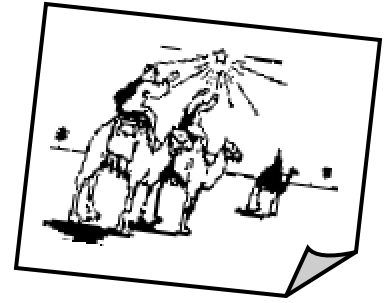


BUCK CREEK

UMC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2002



A WELCOME FROM PASTOR BONNIE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." - Jeremiah 29:11



The phone rang. It was our District Superintendent, Rev. Michelle Cobb. She wanted to know if I would be willing to pastor a church until the end of the year. Then maybe we could talk again in mid-December to see if I might like to stay on until the end of the Conference year, which is June.

As I become more acquainted with all you wonderful people, I realize how kind and loving you are. Mid December came and so did the call. It is now official. I will be your pastor until June. Then we'll see what God has planned for us.

As we prepare for the new year, let us go into it with the mindset that whatever happens, God is Good -- all the time. You are well organized and are capable of good lay ministry. I realize that you want and need a pastor. Remember the quote from Jesus in John 14 when he said, "I will not leave you alone like orphans. . ."

You can claim that verse, as Jesus wants the best for you. My first sermon was a reminder for all of us that God is planning a new thing. So what's in store for 2002? Many good things. For now, I am your pastor. Until June or longer, we don't know. While I'm here, I want to be here for you for whatever you need. Let's go forward into 2002 with the attitude that whatever is going to happen, will be the best from God and the Conference. Let's just get on with life in the church and do ministry like we know what we're doing. God bless you everyday.

- Pastor Bonnie

BUCK CREEK UMC NEWSLETTER <> JANUARY 2002

The January 2002 Staff:

Tim Schnepf, editor.

Nancy Schnepf, reporter.

Carol Shepard, church secretary, duplicator.

God, the one and only!!!

BCUMC on the web: <http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/bcumcin/>

Editor's Notes: Oh, it's the end of the year? What's going through my mind? I think about how I'm going to get that straight-A college report card next semester, or how I'm going to take on a bunch of new responsibilities and handle them all with outstanding grace and efficiency. I can't predict the future. Usually, unexpected things happen that aren't part of my plan. When I look back, I can see what *God's* plan has been for me. He has led me on a road dissimilar to my own plans, but I welcome the new road with open arms. Rather than making a thousand New Year's resolutions this year, I think I'm going to pray and seek *God's* guidance. Happy New Year, everyone!

-Tim Schnepf

E-MAIL: schnepfd@purdue.edu



What'll it be? Gold? Frankincense? Or Myrrh?

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

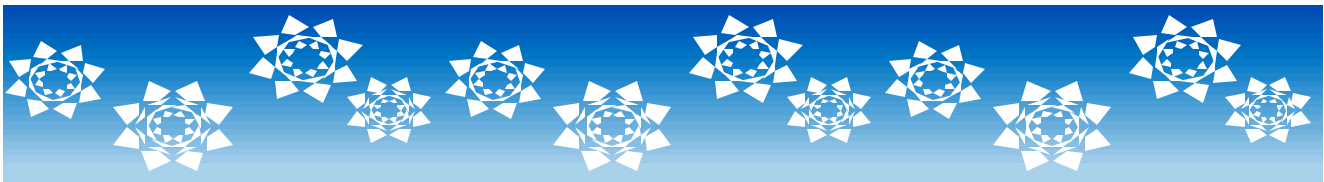
JAN 06 > Loren & Maralyn Turner for their 49th anniversary (01.11)

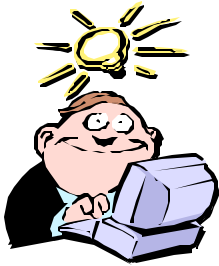
JAN 13 > John & Willie Metro for John and Mike's birthdays

JAN 20 > Carol Shepard in memory of her grandmother's birthday (01.16)

JAN 27 > Mike & Summer Taylor for John & Willie's 39th anniversary
(01.26)

MOWING SCHEDULE will resume in the spring.





WISHES OVERHEARD

- + We wish to welcome our new interim pastor Bonnie Shoaf!
- + The newsletter staff wishes all our readers a Happy New Year!
- + We wish to say how special it was to have District Superintendent Michelle Cobb attending worship services with us on December 2nd.
- + I wish the back door could be repainted inside and out.
- + We wish to thank Jane Faurote for informing us about the Sr. Citizen's special day at Target. We had a great time!
- + We wish to thank the Youth Group and their sponsors for an outstanding, magnificent, awesome Sr. Citizens' party!
- + We wish to invite you to Euchre Club, held the second Saturday each month from 6-9pm in the church basement.
- + We wish the Choir to know how much we enjoyed their special Christmas presentation. We could hear every voice, and they were all wonderful. We had not heard "Carol of the Bells" for a long time.
- + We wish to thank those of you who decorate outside your homes with Christmas lights. It is a joy to see them, especially driving to work on these dark mornings, and be reminded that Christ is the light of the world.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Darrell and Wende Broussard announce the birth of their new baby boy, Joshua Michael Broussard. He was born on Sunday, December 16. (His Dad and big brother Eric picked out the name.) He is 7 lb 7 oz, 20 1/2 inches long, and has strawberry blond hair. His Mom says he is "so tiny and so cute!" Big brother and big sister Katlin are doing great and they love Joshua very much. Congratulations! *Wende was a member and teacher at BCUMC for many years.*

"SOUPer" BOWL: BE THE ONE

The "SOUPer Bowl" will still be on January 27th. (That "other" super bowl has been moved to February 3rd.) The SOUPer Bowl is a day for collecting soup and money that will be donated to a local food pantry. Across our nation and Canada, churches of all faiths participate, along with schools and businesses. Last year, 2,381 Methodist churches generated \$643,555 of the national total of \$3.6 million collected. Buck Creek UMC collected \$50 cash and \$70 worth of soup in 2001. We can again be the "1" in 2,381. Just "one" dollar or "one" can of soup will help! Be the ONE!

