

Wayside Presbyterian Church Of Erie

1208 Asbury Road
Erie, PA 16505-1304

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Wayside Presbyterian Church

Inside Wayside

VOLUME 49, NO 1

January 2010

This month at Wayside:

- WOW Fellowship Dinners
Every Wednesday evening
- "Taking Down the Greens"
January 6 - 6:45 p.m.
- Annual Meeting,
January 17 - 9:15 a.m.
- Soup Sunday
January 24
- Officer's Retreat
February 6

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends:

Many of us enjoy making New Year's Resolutions – or at least thinking about them. (In my case, the record is mixed as far as keeping them, but that it another story.) There is something good about January 1st as a starting point, a clean slate, with a full twelve months ahead of us to achieve some good, worthy personal goals.

As I think back to my previous lists of resolutions, I realize that most of them have to do with reading or exercise or family or getting my life in better order. And notably, and embarrassingly, absent are commitments directly related to improving my life as a Christian. So I'm making an effort to correct that situation.

Recently I've read through several lists of what some experts claim to be the most common new year's resolutions. Using several of those "top ten" items, let me offer a few possibilities for your consideration.

1. Spend more time with Family and Friends. Wayside would be glad to help you with that one. This is your church family and it is filled with your friends. Lots of studies show that there is a direct correlation between quality family time and good health. So make a commitment to find more time with your family here.

2. Learn something new. Outside a church setting that might include learning a new language or improving your computer skills. Inside the church that could mean joining a Bible study or a book discussion group or any class that broadens your understanding what is involved in growing as a Christian. The opportunities are many.

3. Help others. Volunteerism can take many forms. There are lots of great opportunities available in the community and many of them have a built-in faith component (at least for those of us who approach life from that perspective). And here at Wayside there are numerous possibilities for work both within and outside the church to serve others.

Another item further down the "common resolutions" list was Enjoy Life More. Within obvious parameters, I honestly think that is God's will for all of us. Hopefully whatever resolutions we come up with will lead to that result, and Wayside can help.

See you in church. Peace.

Jim

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All through the night the snowflakes fell without the slightest sound
To make a winter wonderland of our little town.
The fir trees wore a regal look in sequined bridal dress;
The lamppost donned a white top hat, his elegance expressed.
Each little home a picture knee-deep in drifts of snow;
A postcard only God could send to set out hearts aglow.
A stillness fills the morning air, no sounds to bring alarm
but just a sleepy little town cradled in winter's arms.
Summer lauds her fairest rose, autumn flauts her
brightest shawl,
But there's nothing quite so lovely as winter's first snow-
fall.

MARTHA MOMENT

*Wayside Church is a welcoming, caring community of God's people committed to developing Christian disciples.
We gather for worship, study, fellowship, and prayer. We seek to reach out with Christ's love to our community and the world.*

"MISSION STATEMENT"



Phone: 814-833-7653
Email: wpc@wayside-erie.org

WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1208 Asbury Rd.
Erie, PA 16505
James Haas, Senior Pastor
Keith Sundberg, Associate Pastor
Dawn Weborg, Director of Music/Organist
Ernie Ennsle, Sexton
December Assemblers included:
Sally Devitt, Shirley Diller, Karen Dunn, Jane Hess

MANY THANKS

The Board of Trustees would like to express its genuine gratitude to several people who have gone out of their way to meet one of the specific needs of the church.

Special thanks to:

- Melissa Buseck and the Deacons for coordinating the "Angel Tree" project again
- Judy Bestwick and the Outreach Committee for enabling Waysiders to ring the bell for the Salvation Army
- Judy Bestwick, Kay Lascek, Jeanne Nyberg and all the women who assisted for this year's Christmas Cookie Sale

There are many others who contribute generously of their time and efforts in support of the church; we are grateful to all of them.

NURSES NOTES

Recent studies have shown that people who attend religious services tend to be healthier. It was found that prayer and meditation seem to be associated with improved immune systems and fewer episodes of chronic inflammation. The benefits, not surprisingly, extend to mental health as well. So is church a healing place? While some faithful may believe it is, scientists point out that religious people often take better care of themselves. More important, people who make church a habit are more socially integrated, which means they have more friends and acquaintances and a better support system to help them cope with stressful life events.

Happy New Year! Stay warm, happy and well.

Georgi

"How Spirituality Keeps You Well" by Dr. Ranit Mishori

OFFICERS' RETREAT

Just a reminder that the annual Officers' Retreat will be held on February 6th here at Wayside. All currently-serving officers as well as those who just concluded terms are invited and encouraged to participate. Additionally spouses are invited to participate. Watch for further details.

