



Safe Harbor...The Newsletter By and For Boulder City United Methodist Church

Pastor John Ritenour

December 2007

A special Christmas Message from Pastor John

BECAUSE GOD LOVES US WE CAN SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Promise

"A child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel; God is with us." (Isaiah 7:14)

The Announcement

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." (Luke 1:30-35)

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20-21)

"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, goodwill among people." (Luke 2:10-14)

Come and See

"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger." (Luke 2:15-16)

Worship

"The wise men set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising in the East, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When

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A priceless gift:

God cares about each one of us even when we feel least lovable and very detached from everyone around us. Each of us in our faith journeys has experienced these times. We asked God where he was. God has over and over again shown his grace through others who were quietly very aware of me, noticing my absence or presence, and praying for me as the Holy Spirit brought me to their attention - folks were open to be used to care for me. This was done and continues to be done in silence; happening when I feel least cared for and even when I only want to be alone.

When we ask each other about our church we all have the same testimony as the most recent visitor: "I feel cared for", "people know my name", and "I have a faith community where I am missed when I am gone".

To be cared for is a priceless gift of God's grace. In his wisdom he has chosen us as instruments of his grace. He has allowed us to care in his name so that others might know they are loved: that they will receive the love that we have received.

God looks out over this town of Boulder City and he knows the hearts of all the people. He knows their thoughts, and their fears, and their loneliness. My prayer as we enter a new year is that the Lord looks at you, and he looks at me, and he is pleased because he sees us as a faith community that he can bring them to.

Pastor John

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they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:9-11)

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

- His human name is Jesus meaning ‘Jehovah is salvation’. He is the Christ, Greek for Messiah, God’s Anointed. And he is Immanuel, God with us.

We say Merry Christmas because God loves us.

How has God blessed us this year?

God has blessed us this year. He has provided many opportunities for us to give in many different ways. Those who faithfully carry out the ministries of the church touch the lives of each of us and each of those who were “just passing through”. To minister is often thankless and seemingly endless. The results are usually unseen and may very well be eternal. We do not know the impact of grace demonstrated, the comfort of a cafeteria turned into a beautiful sanctuary, or the joy worship in music and song brings.

We praised God with our faithful giving. Our offerings provided help to those in need. We continued to increase the building fund and we met our commitments as a church. We have been able to give beyond our time and

money, giving items to yard sales and to individuals in need. Homes have been opened when needed.

We have fed the hungry. We have visited the sick. We have made hats and scarves for the homeless. We stuffed socks with toys for children and gave food and Christmas gifts.

We have driven those we love back and forth to medical treatment. We have prayed together. We have prayed for each other, and for strangers. We have embraced each other and given of ourselves as Christ has called us to do.

God bless us all,

Pastor John

Safe Harbor
December 2007
Vol. 0707

Safe Harbor is a newsletter printed for the members and friends of Boulder City United Methodist Church. Contributing articles and pictures of interest to the congregation are always welcome and may be submitted to: sueeseabee@embarqmail.com
Sue Burkholder, Editor

Contributors

Pastor John Ritenour	Kitty Ritenour
Dennis Rodriguez	Pat Benke
Sue Burkholder	Bruce Benke

Annual Church Christmas Party
Celebrate the Season

When: Saturday, December 15, 2007
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Mario and Diane Hernandez
605 Lake Huron Lane
What: Potluck Dinner and White Elephant
Gift Exchange (\$5)

Lots of Fun
Lots of Food
Lots of Fellowship

Please call Diane Hernandez at 294-0802 or Pat Benke at 293-7711 for more details, or watch for more details in the announcements this month.

Happenings

This and That

Pastor John prepares his sermons on the computer so if you would like a copy, let him know and he will email it to you.

Pot Luck Sundays have been changed to the second Sunday of the month. **Birthday Sundays** will continue to be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month (please be sure to give your birth date to Sue Burkholder or Linda Fox).