GETTING TO KNOW PASTOR BONNIE

...A little interesting trivia about our new interim pastor!

Name: Bonnie Marie Shoaf

Education: Jefferson High School, Purdue University, and Whiting College. Took Seminary Course of Study at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Ordained: 1987

Was resident camp director at Pine Creek from 1969-1980.

Churches served:

1980-1985: Goodland/Raub UMC (two point charge)

1985-1990: Porter UMC

1990-1996: Faith UMC, South Bend, IN

1996-2000: Bourbon UMC

Children: (3 daughters, 1 son, 2 son-in-laws, 1 daughter-in-law, 4 grandsons, 2 granddaughters)

+ Rick Johnson (wife Alice). Their son Brandon is 13 and plays sports at East Tipp. He will go to Harrison HS next fall.

+ Wanda Miller. Her son Dusty is a sabbatical student of Purdue. (He is taking a vacation from studying this year.)

+ Kelli Robinson (husband Mike). Their son Mitchell plays trumpet in Penn High School band; daughter Jenna is a 5th grade student at Moran school in Osceola.

+ Shelli Treely (husband Ron). Their daughter Kelsey is a middle school student at Horizon school in Osceola; son Phillip is a 9 year old all American boy and a student at Harrison Elementary.

Hobbies: My hobbies are---well actually I like life. I like people. I enjoy reading, knitting, walking, playing piano (for myself only).

THE HUMOR CORNER

WAGON TALE- It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church was looking over the cradle when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the nativity figures. Immediately he turned and went outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus. So he walked up to the boy and said, "Well, where did you get HIM, my fine friend?" The little boy replied, "I got him from the church." "And why did you take him?" The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus, and I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give him a ride around the block in it..."

COMMUNITY OBIT

MARY E. ECKHART, 87



Mary Elizabeth Eckhart of Buck Creek died at 11:20pm on Thursday, December 20, 2001 in Home Hospital in Lafayette. Born February 27, 1914 in Pittsburg, Carroll County, she graduated from Buck Creek High School in 1931. She spent winters in Florida from 1978-1994 and from 1996-98. She married Donald W. Eckhart on August 29, 1936 in East Germantown in Decatur County. Donald passed away on November 30, 1994. Mary was a mother, homemaker, and belonged to Buck Creek United Methodist Church, joining on April 17, 1949, making her a member for over 50 years. Surviving is a daughter, Peggy Eckhart of Buck Creek, 3 sons, Bill Eckhart, and Dick Eckhart (wife Marilyn) of Buck Creek, and Ed Eckhart (wife Sue) of Lafayette. Also surviving are 4 grandchildren: Edward Eckhart Jr., Mark J. Eckhart, Elizabeth J. Eckhart, and Nicolas J. Eckhart. Four great grandchildren: Sarah Eckhart, Ben Eckhart, Rachel Eckhart and Miley Eckhart. Mary's parents George & Lillian Allen Gilpin, 3 brothers, Ray, Charley and Ted Gilpin, and 1 sister Minnie Schnepf, preceded her in death. Services were at the Richard-Loy and Clapper Funeral Chapel with Pastor Clayton Kendall and Pastor Bonnie Shoaf officiating. Memorials to Buck Creek United Methodist Church. Sympathies are expressed to family and friends.

LETTER FROM MAXINE

Thanks for sending me your newsletter each month. I thoroughly enjoy it. I especially liked the "Cup" sermon by Mr. Dick Stone. Although there aren't many people left I used to know, I remember Opal [Shoop]. She used to play the violin at times for school programs. HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY OPAL. I still have happy memories of the town. My Grandmother Sarah Pattee lived in the house where Peg Eckhart lives. I am the daughter of W.A. Pattee whose name is on a front window of the church. We lived on a small farm outside of Buck Creek in the twenties and attended (my father the old Buck Creek school) and we children the newer one. So much for reminiscing. I am enclosing a small check for continuing of the newsletter if not too much trouble.

Sincerely, Maxine Pattee Tschopp

NOTES FROM OATES

*...a little letter from our former interim pastor! (whose name not only rhymes with **quotes**, but also with **notes**!)*

I'm writing to tell you to share with the Buck Creek congregation some exciting news (okay...for me...) The Hoosier United Methodist News has extended an offer to me to expand my ministry. They have extended to me the opportunity to continue the monthly country church column. They are also extending the offer to be the North Indiana Conference news reporter. I have accepted. (Don't worry...it's just a stringer position...I'm still working at GLHS, Inc....it'll take an act of God to get me out of there!) See ya later! **peace, mo**

PS: That means my continued conquest to become the Bishop of Indiana is back on track!

A NOTE OF THANKS

The poinsettia is beautiful ! Thanks to all who sent me cards for my birthday. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.

With God's blessing, Betty Pearson

GREETINGS FROM THE AUSTINS IN SUNNY FLORIDA

We wish to thank all our wonderful Church families for your prayers for our safe traveling. We had a wonderful visit with my brother & family in Texas. Leaving there Nov. 28th as it was getting very cool there. We were anxious to get to the warm weather, which has been very beautiful.

It has been a very hard adjustment to make with the loss of our very dear Francis. It is very lonely and an emptiness without him. So we ask you to keep us in your prayers as we make the adjustment. We love each one of you and miss you. God Bless!

In Christ, Ron & Linda Austin

LADIES MISSIONARY ON THE ROAD

Ladies Missionary collected 240 pairs of socks, 1 pair of toenail clippers and 3 bottles of nailpolish for the Lebanon Children's Home. These were delivered on December 8th by representatives Nancy Schnepf and Linda LaMaster, along with Clarence LaMaster! The gifts were given in memory of Francis J. Pearl.