Financial Report - 2009

Financial Statement - November

Receipts:

Month \$37,977

Year-to-date..... \$387,267

Expenses:

Month \$33,688

Year-to-date..... \$382,295

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE A TASTY SUCCESS

Thanks to the more than 100 plus bakers, who donated their time and cookies. A special thanks to Becky Worthington for her help. The cookies were beautiful and delicious. The fellowship during preparation was great fun. And best of all, we earned more than \$2000 for the International Presbyterian Women's Mission Fund and our own Women of Wayside mission giving! The cookie committee appreciates the loyal support of everyone who participated.



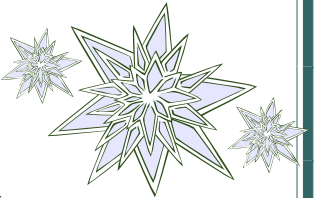
ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JANUARY 17th

The annual Meetings of the Congregation and Corporation will be held at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 17th in Fellowship Hall. The Annual Report will be reviewed, the pastors' compensation will be voted upon, and any other business rightly presented will be conducted. Breakfast will be served. Copies of the Annual Report should be ready for distribution on January 10th.

CONFIRMATION/COMMISSIONING CLASS TO BEGIN

The 2010 Confirmation/Commissioning Class will begin meeting at the end of January. Following the 11:00 a.m. service on the 24th, all youth 9th grade and above who haven't already completed the program are invited to meet with Rev. Haas and Rev. Sundberg in the Parlor. At least one parent of each youth is required to join us for this session only. We will meet briefly to outline the course and try to identify the best weekly meeting time. If you have any questions please call the Church Office.

JANUARY 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion 8:30 a.m. Early Celebration of Worship 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time Ordination of Officers	4 7:00 p.m. MEDS	5 7:00 p.m. Inspirations	6 4:00 p.m. WOW 5:30 Primary Choir 6:00 p.m. Dinner Middler WaYouth 6:45 "Take Down the Greens" 7:30 p.m. CDN Deacons	7 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	8	9 9:00 a.m. - Noon Second Saturday Work Project Kids Cafe Noon Lunch Bunch
10 8:30 a.m. Early Celebration of Worship 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time	11 Noon - Trustees 7:00 p.m. MEDS 7:30 p.m. Outreach	12	13 4:00 p.m. WOW 5:30 Primary Choir 6:00 p.m. Dinner Middler WaYouth 6:45 Adult Study 7:30 p.m. Session	14 Noon - Martha Circle 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Prayer Shawl Ministry	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16
17 8:30 a.m. Early Celebration of Worship 9:15 Annual Meeting Chancel Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time	18 Ski Trip 7:00 p.m. MEDS	19	20 4:00 p.m. WOW 5:30 Primary Choir 6:00 p.m. Dinner Middler WaYouth 6:45 Adult Study 7:30 p.m. CE	21 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	22	23
24 8:30 a.m. Early Celebration of Worship 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time Soup Sunday	25 7:00 p.m. MEDS	26	27 4:00 p.m. WOW 5:30 Primary Choir 6:00 PW Potato Dinner Middler WaYouth 6:45 Adult Study 7:30 p.m. WMFA	28 11:30 a.m. Elizabeth Circle 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	29	30
31 8:30 a.m. Early Celebration of Worship 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time						

WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

One of the foundations of the Presbyterian Church is a well educated congregation. Without knowledgeable members we cannot function as an elder led democratic system. Granted not everyone is asked to lead but everyone has a ministry. Leaders, including pastors, enable the ministries of every age. Children, youth and adults are to be informed about their faith so they can answer God's call to ministry with imagination and love.

We are unique among the Christian denominations. The clergy are not in charge. Clergy are empowered to primarily teach like rabbis, rather than govern like priests. Our members are a royal priesthood to the world. Informed by their knowledge of the Bible and the teachings of Jesus, everyone shares God's love where they live and work.

Theoretically, everyone needs to study something about their faith every day, and, if not every day, then every week and, if not every week, then every month. It is our calling to be as educated about our faith as we can possibly be. As the New Year begins, make time to continue or return to or to begin your education.

Educational Options

Sunday School Classes are not simply sources of information. Corporate learning teaches relational understanding of our faith. Christianity is primarily a relational religion, between God and God's people and between all of us.

Devotional Guides enable every age to develop a private and personal prayer life with God.

Email Devotional is sent each week to reflect on the scripture that will be highlighted in Sunday School and worship on that Sunday.