Thanks to the hard work of everyone involved with the **2nd Annual All Church Yard Sale**, we added \$4,786.63 to our Building Fund.

Terry McClain has been approved by Council to head the Finance Committee this coming year. **Bruce Benke** has agreed to continue to serve as our Lay Leader for one more year...but is ready to step aside at any time if someone is willing to step forward to accept this responsibility. We still need a **representative for Annual Conference**.

Be sure to check the back table for a list of hikes that are scheduled. Doug Haag plans to lead more hikes and outings after the first of the year. Jenn has information on the Eldorado Mine Tour for those who might be interested.

Remember...make your child a star. Let the Safe Harbor Newsletter staff know if there are special events or honors in your child's life.

B irthdays

December

- 4 Dennis Rodriguez
- 6 Mario Hernandez
- 14 Margie Kloske
Rich Walters
- 21 Patti Loewe
- 31 Valerie Gill



December

December

- 2 First Sunday in Advent
Pot Luck Sunday
- 6 **7 pm**—Ladies Night Cookie Exchange
Paulsens' - 1421 Bronco, BC
7 pm—Men Eating Hamburgers
Ritenours' - 1416 Bronco, BC
- 15 **6—9 pm** Church Christmas Party
Hernandez' - 605 Lake Huron, BC
- 24 **7pm**—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 25 Christmas Day
- 30 Music Sunday
- 31 New Year's Eve

Communion Served Each Sunday
Prayer Group Each Wednesday—Ritenours'

Communion Coin

December UMCOR—California Wildfire Fund
Korean Ministry—University UMC

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Thanks to Fredb-1

05-16-2007

CONSIDER ME AN EMERGENT, PURPOSE-DRIVEN
META-SEEKER WITH A MODERATE, POSTMODERN,
FREETHINKER-BASED WORLDVIEW ... I'M NOT
SURE WHAT I BELIEVE YET, BUT I CERTAINLY
NAILED MY LABEL

2008 - Exciting Challenges Ahead

Bruce Benke, Lay Leader



I'm sure most of us are quite familiar with the following verses in Romans 12:3-7, but I want to share them again:

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you. Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve, if it is teaching, let him teach: if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

St. Paul’s words apply to our congregation: “...one body, and each member belongs to all the others”. And he reminds us that we each have been given certain gifts and talents, and he urges us to use them.

As we look ahead to next year, we have a lot of challenges facing us. Mainly, we have a church to build - God’s church in Boulder City. We can view these challenges as too daunting, perhaps, or we can look at them as opportunities, where we each can contribute.

We are in the same position as last year, and I want to reiterate what I said last November: “Each and every job in our church is essential to our vitality. The characteristics of a vital church depends on engaged congregational members - members who understand that God has a job for each and everyone of us to do and that He will not ask us to do anything we are unable to do. No job is trivial, and each job is the “right” thing to do. Now that we know what things are right to do, how do we do them right? We begin by prayerfully discerning a particular job according to the gifts and talents God gave each of us. There *is* a job we can do ”.

I think Isaiah 6:8 says it best:

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

Our “Body” needs you, and you can respond by acting on this verse: “Here am I. Send me”.

E-Script Returns Have Begun

E-Script is on its way to helping us build our church. There are already thirty-two people signed up for the program, with another three pending.

We will get our first deposit from Vons on December 10 in the amount of \$10.06. There were thirty-eight transactions for a total of \$1,077.42 – contributions to our church amounted to \$11.83 with a \$1.77 service fee.

The January deposit will be \$45.30; 145 transactions amounting to \$2,451.40 (\$53.39 less \$8.09 service fee).

These numbers may seem small, but they aren’t! Every penny earned through E-Script will go to the youth programs/buildings for our new church. And it’s so easy. Just get a Vons card, enjoy the savings that you get from using your Vons card, and be happy knowing that a portion of everything you spend will be given to your church.