We toured the facility and learned from our tour guide, Jennifer Mysogland, that there

are currently 67 children at the home. (So each should get at least 3 pairs of socks!) We toured a girls dorm (Coons Hall), and met the residents, all who were very friendly and pleasant. (Among them, Cassie, who yearns to produce movies someday.) There are single and double rooms in the dorm, and the girls may decorate their rooms as they please, just so its appropriate. The rooms were very neat and tidy. We found out the girls like burgers and fries and like to bake their own cookies. They enjoyed our visit very much, and found it a pleasant break from their Saturday morning game of Scrabble.



Three boxes full !!!

We also toured the school. It is an accredited school, using a similar curriculum as Lebanon Schools. The building has a large gym where the residents have physical education and recreation on weekdays. The classes are small, with 8-10 students, so there

is more interaction between students and teacher. There are Christian Education classes available, but they are optional. We were told that they have a super Christian Ed teacher. The residents are required to attend church each Sunday. Two Sundays a month they attend a local United Methodist church and the remaining Sundays they attend the on-campus chapel.

All residents of the home are school age, and come from various backgrounds. They may have learning problems, or come from an abusive home, been in trouble, or have no family. Some spend 3 months, some 3 years at the home.

There is an outreach program at the home, where the girls and boys sign up to visit nursing homes and play bingo with the residents. We were told that the list is always full, as the kids enjoy this activity very much. These kids want to reach out and feel needed. We could feel them reaching out to us as we talked with them.



To those of you who donated socks---thanks so much for your generosity. If you could have seen these kids with your own eyes---you need to know that a new pair of socks means a lot to them.

LADIES MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

NEW OFFICERS: Ladies Missionary Society met on November 19th and elected new officers for 2002: President: Gini Tull; Vice President: Nancy Schnepf; Secretary: Pat Sense; Treasurer: Ruth Davidson. Meetings scheduled for 2002: Feb. 18th, May 20th, Sept. 16th and Nov. 18th, at 6:30pm. Come and join us!

NEW RAFFLE: LMS is sponsoring a Valentine's raffle. Make sure and get your tickets! Drawing will be February 10th. Get something sweet for your sweetheart, at a reasonable price! Ticket sales start on January 20th; 3 tickets for \$1.

CHOIR NOTES

The BCUMC Choir performed their Christmas Special at BCUMC on December 16th. It consisted of some favorite songs interspersed with some scripture verses, and good news given by Doug Latia. *News! News! Good news! Don't you want to share with the whole world?*

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" began the set, which was flawless and featured a solo by Coley Sharp. *Christ is born---that is good news. God sent him because he loves us. I wonder how I can thank him.*

Mindy Jester accompanied with piano as the choir sang "Little Drummer Boy" complete with pa rum pa pum pums. *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. -Luke 2:8-11*

The trio of Anita Davidson, Mindy Jester and Coley Sharp sang the powerful "Carol of the Bells" wonderfully, with a little bit of "What Child is This" mixed in. It was hard not to join in on this one. *Jesus said the kingdom of God belongs to little children. - Luke 18:16 Father we thank you for these little people you put in our lives.*

The tenors and basses in the choir were featured for "Thank God for Children". Ralph Rohrer, Dick Mohler, Doug Latia and Bob Shepard had solos.

For the heartfelt "Heirlooms", Mindy Jester and Elaine Latia had solos. *In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. The One and Only, full of grace and truth.*

The dynamic duo of Dena Hance and Bob Shepard teamed up for "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Dick Mohler began "Amen" with his strong voice, and

was joined by the rest of the choir. *In Psalms we read that we should come before the Lord and sing with Joy.*

As the choir sang "Sing with Joy! (glory, hallelujah)" (with a solo by Coley Sharp), hearts were uplifted.

As the choir reprised "Go Tell It on the Mountain", their message was clear: they were sharing the joy of the news of Jesus' birth with us in song. To the choir: we got your message. Thanks for sharing.

The choir also performed their music at St. Mary's Healthcare, Colburn UMC, and Rosewalk Commons during December. Members this season are: Anita Davidson (director), Bob Shepard, Ralph Rohrer, Coley Sharp, Dick Mohler, Doug Latia, Sally Mohler, Elaine Latia, Dena Hance, Judy Skees, Mindy Jester.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

RAIN CHECK: Report on the feast this year is the youth made \$500-700. This is wonderful taking into account they were only there one day instead of the usual two, due to the rain. The Chuckwagon dinner on November 11th earned the youth group \$200. Thanks from the youth group to those who attended and helped finish up the leftover buffaloburgers from the Feast.

ROAD CLEAN-UP: was November 25th, which netted 5 bags of trash. The youth had pizza afterwards.

PARTY TIME: The Youth sponsored the annual Sr. Citizens party on December 15th, and it was a great success. Attendance was up tremendously this year, and everyone (including the youth!) had a wonderful time. Bingo was a hit as usual, and all the guests had a prize or two to take home. Soup, homemade rolls, and dessert were served.