Children's Worship Bags enable our youngest members to be inspired by the Bible reading on their level.

Inter-generationals affirm the value of generations talking and reflecting together as Christians. It is hard to say who enjoys these times more: the young or the old.

Weekday Adult Opportunities recognize the different learning styles of adults. A book discussion is available on Monday night and video series is offered Wednesdays.

Women's Circles provide fellowship and education for women of our church.

WOW Club and WaYouth are programs for children and youth. The weekly get togethers offer outings and service projects.

Mission Trips are geared to helping others. No one who has gone can say they didn't learn valuable insight into who they are and their beliefs.

Vacation Bible School is designed for introducing our youngest members to the basics of our faith but teachers and youth who help find they may have learned the most.

Fall Convocation is a weekend that highlights a local or nationally known speaker to expand our awareness of how our faith must evolve in order to remain relevant in this century.

The Church Library provides a diversity of books on faith not readily available in our community. They are a source of inspiration and comfort.

Artwork and Music touch imagination and emotions and inspire us to explore ideas that cannot be described as well by words.

Prayerfully consider your own education and that of all in your household. Insight and inspiration is available every day.

Peace and love to you, Keith

WaYouth SKI OVERNIGHT

When: Sunday and Monday, January 17-18

For: Middlers and Senior Highs

Leave: Sunday at 3 pm; return Monday by 6:30 pm

Where: Overnight at Mission Meadows Camp and Ski Trip at the Peak

How Much:

Overnight at camp, dinner and breakfast \$46
Climbing Wall is additional \$5

Lunch on Monday is not included, bring \$10 for the Peak

Skiing Costs:

Beginners Package; skier or snowboarder: 48

Lift Ticket for skiing or snowboarding \$34

Lift Ticket with Ski Rental: \$55

Lift Ticket with Snowboard Rental: \$60

Applications are at the Information Table or by request through the church office. **Scholarships are available.** There is limited space at the camp for overnight.



LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS RECOGNIZED AND THANKED

In December we were blessed to have representatives of a number of community programs present with us for worship. During the late service on the 13th financial gifts of support were given to each agency from our mission budget. These programs were among those considered by the Outreach Committee before a recommendation was made to the Session for final approval.

Recognized and thanked during worship were St. Paul's Neighborhood Free Clinic, the House of Healing, Case Management/Stairways, Transitional Living Center, Presbyterian Homes, Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, the Kid's Café, Second Harvest, Habitat for Humanity, Inter-Church Ministries, Community Shelter Services, CHOSEN, Penn State Behrend Protestant Campus Ministry, and the City Mission.

JANUARY 27th - ANNUAL HEIFER PROJECT POTATO DINNER AT WAYSIDE

Presbyterian Women will hold their annual "potato dinner with all those yummy toppings" on January 27th. A freewill offering will be taken with the proceeds benefiting the Heifer Project International. HPI provides families with food and income-producing animals and training in their care. The families then "pass on the gift" by giving one or more of their animal's offspring to another family in need. A sign up to bring a topping will be at the information table. Please plan to attend and help support this worthwhile mission project.

PW THANK OFFERING

Thank you for your contributions to the Thank Offering. We received over \$1,000 for this special mission-giving request. Our strong extra giving efforts show our commitment to Presbyterian Women's role in the continuation of mission work at home and world-wide. Your generous gifts help those in need.

MANY THANKS

Thanks to everyone who bought Christmas gifts and contributed \$245 for gift cards, for the women and children at the House of Healing and Community Shelter Services. Your continued support of the Deacons' Angel Tree project was truly appreciated by both agencies and far exceeded our expectations at Wayside. Sister Stephanie from the House of Healing wrote: "Your Angel Tree is an annual blessing that we depend on and give thanks to God for all of you". May you feel joy in your heart throughout the holiday season for your kindness and generosity to those in need.