And remember...your friends and family who have a Vons or Safeway card, no matter where they live, can also sign up. Have them send you their number, email address and phone number. Give the information to Dennis Rodriguez, Sandy Streater or Barbara McConnell. That’s all there is to it!

Thank you to all the people who have signed up, from the Finance and Building Committees.

A New Year’s Prayer

Anonymous

Dear Lord, please give me...

- ◇ A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;
- ◇ A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;
- ◇ A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;
- ◇ An understanding heart,
- ◇ A sense of humor;
- ◇ Time for quiet, silent meditation;
- ◇ A feeling of the presence of God;
- ◇ The patience to wait for the coming of these things,
- ◇ With the wisdom to recognize them when they come.

Amen

Church Women Unite(d)

CHURCH WOMEN UNITE(D) – Wow, December is off and running. We would like to thank everyone that donated to the Sidewalk Sunday School Christmas stocking project. Alberta and Diane did a wonderful job of shopping for and stuffing **20** stockings to be donated this year. Check out the pictures on the back table. Thank you, one and all for helping to make this possible.

The Chatty Hatters continue to stay busy. The month of December we are making Christmas projects and items for the Senior Center gift shop to sell. These items (like crochet topped dish towels, pot holders, coasters and dish clothes) will earn money for Senior Center projects. Check out the display case and see some of the talent these ladies have. In January we will resume work for the Hat and Hands project.

I'll let you know next month how our Great Cookie Exchange went. I know I am looking forward to it.

Kitty

FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Pat Benke

Altar Guild:

I would like to thank all our Altar Guild members who served so faithfully, willingly, and well during this past year. Everyone was so willing to fill in during absences and just help in general. These faithful servants were Linda Robertshaw, Emma Lee Sneed, Krishun Stanton and Mary Forsyth, and Karen May and Olive Benke, who stepped in during the summer when EVERYONE else was gone. Karen moved to Arizona over the summer and Olive took over all by herself until people began returning in the fall. Thank you, ladies, for your dedication and a job well done!!! Stay tuned to learn our new Altar Guild members in 2008.

Pat Benke, Chair, Altar Guild

Acolytes:

As the year closes, I would like to take a moment to especially thank our younger congregants, Jonathan Streator, Kelsey Nelson, Cally Stanton and Brittney Yeazle. They have all been extremely faithful in their service and do an outstanding job. Moreover, each of them has agreed to continue on next year. My sincerest Thanks and Kudos to each of you!

Social Activities:

Diane Hernandez took over as chair of Social Activities this year and has done an outstanding job. She faithfully appears every Sunday morning well before our service begins and creates the wonderful hostess table at the back of the church, always visually appealing and in keeping with the season. In addition, she is one of the last people to leave the building on Sunday morning (or afternoon) after making sure everything is put away in our closet, which is a space-issue challenge each week. I'd also like to thank her assistants, Barb Paulsen, Marge Kloske, Mary Forsyth and Krishun Stanton. Another group I am grateful for are all of you who brought Fellowship goodies throughout the year. Without you we would miss an important element of our worship experience and I appreciate your efforts.

Flowers: Mary Forsyth, thank you for being responsible for bringing special altar flowers in memory of people in special situations throughout the year.

Historian: Faith Rodriguez works quietly behind the scenes in a variety of ways, but we are all very grateful for her photo display in the back of the church each Sunday.

Prayer and Caring Ministries are both headed by John Mondt who leads the Prayer Group each and every Wednesday morning of the year and who also makes hospital visitations. Thank you, John!

And last but not least, Kitty Ritenour guides and hostesses the Women's Ministry once a month. Thus she provides an important opportunity for the women of our congregation to meet in fellowship and service. Kitty, we're grateful for this ministry.

The Back Page

WHO AM I?

Were you able to get the answer to last month's puzzle? It had loads of hints, and Pastor John has added one more: **The first hint is that the riddle was written in the mid to late 1800s.**

Check your October/November newsletter and put your Bible knowledge to work. If you figure it out, let Pastor John know.