PIZZA PIZZA: The youth had their Christmas party and exchanged secret Santa gifts on December 16th. Ron & Angie Austin generously set up the party for the youth group and their leaders this year, along with help from Sam & Jamie Stratton, and Bob & Carol Shepard. They stated that the youth and leaders give so much all year long, that they want to give something back to them. Pizza, chips and cookies were served. The youth did not get to go caroling due to the rainy weather.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: Youth will be practicing almost every Sunday now for Youth Sunday (February 10th), except for February 3rd which is now Super Bowl Sunday!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

In loving memory of our parents Hazel & Bob Temple, Jennie & Charles Coy from Dick & Bev

In loving memory of our parents Mom & Dad Harner, Mom & Dad Henderson from Verne & Jean

In loving memory of Ray Shadowens from Margaret

In loving memory of Steve Miller from Mom, Dad, Jim & Dan

In loving memory of John R. Miller, Sr., in loving memory of Steve R. Miller, in loving memory of Michael L. Kersery from Lorene

In loving memory of George Chappell from Audrey

In loving memory of Gladys & Vernon Wagoner from Mary

In loving memory of Irene Johnston from Bob & Ruth

In loving memory of my brother, Jerry Stacy from Trudy

In loving memory of our parents from Loren & Maralyn

In loving memory of Leslie Stratton from Sam & Jamie

In loving memory of Ralph's grandparents: Louis & Alice Hendricks, Frank & Hattie Rohrer from Ralph & Mindy

In loving memory of Mindy's Aunt Freda Sweeney from Ralph & Mindy

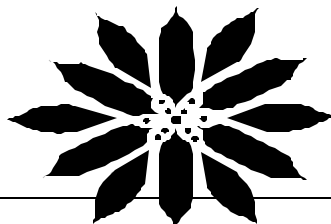
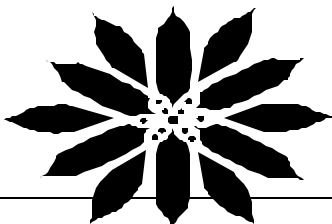
In loving memory of Mindy's grandparents: Harry & Cora Scarborough, Herbert & Elsie Jester from Ralph & Mindy

In loving memory of Conner R. Jester from Ralph & Mindy

In loving memory of Forest Wilson from Mildred Wilson

In loving memory of our family from Richard & Nancy F.

Thanks to Jil Funk for ordering, picking up and delivering the poinsettias.



SERVANTS OF THE LORD ☺ JANUARY 2002							
Date	Ushers	Greeters	Acolyte	Liturgist	Children's Sermon	Bell Ringer	Nursery
JAN 06	Tom Davidson Sam Stratton Gini Tull	Geraldine Delp Deb Istwan	Paige Davidson	Doug Latia	<u>Communion</u>	Spencer Davidson	Dan Church Ali Davidson
JAN 13	Ron Austin Jr Pat Sense Carol Shepard	Geraldine Delp Deb Istwan	Paige Davidson	Doug Latia	Michele Mitchell	Spencer Davidson	Deb Davidson Kiersten Davidson
JAN 20	Ron Austin Jr Pat Sense Carol Shepard	Geraldine Delp Deb Istwan	Paige Davidson	Doug Latia	Michele Mitchell	Spencer Davidson	Christine McCreedy Melissa Shepard
JAN 27	Ron Austin Jr Pat Sense Carol Shepard	Geraldine Delp Deb Istwan	Paige Davidson	Doug Latia	Michele Mitchell	Spencer Davidson	Jennifer Shepard Amanda Shepard
Organist: Mindy Jester. Choir Director: Anita Davidson. Communion Steward: Summer Taylor.							

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

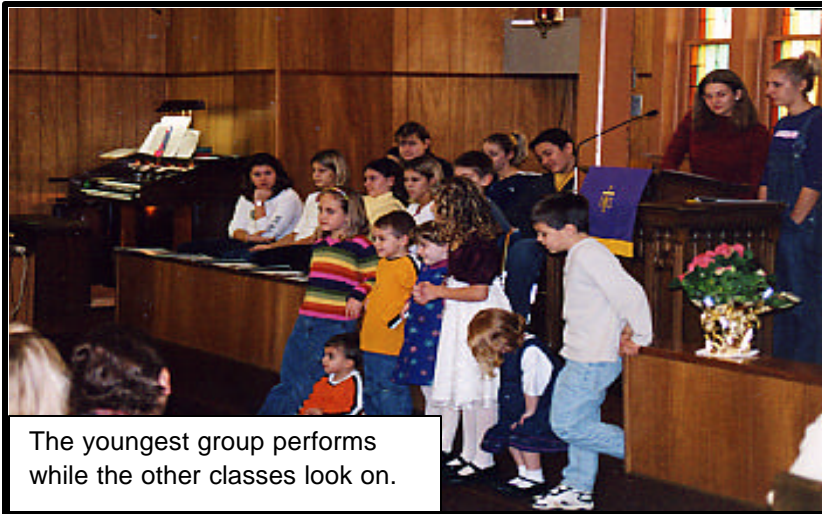
- Dec. 2: The Mike & Summer Taylor Family (expectation candle)
- Dec. 9: The Bob & Carol Shepard Family (hope candle)
- Dec. 16: The Tom & Deb Davidson Family (joy candle)
- Dec. 23: The Richard & Nancy Feaster Family (purity candle)

The Christ candle is then lit on Christmas Eve to remind Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS

"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." - Luke 2:20



The youngest group performs while the other classes look on.

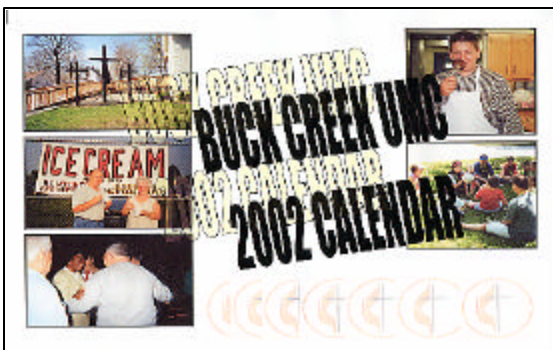
The Sunday School students presented a mini-program celebrating the Christmas story, on December 9th. Seventeen participated as they read Bible verses and sang. The youngest group (Paige, Spencer, Teia, Tina,

Erin and Austin) sang a precious rendition of "Away in a Manger". Melissa and Casi took turns reading from Luke 2:1-21, which tells the Christmas story, and were joined by the older children (Sarah, Adi, Kiersten, Amanda, Allen, Travis, Ali, Adi and Zach) in singing verses of "Silent Night" between readings. The congregation also celebrated the Christmas story as we joined the Sunday School children in singing "Joy to the World!" to conclude the program. (Jamie Stratton was pianist.)



