



# Living God Newsletter

Sunday Worship 8 & 10:30 AM  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
*A church for all people*

3200 Horseshoe Pike  
Honey Brook, PA 19344  
Phone: 610-273-9383

Volume 18, Number 12

Pastor Richard Moore

January 2008

## Strangers Bring Gifts to the New Born King



Epiphany

*“When they saw 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

**S**unday, January 6, is the Twelfth Day of Christmas and the Church remembers the event in the life of Jesus when strangers brought gifts to the new born king. Epiphany means to show or make known.

At the end of their journey, the Magi strangers, who have also come to be known as the three Wise Men or the Three Kings from the Orient had an unexpected epiphany. They had set out with a purpose and plan of their own. However, they were amazed to see, not what they came to see, but what God wanted them to see.

As we continue our life journey and turn the corner into a new year, we need to remember that the things God wants us to see are usually not the things we are looking for.

## Finance Committee Report

by Carol Schmidt

**I**t's been a busy time for the new Finance Committee! Our first big project was to work with Pastor Moore on the Stewardship letters. Our next task was to work on recommendations for the budget for 2008 with Pastor Moore and Team Leaders in order to give Council our recommendations. We are also assisting the Treasurer with processes and procedures.

One of the issues we're addressing is where and how can we save money and utilize volunteers based on the Time/Talent sheets returned from the stewardship drive. Hopefully you noticed the place on the Time/Talent Sheet to check off if you wish to receive the newsletter by email. This will save paper, postage and trees! The bonus is you will receive it quickly and not have to wait for delivery!



## Prayer Meeting Offers Comfort

**T**he monthly meetings of the Prayer Chain are “open to all who may need comfort or solace from life's twists and turns,” said Dottie Wilkie, group leader. The group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 3 p.m., at the church. “We are the same individuals who act as intercessors during worship on Sunday,” she added. “Often a person just needs a friendly ear to listen while they talk.”



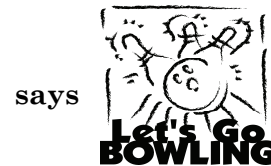
## Ten Commandments of Human Relations



1. Speak to people — nothing is as nice as a cheerful greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown — 14 to smile.
3. Call people by name. The sweetest music to people's ears is the sound of their own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do were a genuine pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people. You can like something about almost anyone if you try.
7. Be generous with praise, cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate with the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinions of others. There are three sides to the controversy — your side, the other side and the right one.
10. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what you do for others.

—John Andreozzi

## Adult Fellowship Group



says

**Saturday, January 26**  
**7 p.m. at Blue Ball Lanes**  
**Sign Up sheet on bulletin board**

**Worship Team News** Leader, Lin Williams (610) 857-3247  
 Council Rep, Janet Krackov (610) 384-2350  
 To volunteer to help contact Lin or Janet



**Blue Grass Christmas Concert and Dinner**  
 by Lin Williams

This was an outstanding event as none we ever attempted. Tickets were sold out and we had a maximum attendance of 140 people.

Dorothy Stauffer and helpers decorated beautifully with fine white tablecloths, lovely centerpieces and table settings. The front of the church was transformed into a stage setting and yet still kept our church's special look and feeling of the risen Living God.

Following a delicious dinner, the concert opened with Sweet Water, Ramona Wilt and Howard Moore, performing Bluegrass versions of favorite Christmas songs and some of our favorite bluegrass songs. They were accompanied by Ron McVey on fiddle, Elvin Burkhard on banjo, and Roger Eberline on bass.

After a short intermission, Heart and Soul Bluegrass performed. A high energy group and very talented from south central Pennsylvania, they have a following especially in the Lancaster area. They had sold tickets to some of their own followers, so we had a nice mix of local and not-so-local bluegrass fans attend this fundraiser event that was proposed and led by Ramona, Howard, Sharon and George Bradford.

Our "staff" of volunteer cooks and servers led by Sharon Andrien were very efficient and those of us the visitors came to realize were members of the church, were complimented for the good time everyone had.

We thank the dozens of volunteers who gave so generously of their time and talents to help. We are so blessed in this congregation with talented people willing to donate their time with love and care for the work done by our church. We also thank all who sponsored this wonderful night with food, donations and paid advertising in the program. We raised over \$3,000 and everyone who participated should be proud to have been a part of this.

**Greeting Card Ministry**

Paula Horner coordinates this ongoing ministry to send greetings and prayers to anyone who attends Living God Church. If you know someone who should receive a card for a birthday, illness, sympathy, retirement, graduation or other event, please call Paula at (610) 273-1026. The full name and address of the recipient must be provided.



**Telephone Prayer Chain**

Living God Church has a telephone prayer chain.

Members will pray daily for two weeks for each person or situation. If you have a prayer request contact:



Dotti Wilkie (610) 942 3608  
 Peg Bothell (610) 273-3586  
 or Bettye Ulmann at  
 (610) 273-4510

Please submit names for the Sunday Prayer list to the church office. All prayer requests are confidential and will not be printed upon request.