While there isn't actually a prize, seeing the joy spread across Pastor John's face when you give him the right answer will be reward enough.

While on vacation a man and woman visited a local church for the Sunday service. They always liked to sit close to the front, so they entered a pew in the second row. Shortly after settling in, an usher came up to them, tapped lightly on the gate, and said "This pew is saved."

The husband replied, "That's okay, so are WE!"

10 Things You Never Hear in Church

1. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew!
2. I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
3. Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
4. I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.
5. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Sunday School class.
6. Forget the denominational minimum salary. Let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do.
7. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
8. Since we're all here, let's start the service early.
9. Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.

There is the story of a preacher who got up on Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new church building. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

Thoughts about Christmas Safety from the back pew....

- ✚ Drive carefully and defensively, 20% of fatalities are in automobile accidents.
- ✚ Do be careful at home as 17% of accidents occur in the home.
- ✚ Walk carefully, 14% of all accidents happen to pedestrians.
- ✚ 16% of accidents happen while traveling by air, rail, or water.
- ✚ 32% of deaths occur in hospitals so stay away from them.
- ✚ You will be pleased to know that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church and these are usually related to previous physical disorders.
- ✚ Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place to be is at church.

...so for safety's sake - attend church this Christmas.

Prayer List

Please hold the following people in your hearts, minds and especially your prayers.

KR	Aiton family	Prayer Covering
KR	Al & Patti Loewe	Health
Ch	Alberta Ellis	Healing/knee
JR	Ali & Baby	Prayer Covering
JR	Allen Bonk & family	Prayer Cover (Cancer)
JE	Amanda	Viral infection
Ch	Angel Robinson	Health
KR	Ardy & Sherril Pierson	Health/Caregiving
JM	Art & Grace Davis	Alzheimer's (Art)
JR	Austin Martin Grandson	Prayer Covering
BS	Babs Sanders	Prayer Covering
MFz	Baggettci Family	Loss of Vicki--wife, mother, grandmother
BW	Barbara Lengyl	Courage and healing
Ch	Barbara Link	Prayer Covering
BB	Bill Cooney	Healing/recovery
KR	Bill McKinley	Prayer Covering
PB	Bob Van Such	Stroke/Prayer Covering
DR	Brandon Rodriguez	Recalled
Ch	Cheryl Sneed	Health & Prayer Covering
KR	Chris & Scott & Children	Prayer Covering
KR	Chris VanVoorhis	Return of Cancer
SC	Christine Cooley	Breast Cancer
SS	Christine Davidson	Recovery (kidney failure)
PB	Christy Morgan	Cancer
Ch	Church Building	Prayer Covering
JR	Church & Ministry Leaders	Prayer covering
LF	Cindy Ravacchi	Loss of Father
JR	Covenant Church	Move, Prayer Covering
PB	Danny Giles	9 yr old, emotional problems
JR	Danny Hansen	Germ cell cancer
MN	Dawn	Severe emotional problem
JR	Dena	Work/Prayer Covering
BB	Denny & Elaine Moore	Prayer covering/financial
BB	Don Hann	Prayer Covering
VG	Dorothy Robertson	Bone cancer
AE	Elsie	Prayer Covering
Ch	Emma Lee Sneed	Prayer Covering, Healing
PB	Espee Mazo (wife of Rudy)	Severe high blood pressure
DR	Faith and Family	Prayer Covering
Ch	Gary's Family & Terry	Prayer Covering
PB	Gene & Catherine Dunn	Health deterioration
BW	Hank Ziegler	Cancer
PB	Heather	Brain Tumor, Complication/Prayer Covering
BW	Helanna Andres	Healing
BW	Helena (Velma's daughter)	Healing
PB	Hunsinger Family	Loss of husband/father
PL	Jack Dalton	Cancer Treatments
KD	James Dean	Middle East Deployment
BL	Janet Dodd	Migraines
MFz	Jeanni Falsis & Mother	Caregiver/terminal cancer