Santa makes a visit after the program.

Punch and cookies were served after church, and the children received specially prepared bags of goodies from Old St. Nick! (thanks to Tom Davidson for the photos).



← Be sure to pick up your copy of the new 2002 Buck Creek United Methodist Church Calendar! Copies are available at the church in the entry way or downstairs. If you are far away from the church and would still like a calendar, send your address to the church or e-mail it to the editor. And, of course, the calendar is subject to change!

UNFERMENTED WINE

Dentist Thomas Welch was the Communion Steward for the congregation of the First Methodist Church of Vineland, New Jersey, in 1869. During that summer, to his great dismay, the communion wine used by the church set one of his houseguests off on quite a binge. Determined to do something about this, he and his family spent the following September picking and pressing about forty pounds of grapes. In an attempt to repress the natural fermentation properties in the fruit, he heated the juice, pasteurizing it before sealing it in bottles. For the next few weeks he listened anxiously for the sounds of exploding bottles, but nothing happened. When Welch opened the containers, he found nothing but sweet, unfermented grape juice. Dubbed unfermented wine, this beverage was an instant hit. After introducing it to his own church, Dr. Welch began selling it to various other congregations and denominations. By 1890 Dr. Welch's Grape Juice had become a staple on communion tables, where for many congregations it remains so today. From Holston United Methodist Reporter, Vol. No. 31 Thanks to Pastor Bonnie Shoaf for contributing!

COMMUNION STEWARDS: 2002

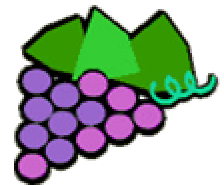
Our new communion chairperson, Nancy Balser, is polishing up the silver communion set! Also, new containers will be purchased to be used to fill the communion cups. These volunteers are honored as being communion stewards for 2002:

JAN 06 > Summer Taylor
FEB 03 > Richard & Nancy Feaster
MAR 03 > Jil Funk
APR 07 > Jean Harner & Pat Sense
MAY 05 > Deb Davidson
JUN 02 > Christine McCreedy

JUL 07 > Judy Chandler
AUG 04 > Nancy Balser
SEPT 01 > Virginia Tull
OCT 06 > Fred & Faye Merkel
NOV 03 > Bob & Carol Shepard
DEC 01 > Nancy Schnepf

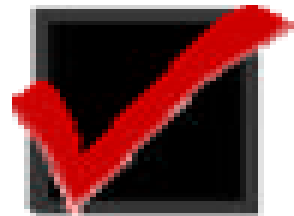
Extras: Dena & Ken Hance

Communion stewards need to provide one loaf of bread (not sliced) and one bottle of grape juice, and fill the cups for setup. The elements (juice & bread) should be ready and upstairs by 10:00am (9:00am in summer). Stewards also need to help with clean-up after church. Thank you for performing this important service for your church.



WHAT TO DO IN 2002 (AT BCUMC)

- ❖ Give soup to the SOUPer bowl offering.
- ❖ Be an anonymous angel.
- ❖ Start saving your pennies for the Penny Harvest!
- ❖ Bring a friend to Sunday School.
- ❖ Send cheer cards to those in need.
- ❖ Work at the Feast with the Youth Group.
- ❖ Fill a YES kit. Sew a YES kit.
- ❖ Join Men's Group on Tuesday evenings at 6pm.
- ❖ Come join the Euchre group on the 2nd Saturday each month from 6-9pm.
- ❖ Join the choir! Rejoin the choir!
- ❖ Check out the Ladies Missionary Society.
- ❖ Volunteer to be a Servant of the Lord (see Dick & Sally Mohler).
- ❖ Save your greeting cards for St. Jude's.
- ❖ Be at the Pine Creek Camp work day in April.
- ❖ Give to the Sunflower Fund!
- ❖ Join the evangelism team and visit the shut-ins.
- ❖ Help with the Mother/Daughter Banquet and/or Father/Child Breakfast.
- ❖ Be here for Church work days.
- ❖ Sign up to be a Sunday School teacher for fall or sub.
- ❖ Get your name on the mowing/snowing schedule list.
- ❖ Send cards to those with special birthdays.
- ❖ Attend church and Sunday School on Sundays.



EPIPHANY

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. -Matthew 2:10

EPIPHANY. What is it? (Can you pronounce it? e-piph-a-ny). It appears on the church calendar on January 6th, but what IS it? What does it have to do with us Christians? Epiphany gets forgotten inbetween Christmas and Easter, but it is a very important day! It is part of Christmas! The first day of Christmas is Christmas Day, and Epiphany is the 12th day of Christmas (like the song)! It is the day of the Adoration of the Magi. It is known also as Twelfth Night and 2nd nativity. The word

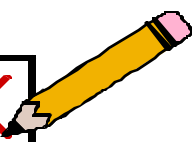
epiphany itself means "to make known" or "to show". Webster's dictionary says Epiphany is "January 6 observed as a church festival in commemoration of the coming of the Magi." And, not only is January 6th Epiphany, it is the FIRST day of Epiphany. Epiphany lasts from January 6 until February 12th--did you know that? *In some cultures, no presents are given until January 6th. Your kids probably think it's a long wait until December 25th!* So what it boils down to is this: Epiphany is celebrated by Christians as the day to commemorate the presentation of the infant Jesus to the Magi from the East as they arrived in Bethlehem. So tell your kids about Epiphany, leave those nativity sets up this year until January 6th, and keep your eyes on the star, okay?

