dave Tanzola. A reminder to keep our military personnel in your prayers: JJ Cunningham, Ron Goepel, Stephen Good, James Gallagher, Clayton Kelly, and Tim Schiffman.

DEACON OF THE WEEK: John Love

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: JANUARY 10 – 16, 2010

Sunday:	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	10:45 AM	Children's Choir
	10:45 AM	Church School for all ages
	12:00 PM	Officer Training for Serving Communion
Monday:	10:00 AM	Presbyterian Study
	6:00 PM	Sr. High Youth Group
	7:00 PM	Women's Small Group
	7:30 PM	Trustees
Tuesday:	6:00 PM	Preteens
Wednesday:	7:00 PM	Presbyterian Study (Board Room)
	7:30 PM	Pairs & Spares (Chapel)
Thursday:	7:00 PM	Budget Committee Meeting
	7:30 PM	Adult Choir
Saturday:	6:00 PM	Jr. High to Sahara Sam's

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: JANUARY 17 – 24, 2010

Sunday:	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	10:45 AM	Children's Choir
	10:45 AM	Church School for all ages
	7:00 PM	MLK Creative Worship Service
Monday:	10:00 AM	Presbyterian Study
	1:00 PM	Jr. & Sr. High MLK Day of Service
	7:00 PM	Session
Tuesday:	10:00 AM	Women's Association Workshop
Wednesday:	12:30 PM	Men's Luncheon
	7:00 PM	Presbyterian Study
Thursday:	6:00 PM	Jr. High Youth Group
	7:30 PM	Adult Choir
Sunday:	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	10:45 AM	Children's Choir
	10:45 AM	Church School for all ages
	12:00 PM	Annual Meeting