PB	Jenny Campbell	Stroke/healing
JM	Jessee Brucklacher	Prayer Covering
SB	Jessi Burkholder	Prayer Covering
FR	Jim Britendorf & Wife	Prayer Covering
CQ	Joe	Prayer covering/health
JM	Joe Kelly & Mother	Prayer Covering
JR	John & Jean (parents)	Prayer Covering
PB	John Woodall	Liver Disease/Prayer Covering
BS	John Huey	Cancer
JR	Josh (2-year-old) & parents	Leukemia treatments, financial stress
AE	Judy Craven	Caregiver of 3/prayer covering
JE	Judy Hamilton	COPD and Cancer
KS	Julie Hammond	Cancer
PT	Karen Brenning	Prayer covering/Leg Amputated
KN	Karin	Internal Cancer/Prayer
KR	Katie Fay	Prayer Covering/Healing – last trimester
CH	Ken Beam	Continued recovery
MC	Kimble Wilson	Prayer Covering (cancer)
JR	Lew	Cancer (colon/lungs)
DB	Family of Lewis Baker	Prayer covering
JB	Laurie Boyer	Heart/Prayer Covering
MFz	Linda Arons Family and Friends	Loss of Linda
BD	Louise Durham	Healing - Aneurism
MN	Luz Nelson	Prayer covering/Healing
PT	Lynn Davis	Prayer Covering (cancer)
PB	Mario & Carolyn Stefani	Prayer covering/Health & Strength
JR	Mario & Diane Hernandez	Prayer covering/Healing
BL	Martin & Ruby Lee Hess	Prayer Covering
Ch	Mary Anne	Prayer Covering
KD	Mary Dean	Depression
BMc	Matt & Ladae McConnell	Baby Mason/Prayer Covering
KN	Michael Nelson	Job/Spiritual direction
KD	Michael Venson	Depression
MR	Michelle's father	Cancer
KR	Milton Thompson	Cancer
Ch	Orlena Jackson	Health
OJ	Orlena Jackson's Family	Salvation
CM	Pastor Ester Angel	Cancer
PB	Pat/Rick Hockins	Mother/Stroke; Rick/Radiation & Leukemia
PL	Patty Dalton	Breast Cancer
JM	Peggy Culver (sister)	Back surgery
	Phillip Emmile	Prostate Cancer
Ch	Phyllis Haley	Heart
BW	Rose Marie Sleasman	Cancer
BL	Ruth Yeary	Prayer covering/health

JF	Scott Eveland & family	Severe head trauma
JR	Shane & Jane Langston	Prayer Covering/Healing
BMc	Shirley Krieb	Hysterectomy
PB	Stephanie	Prayer covering/Spiritual Discernment
KN	Stephen Cean	Stroke (Kelsey's grandfather)
KR	Steve	Prayer Covering (broken pelvis)
Ch	Steve Herles	Prayer covering
MFz	Susy Fusaro & Tommy	Return of cancer
BP	Tammy & Brad	Premature twins with Downs Syndrome
BMc	Terri Weimer	Shoulder Surgery
OS	Thor	Healing/Peace of mind

MJ	Tina (Maria's Sister)	Heart Problems
DH	Todd & Michelle	Finances
KS	Tom Logan	Cancer (lung, colon, brain tumor)
MFz	Tom & Susie	Prayer Covering
JE	Valerie	Surgery/Prayer Covering
JR	Venus Miguel	Ovarian Cancer, Chemo
KR	Virginia (neighbor)	Prayer covering, health/further tests
Ch	Warren and Valerie Gill	Health and Caregiving
MFz	Werner Family	Loss of son
JE	Young family	Loss of mother/sister

To these prayers we add prayers for our nation, for our service men and women who are serving in foreign lands, and to the families who have lost loved ones.

Please contact John Mondt at 293-3739 or Kitty Ritenour at 293-6022 if you wish to add people or remove them from the prayer list.

December 2007



Boulder City
 United Methodist Church
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