CHURCH QUIZ

Your BCUMC church building was built in 1908 and dedicated on January 31, 1909! Have fun and learn with this quiz and see if you know any of these historical facts.

QUESTIONS (see answers in the upside-down box below):

1. Who was the first pastor of the current building?
2. How old is the church building in 2002?
3. What year were the protective window coverings put on the stained glass windows?
4. What pastor served the longest at BCUMC, and how many years?
5. What year was the current steeple placed?
6. Including interim pastors, how many pastors have there been (including those at the previous church building) at BCUMC?
7. What name did our church have before being called Buck Creek United Methodist?
8. How many names are there on our beautiful stained glass windows?
9. How many can you name?
10. What do these names represent?



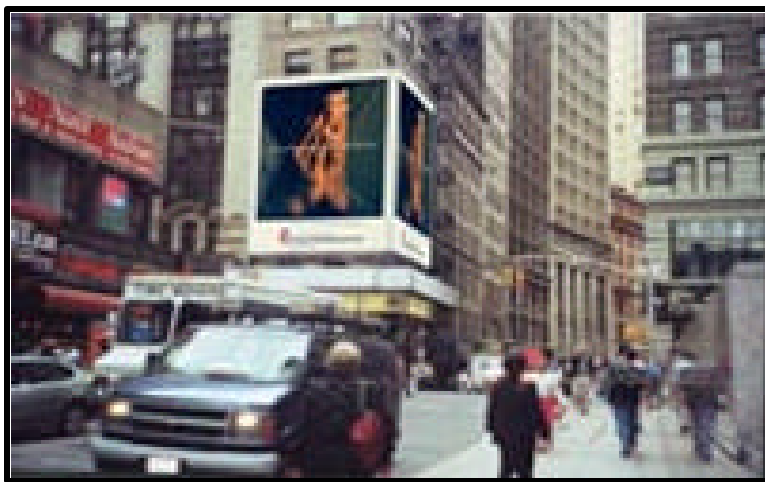
1. Leander C. Buckles
 2. 94 years old
 3. 1980
 4. Rev. Clayton R. Kendall, 18 years
 5. 1972, 30 years ago in 2002!
 6. Bonnie Shoaf makes 113!
 7. Transville Methodist Episcopal Church (Note: Buck Creek was known as Transville until 1885.)
 8. 13
 9. Baer, Hollie Persinger, Eckhart, W.D. Gillum, W.A. Pattee, Starr, Mr. and Mrs. F.M. White, Munez, P.L.E.F., K.P. No. 497, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Noble, Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Anderson
 10. People who helped pay for the windows when the new building was built.

UM NEWS TIDBITS

Many folks pause before eating at home to thank God for their food, but it happens less often in restaurants. In Jackson, Mississippi, patrons of three popular restaurants have a reminder to say the "blessing." Chimneyville Smokehouse, BoDon's and George's Cafeteria feature laminated cards on their tables with a brief blessing. The cards were placed by Epworth United Methodist Church four months ago, and the response has been very positive. Epworth's pastor, the Rev. Tom Sorrell, says he got the idea years ago, and had already written the 7 non-sectarian prayers down. Finding restaurants that would let them place the cards was a problem, as chain restaurants won't let you. Sorrell said one goal of the blessings is to help people of faith be more open about praying in public. The table blessings are designed to promote thankfulness to God first, he said.

There is a 45 foot high billboard in the Wall Street district of Manhattan, just two blocks from ground zero. The billboard features a

large photograph of praying hands with the words: "Fear is not the only force at work in the world today." It also includes the Methodist church's cross and flame logo with the words: "Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors. The People of the United Methodist Church".



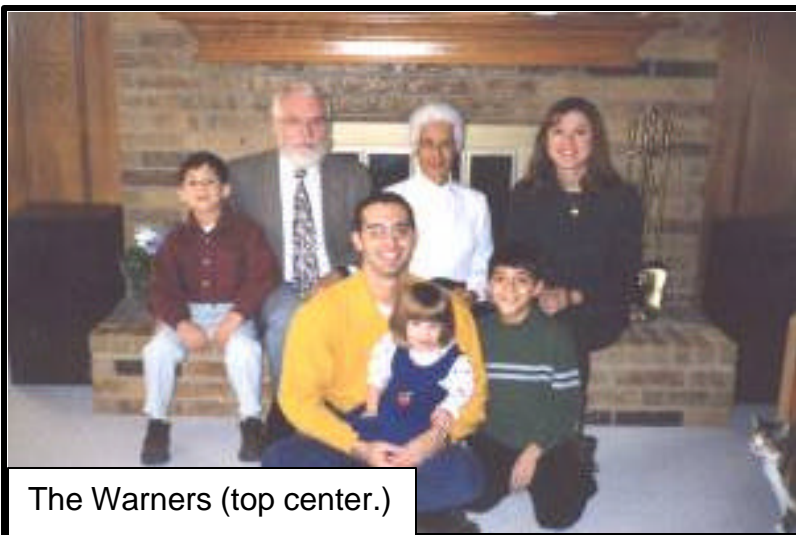
The billboard's simple but direct message is intended to tell New Yorkers that followers of Jesus Christ are praying with them. The billboard was erected on November 29th, and over 600,000 people a day are expected to see it in the next three months. The billboard was produced by the Igniting Ministry campaign especially for use in New York as a message of hope and reassurance.

-United Methodist News Service

A GREETING FROM OUR FORMER MISSIONARIES MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The new millennium has brought very little changes to our daily routine, and retirement in Florida is all what we dreamed and more. The tragic events since September 11 have made us more aware of how fragile life is and of the importance of God's gift of love and redemption.

