

## Newsletter – December 21, 2009

Happy Winter Solstice everyone. Praise the Creator of the light and of the dark too!

I hope this finds you warm and deeply into real preparation for Christmas. Our church service yesterday was a great way, at least for me, to get into the spirit. I just love worshipping here; the feeling in the sanctuary is truly spirit filled and I thank you for that. Yesterday, Brian Lendrum and I did the sermon together and I thank him for his gifts in that way. The choir blessed us at the end of the service with the Halleluia Chorus – OH MY GOODNESS! It was simply wonderful. Thanks to them all.

Thank you too, to all of you who have been so generous with kind words and invitations and cards and .....I'm truly blessed to be with you in ministry.

I'm sending along some information you may find helpful and I'll simply list them now:

- 1) One more noon hour Advent service: 12:15-12:45 Wednesday here in the sanctuary
- 2) Wednesday, 2:30 FINAL PAGEANT PRACTICE. We won't go beyond 5 pm but the practice may end earlier *if everyone knows her/his lines and speaks up clearly*. Bring snacks if you can.
- 3) Christmas Eve: 7 pm pageant. PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THE PAGEANT PLEASE BE HERE BY 6:15. WE NEED TO GET DRESSED AND GO OVER SOME PARTS TOGETHER. PLEASE MEET DOWNSTAIRS IN LEWIS HALL.
- 4) Christmas Eve 9 pm service with lots of music
- 5) The church office will be closed from Dec 25<sup>th</sup> ...open again Monday Jan 4<sup>th</sup>. Bev will be working from home and if you need to get her, please do so at 633 3777 or [bcsbrazier@live.ca](mailto:bcsbrazier@live.ca). You may also leave messages on the church phone and these will be checked regularly.
- 6) From Pat: Could the person who dropped off a receipt for Share the Spirit please identify herself or himself? There was no name attached.
- 7) Service at the regular time Dec 27<sup>th</sup>
- 8) Dec 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am – clean up after Christmas Eve to get ready for service on Sunday. Costumes will be put away at this time as well; come if you can to help.
- 9) SOUP NEEDED – we are in need of soup for the soup kitchen. There are buckets at the church for you to use – please pick up a bucket (or two) and fill it up. Thanks so much.
- 10)

## SOME THINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR

- 1) Sunday at 7:30 on Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> – we will continue our once-a-month evening services using the music of specific people. We've done Peter Paul and Mary, we've done the Beatles, and this time we will use Elvis. (does anyone have a CD of his gospel music?)

- 2) Tuesday Jan 12<sup>th</sup> – M&P meets at 4:30, Worship meets at 5:15 and Council at 7:15.
- 3) Saturday Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – our congregational retreat will be at Sundog. From 10-4pm. Child care provided. The cost is \$30.00 which covers lunch as well. More details to come.
- 4) Men's Breakfast Wednesday Jan 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 am at the CYO Hall, at the downtown Roman Catholic church
- 5) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service will be Sunday Jan 17<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm at the Lutheran Church.
- 6) Annual Congregational Financial Meeting: after church on Sunday Jan 24<sup>th</sup>. This is an important meeting; it's for accountability and for visioning for the future. ALL PEOPLE associated with our church family are invited. It's not only for members, or for those who serve on committees. Please pray about this and attend if you are able.
- 7) Book Study: Jennifer Moorlag will lead a study starting Jan 19<sup>th</sup> on Nancy Reeves' "Spirituality for Extroverts (And Tips for Those Who Love Them)" more details to follow.
- 8) Book Club – this is new: Sunday Jan 17<sup>th</sup> after church, anyone interested in a book club please meet with Bev. Bring books you got for Christmas or suggestions for a book to begin. We'll choose a time to meet that will suit our schedules at that time.
- 9) Bev would like to do a DESSERT THEATRE in the spring. What is needed: adults who are interested in reading through a script to see if they might be interested in this project. Please meet after church Sunday Jan 10<sup>th</sup> – and we'll see if this is something we can do.

From Mark Browning, the following message about United Church Men

The United Church AOTS (As One That Serves) and the Men's Ministry Network have just launched a new blog <http://ucaots.blogspot.com/> to help offer a forum for Christian men. It is not necessary to be members of the United Church, it is open to all men on a broad ecumenical basis.

Please come online and offer your support to this new service and if you would like some more information on the AOTS or our Men's Ministry please check out the website at [www.aots.ca](http://www.aots.ca) and if you have any questions, suggestions or you would like to be involved in any way please contact Mark Browning (the webmaster) [mark@aots.ca](mailto:mark@aots.ca)

Mark has been on the national council for 12 years and has been living in Whitehorse for the last 5 years. He would love to hear from you so please send him a note.

And finally, check out our Moderator's Christmas message and also the United Church of Canada's response to Copenhagen, at [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)