Open Doors UMC of Blue Eye

VOLUME 5
ISSUE 2

December 2015 Newsletter

Pastor's Column

Advent starts a new Christian year. We have heard the story and prepared for Jesus coming into the world for, well for as old as you are! But it is always new and exciting. Why, because Jesus is coming!!! The Savior of the world is coming and life will NOT be the same after His birth. Thanks be to God for sending Jesus into the world.

And now we need to get prepared! The Hanging of the Greens is a sign unto us that the season has started. Our nativity is still in need of repair so hopefully we can get it repaired for next year. The figures are okay but they need repainted. So, what is before us is the celebrations of Christmas. Three of them we are doing on the same day--Dec. 13! At morning worship the choir will have their Christmas Concert and then we will have the Christmas Play. Later that day around 5:00 we will gather for the Christmas Party at the parsonage. These articles are in this newsletter along with the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m. Dec. 24 (my favorite) and the New Year's Eve party at the West's house. They open their home to our congregation and we have a great time.

Let's get together on these special events! It will help us with our preparations and we will be ready once again to accept Jesus Christ into our lives as a new born baby. Who would then become the Savior of the world!! He did not come to save us from worldy things like the powers of the world but to be saved from losing our lives to those worldy powers. We are saved from the world unto everlasting life.

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON!!

Pastor Jack

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Scriptures For The

Sunday, December 6: Malachi 3:1-4 • Luke 1:68-79 • Philippians 1:3-11 • Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 13: Malachi 3:1-4 • Luke 1:68-79 • Philippians 1:3-11 • Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 20: Micah 5:2-5a • Luke 1:46b-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 • Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Sunday, December 27: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 • Psalm 148 • Colossians 3:12-17 • Luke 2:41-52

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

As always Christmas Eve is special. With all the Christmas carols, the candles, the choir and all the special readings it is an amazing time of the year. Please bring your whole family, one and all, to set the mood for the right reason—Christmas is for Jesus! The birth of Jesus is the most amazing night in history and to this day people marvel at the nativity—Jesus coming to be our savior but first being born like all of us—Let's celebrate the birth of the Baby Jesus. Thursday, December 24—7:00 p.m.!!

Christmas Party

An "all church" Christmas Party is planned for Sunday, Dec. 13 at 5:00 p.m. There will be a sign up sheet. For this event we would like snack foods and finger foods and some desserts of course.

For the gift exchange please bring a wrapped edible gift worth around $10. This could be something homemade or bought from a store, sweet or not so sweet. Just make sure its something good!! We had a really great time with this last year. Hopefully we will have a bigger turn out this year!!

Christmas Play/Choir Concert Dec. 13

Isn't This What Christmas Is All About?

Our Christmas Play will be on December 13 this year. It is called "Isn't This What Christmas Is All About?" It is a great story of what Christmas is truly supposed to be about.

Our Joyful Noise Choir will also be having a concert at the beginning of the service. This is going to be a really wonderful day. Please come out and join in the fun and then later in the day we will have another opportunity for fun at the party.

Trunk or Treat

Everyone had a really great time for Trunk or Treat this year. We had 9 cars for the ghost and goblins to gather their treats and there were 87 ghost and goblins and a few fairies and princesses.

We discovered that it is much nicer when we all gather on the church side so that the cars notice the lights a lot better. The food provided to the treaters was great as usual. Thanks to all who helped this years Trunk or Treat be a great success.

Greeters

Dec. 6: Deloris Bryant
Becky McNabb
Dec. 13: Barbara Curbow
Sharon Gilliam
Dec. 20: Jan Henseik

Dec. 27: Tammy Walker

Welcome Center Hosts

Dec. 6: Bob & Debbie Lyon
Dec. 13: Helen Feuz
Susie Bouchey
Dec. 20: Debra Tompkins
Barbara Curbow
Dec. 27: Tammy Walker

This newsletter is published monthly. If you have an article for publication please get it to the pastor before the last week of the month.

Also if you have an address of someone who you think would like to receive this newsletter please leave that information in the church office.

We have a Facebook page, please go to our page and "like" us. You can post suggestions, pictures or anything you would like. It is also a great way to find out what is going on and see the pictures of events already taken place.

January Planning Session

On January 16, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon we will have a program planning session at the church. Everyone on the Church Council needs to put this date on the calendar ans attend if at all pissible. Yet, everyone in the church is invited to this meeting.

From 8:30 to 9:00 we will have coffee and donuts, muffins, etc. At 9:00 we will begin our planning session.

From 9:00-10:00 we will brainstorm ideas new and old as to what kind of programs this church should offer. We will break up into small groups (4-6) to discuss program ideas then come back into the large group and share what we have discussed.

Then 10:00-10:30 narrow our list to items that will fit for the calendar year 2016. There are only a certain amount of events that will fit inot a calendar. There will be weekly events (Bible Studies, women's group, etc.), and monthly events (potluck, movies, etc.) and quarterly events (BBQ, Mother-Daughter banquet, etc). This is where you need to put your ideas sown on paper before the planning session. Take a blank sheet of paper and write--Progess; Weekly-- Monthly-- Quartiery--
And write down your ideas of what you would like to see our church do. What would bring outside folks to our church? What would be a good fundraiser? The best fundraiser so far has been a twice a year garage sale. It is also the area in whcih we involve the most people of our church. It helps us a lot!! So, what are your ideas to help our church grow spiritually and physically?

Then at 10:30 we will take a short 20 minute break. From 10:50 to Noon we will take the ideas we have and put them on a working calendar for 2016. Once we have completed this we will assign each program a group to work with it (Hospitality, Missions, Worship, Trustees, etc.). We will try hard to stick to this plan for 2016. Things we could not find a place for in 2016 we will try in 2017!!!

New Sign

Our new sign is up and runnig. We will be experimenting with different formats to see what works best for those driving by. Thanks to Ayres Sign Company and Eagle Electric we have the sign for the Christmas Season. It will proclaim the reason for the season! Jesus!!

New Year's Eve Party

Cody and Shery West have invited us to their home again this year for a New Year's Eve Party. We had a really great time last year. It will start around 6:30 and last until around midnight. Bring something to snack on and be ready for a fun night!!

OPEN DOORS

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BLUE EYE

Happy New Year!!

Happy

Anniversary