Jack has been weaving (on a loom that is) when he is not building with Habitat. . The placemats and rugs that he weaves find owners through antique and craft shops, but most are sold at the church bazaar with proceeds going to the church. Working with Habitat has been a great opportunity to serve while



meeting interesting people from the retired volunteers, to prisoners learning building trades, to young people working with American Corps, to the new homeowners. He also takes care of his garden where he grows all sorts of peppers (ajies), papaya, pineapple and flowers and helps some older neighbors in theirs.

Flora finds great pleasure in figuring out where Jack came from, with the help of the Internet and family members. She has done a lot and "met" some interesting people through genealogy research. She tried to work on her family, but got nowhere. She also volunteers at the community college working with the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). She enjoys the experience that can be teaching how to write, monitoring student progress in class, giving tests, filling forms for job application and immigration, etc. Some of the students are illiterate, some are college graduates, some are refugees, and many are afraid of what can happen to them during these unsettling times.

Our big project in January is to take a group from our local church on their first mission trip. We will be going to the Dominican Republic taking Christmas gifts to 190 orphans and homeless children living in four different orphanages supported by several United Methodist churches in the Florida Conference. There will be ten persons from our local church and five from E. Naples UMC.

Our children have made some significant changes in their lives and are happy with their decisions. Benton, since August is the pastor of Friendship

United Methodist Church, in Punta Gorda, FL. He will continue with his seminary studies by Internet and on campus in Orlando where Asbury has a satellite campus. He's commuting between Punta Gorda and Naples until Zach finishes high school in December. Sheri still has a job as Youth and Christian Education Director at Naples UMC. Zach was accepted at Florida Southern College (U. Methodist in Lakeland, FL) and will start college in January. Alexandra and Hunter are respectively fourth and first graders and very good students.

Brian traded Corporate America for an inner city classroom in Dallas where he teaches Math to "at risk" eighth graders, many of who are already in trouble with the law. He enjoys the challenge, but has a problem understanding how these children were allowed to get where they are and knows how difficult it is to bring them to an acceptable level. He also works as a consultant for several companies and is very busy. Barb is waiting for an offer to have her first book published. Juan is a fifth grader and an excellent soccer player. Marsail is a third grader and also does very well in soccer. Lisa is in kindergarten and likes school, but letters are not her favorite things. She enjoys performing and takes dancing lessons. All three are doing very well in school and keep Barb busy.

Jack's parents are here in Florida for the winter. Their health isn't the best, but they keep going and still volunteer two mornings a week at a second hand store that trains persons with disabilities. One of Flora's sisters in Brazil and her husband have had some health problems, but are doing better. The other two are fine. We wish you a Merry Christmas and pray for a Happy New year for you and your family. We enjoy receiving the newsletter and hearing from you. It's a blessing to have so many good friends.

- Jack & Flora Warner

QUOTES..

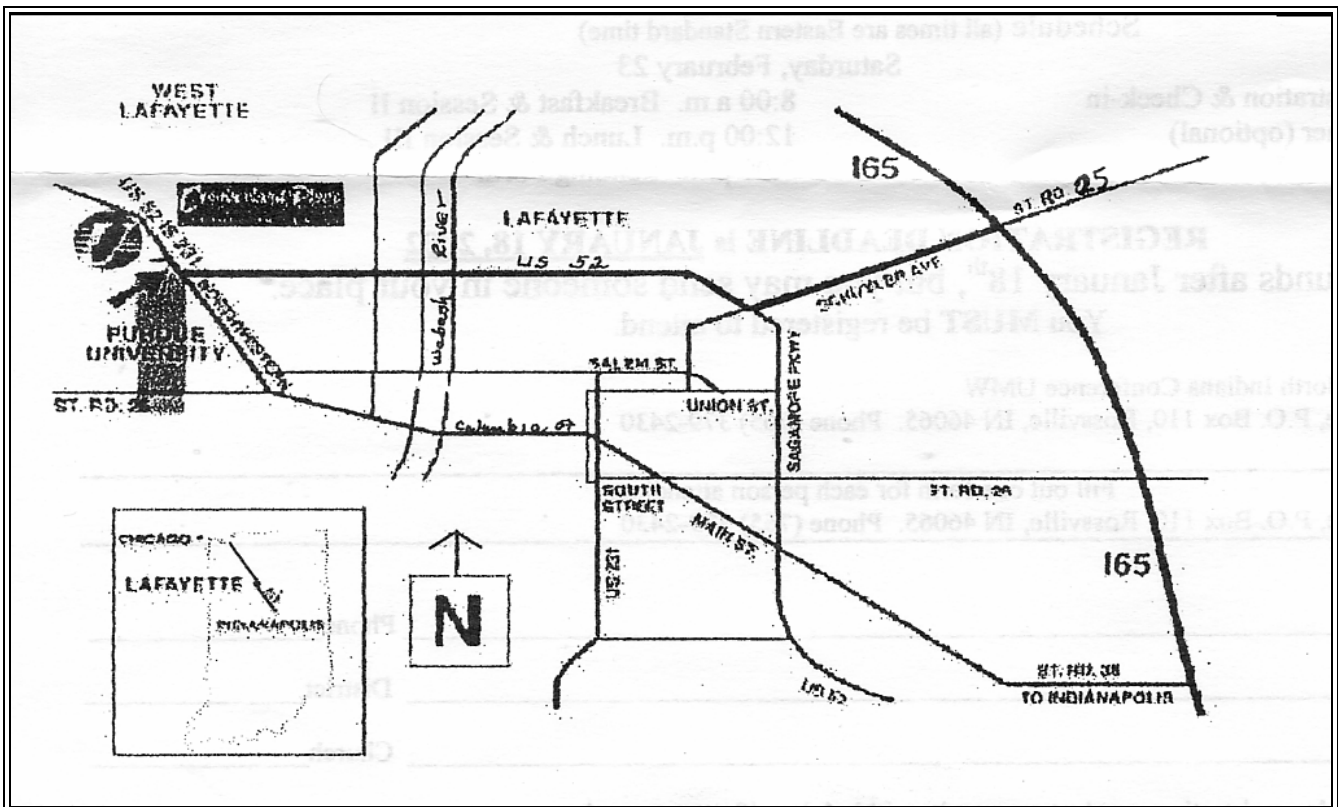
Pastor Bonnie on the Christmas season:

- "This is the season we need to approach with an attitude of wonder."
- "People are more generous during this season."
- "Temporary, exterior decorations do get us into the spirit of Christmas, but won't brighten our souls. We need the scriptures for that."
- "God's exterior always points in a substantial way to an interior reality."
- "I hope people help their children know the profound meaning of the [Christmas] decorations."
- "Show us Lord how we can bring others into this awesome event."

UPCOMING SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR WOMEN

There will be a North Indiana Conference Spiritual Retreat for women on February 22 & 23, 2002. It is going to be led with great creativity, spirituality, and humor by Rev. Norm Nellis. Women do not need to be United Methodist Women to attend. Hope many of you will be able to attend!

Below are directions to Signature Inn, the location of the retreat. On page 22 (the back of this page), there is a copy of the registration form. Feel free to clip the page out of the newsletter and send it in, or visit <http://www.gbqm-umc.org/bcumcin/retreat.jpg> for a full-sized, printable form. Please note that the registration deadline is January 18th.



- > Directions to University Inn, Conference Center & Suites, 3001 Northwestern Ave., West Lafayette, IN 47906 (phone: 765-463-5511)
- > I-65 to Lafayette Exit #175; turn south (west) onto St Rd. 25; go approximately 1 mile to the stoplight, turn right onto US 52 west; follow US 52 approximately 3.5 miles & merge with Northwestern Ave, turn left (west) on Cumberland Avenue & follow to entrance of hotel.

2002 Spiritual Retreat

North Indiana Conference

United Methodist Women

Friday and Saturday, February 22 and 23, 2002

University Inn Conference Center and Suites

3001 Northwestern Ave.

West Lafayette, IN

Phone: (765) 463-5511



Retreat Leader: Rev. Norm Nellis



Pastor of Lafayette Grace UM Church

1999 Study Group Leader for The Bible Part 2: Authority and Interpretation School of Christian Mission

Schedule (all times are Eastern Standard time)

Friday, February 22

5:00 p.m. Registration & Check-in

7:00 p.m. Dinner (optional)

8:00 p.m. Session I

Saturday, February 23

8:00 a.m. Breakfast & Session II

12:00 p.m. Lunch & Session III

3:00 p.m. Sending Forth

REGISTRATION DEADLINE is JANUARY 18, 2002

NO refunds after January 18th, but you may send someone in your place.

You MUST be registered to attend.

Make checks payable to North Indiana Conference UMW

Mail to: Rhonda Valentine, P.O. Box 110, Rossville, IN 46065. Phone (765) 379-2430

Fill out one form for each person attending.

Mail to: Rhonda Valentine, P.O. Box 110, Rossville, IN 46065. Phone (765) 379-2430

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ District _____

City/zip _____ Church _____

Cost for each person includes registration, meals, tax, gratuity and lodging, if not commuting.

With Friday dinner NO dinner

4 in a room \$ 77.25

\$56.25

3 in a room \$82.75

\$61.75

2 in a room \$94.25

\$73.25

1 in a room \$128.25

\$107.25

Commuter \$53.25

\$ 31.50

Number in room _____

Amount enclosed _____

Roommates- Please check with them first. Send all registration for the same room together.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Special thanks to Mary Jane Bass

RECIPE CORNER

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” -1Cor 10:31

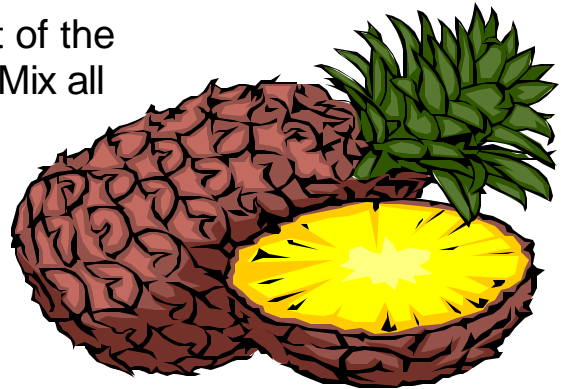
DISAPPEARING PINEAPPLE CHEESE BALL

(Good for a New Year's Eve party!)

- 1 8-ounce package of cream cheese (softened)
- 1 small onion (chopped real fine)
- 4 T. diced green pepper
- 1 small can of crushed pineapple (drained well)

Squeeze ALL the juice you can out of the pineapple. (Save for some other use.) Mix all ingredients. Shape into ball.

This is so good served with any kind of crackers, that you might want to make a double batch, as it will disappear fast!



DISCIPLE BIBLE CUT-OUT



>> Cut out Philip this month. He is the disciple featured for January. Cut him out and stand him next to the other six disciples from previous newsletters.

DIRECTIONS: Glue Philip onto a stiff backing, cut him out, and then fold along the tabs for support. Look for another cut-out next month!

***Happy new year from
your newsletter staff!***



BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Interim Pastor Bonnie Shoaf
PO Box 157 (4915 Ferret Street)
Buck Creek, IN 47924-0157
Church Phone: (765) 589-7206

Come and join our Sunday services! *Sunday school for all ages at 9 am*
Contemporary praise songs 10:15am **Worship starts at 10:30am!**

O

“I am the ALPHA and the OMEGA.”

a
- God

BCUMC
NEWSLETTER
JANUARY