Melissa Buseck



FAMILY NEWS

Birthdays:	20th - Trevor Grode, Suanna McGuire
1st - Paige Peasley, Ashley Weber	21st - Greg Miller
2nd - Jay Jenkins, Michael Paris, Barry Stamm	23rd - Maia Edwards- Borowicz
3rd - Shelby Sheriff	24th - Nathan Larson
4th - Joseph Turner, Spencer Wallwork	25th - Jack Bestwick, Kevin May
5th - Natalie Teubner	26th - Tom Fye
6th - Jenna Szklenski	27th - Bobby Knarr, Debbie Smith
7th - Denise Borowski, Lorah Momeyer, Brian Sundberg, Christine Szklenski	28th - Angela Sbrocco
8th - Shirley Diller	29th - Jillian Englert
9th - Richard Moore	30th - Jackie Cross, Samantha Momeyer, Meredith Thompson
10th - Marjorie Masse, Greg Minnick, Michele Reed, Marty Roth	31st - Devin Johns, Sam Knarr
11th - Elana Dolan	Anniversaries:
12th - Adam Larson, Erica Larson, Sarah Larson	David & Jill Abbott 1/2
13th - Dale Cage, Rob Harcourt	Ed & Jan McEllroy 1/9
14th - Rachel Sbrocco	Andy & Molly Allen 1/22
16th - Karen Carpenedo, Spencer Swanson	Jim & Edythe Endean 1/29
18th - Erin Wolford	Death:
19th - Tamara Murphy, Dick Reese	Jack Tower 12/1/09

SECOND SATURDAY PROJECT

Due to a change in our original plans, we'll be going back to the Kids' Café in January. We will head that way on Saturday, January 9th, and work from 9:00 a.m. until about noon (or however long your schedule allows). We don't know yet exactly what Margaret Kloecker and Sister Mary will have us working on; obviously it will be something at least slightly different from our regular October visit. No matter what it ends up being, we know we'll be welcomed and that our work will help that program to serve the many needs of children in that neighborhood.

If you'd like to be part of the work crew, please sign up at the Information Table.

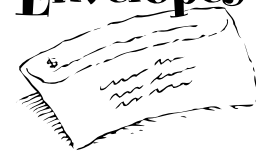


LUNCH BUNCH IN JANUARY

This month the Lunch Bunch will meet on Saturday, January 9th, 2010 at Joe Root's on Peninsula at 8th at 12:30 p.m. To make reservations please call Peggy Bules 836-0096 or Annette Rothschild, 836-0835.



Offering Envelopes



Please make a practice of using your offering envelopes when contributing to the church. It is helpful when entering contributions to keep track of giving.

TIME FOR SOUP AGAIN!

Soup will be made by the Deacons on Sunday, January 24th for the Emmaus Soup Kitchen. Please bring the needed items to the church kitchen between 9:30 and 11:00 am.

- Adults & Senior High - uncooked meat, barley, beef stock
- Nursery & preschool - corn
- K-1 - corn, carrots
- 2nd & 3rd - beans, canned tomatoes
- 4th & 5th - chopped onion, celery, peppers, canned tomatoes
- 6th -8th - tomato juice, potatoes, cleaned & sliced carrots

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

We will gather at our Lord's Table on the first Sunday of the new year. On that same day we will ordain, install, and recognize new church officers as well as receive a wonderful group of new members.

January 3rd Celebration of Holy Communion & Services of Ordination and Installation
Text - John 1:1-18
Title - "Full of Grace and Truth"

John's gospel does not have a Christmas story per se, but the author does talk about "In the beginning ..." in reference to Jesus. And John's description is far different from what we find elsewhere. In the brief time we have for a sermon this morning we'll consider just a part of that characterization.

January 10th
Text - Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Title - "Costly Baptism"

Many of the Biblical stories of baptism are far from the pictures of a nice family gathered around a font with a joyful community of faith just in the background. Indeed what the New Testament says about baptism is anything but safe and comfortable. We see that both in the story of Jesus' own baptism as well as in an event in the life of the early church – great moments both, but also costly.

January 17th
Text – John 2:1-11
Title – "Extravagant Signs"

The first miracle that Jesus worked (according to John's gospel) fits into a unique category, for it had nothing to do with healing or wholeness or providing food for the masses. No, here in John 2 we find Jesus turning water into wine so a wedding party can continue. Seems an unlikely place to begin, unless we see it as a sign of what is yet to come. And what is still coming.

January 24th
Text – Luke 4:14–21
Title – "Picking a Dream"

Do movies and TV shows inspire us to become what we see, or do they resonate with something that is already in us? Do they simply create a picture for what we had been unable to articulate? I wonder if scripture stories raise the same questions. Do they speak to us because of the truth they convey or do they simply echo a truth that God has placed within us?

January 31st
Text – Luke 4:21-30
Title – "The Offense"

You would generally expect a homecoming to be a happy occasion. Yet, when Jesus returns to Nazareth and preaches in the synagogue, it ends up as anything but a happy event. What went wrong? Could it have been avoided? Is Jesus really the instigator of the conflict? We might have wished for a more positive experience, but the story says a lot about what should be expected from this upstart rabbi.