**News Around the Parish**

The Women's Christmas Dinner on Dec. 4 had some unexpected visitors this year. "Reindeer" appeared after dinner and sang their rendition of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.



Thank you to **Stacy Greene**, who hosted this years event and her "elves" **Amy Gursky, Deb Key, Julie Furlong, Linda Hume, Dana Kegerreis & Catherine Cattell** for a great evening. Stacy also wants to thank **Austin Key, Megan Furlong & Emily Green** who helped setup for the event.

On December 8, 97 people attended the Christmas concert by the **Greenwood Singers**. It was a great hour of Christmas music. We hope we can have them again next year.

**Kylie Brooke Duke** was baptized on November 18 and became the 573 person to join Living God.



The **playground** is now inspected and certified, according to Donna. The **Building and Grounds Committee** thanks everyone who made this project possible.

The new **Women's Fellowship Group** plans to get together on **Monday, January 14**. There will be two sessions, both at church. The afternoon get-together will be from **1-3 p.m.** The night gathering is scheduled for **7 p.m.** We will discuss ideas and plans as we visit.



“The word and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”

(1 John 2:17)

Something interesting occurred to Amy and me while visiting Ireland a year ago. While in Dublin, our hotel was just down the street from Christ Church Cathedral. This is a beautiful gothic cathedral, with a rich history; a must see for tourists. The church sits atop a hill and overlooks the river Liffey, such that one can see the church’s steeple above the other buildings from most places in the city. “Most places” are the key words here. Amy and I enjoyed walking tours all over the city. And, when we went out walking we could always find our way back to the hotel because we could spot the steeple of Christ Church. One time, however, we got lost. And, I remember the interesting moment in time when it occurred to me how ironic it was that the pastor found himself saying, “If only I could find the church, I could find my way home.”

Isn’t that the business of the church? To be a place where all people are guided, or given directions back to God, whose kingdom lasts forever?

The church does this through the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to it through Baptism. Through the Word and the sacraments the church releases the gifts of God into our daily lives, assuring us of forgiveness and love, and guiding us toward the will of God.

In this time of year, when many of us are making resolutions to live our lives differently in the coming year, it is not a bad idea to consider making New Year’s resolutions for our congregation. So, here’s an invitation. If you have the time, energy or just sheer interest to write a New Year’s resolution for Living God Lutheran Church please do so. Drop it off in the mail bin attached to my office door. I will take these resolutions and compile them. Maybe, if enough of you are willing to do this, we might be able to agree together on a list of New Year’s resolutions for our congregation. You might see these as goals or potential improvements for us to work on together through the upcoming year.

New Year’s resolutions are statements of promise we make which are meant to help guide us and direct us back toward certain goals we set for ourselves. As Christians, we might try to incorporate our faith into these resolutions. We might promise to be more active in church, or to volunteer for certain ministries we’ve been putting off. Or, we might just promise ourselves to work on forgiving so and so, or forgiving ourselves. Similarly, as a congregation we might resolve to live together, share together, do ministry together, forgive each other ---you get the point.

When at last we come to die, it will not seem so important that we had a good salary, or that we were elected to some office. When we look back over it all, what will give us deep satisfaction is that we had lived faithfully, striving to do the will of God, that we befriended people in need, and that we gave hope to people who were discouraged. When we resolve to live our lives trying our best to do these things, we end up demonstrating to others that our daily actions are guided by God. In turn, we become people who help to guide others back to God.

Blessed New Year,

+Rich

**Education Team News**

Leader, Mary Wallett (610) 273-4471  
Council Rep, Doug Thompson  
(610) 942-4471  
To volunteer contact Mary or Doug.



The adult Sunday School Class will resume on **January 6** and continue the study of *Spiritual Classics*.

These are weekly readings keyed to the 12 important spiritual disciplines for a Christian life. A discussion follows and ideas and opinions are shared about how the topic relates to today’s world.

The adults meet in the kitchen from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Please feel free to join us for one class or all of them.



**St. Nicholas Celebration**

On December 15<sup>th</sup> children and parents gathered to celebrate the life of St. Nicholas. Through a story, crafts and other holiday activities, everyone had a fabulous time. Thank you to the girls from TVMS for their instrumental music and to everyone at Living God who helped to make the day a huge success.

If you are interested in being a substitute teacher, please contact Mary Wallett. Mary’s email address on the Time/Talent Sheets is incorrect. The correct one is:

**mawallett@hotmail.com**



The Sunday School Children of Living God Church enacted the story of Christmas on Sunday, December 23.





# Living God Lutheran Church

3200 Horseshoe Pike  
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**Mark Your Calendar!**

The 18th Annual Lutheran Charities Bike Ride will be held on **June 28, 2008**. The ride benefits Lutheran social ministry in Southeastern PA. A Fun Walk will be added this year along with the Fun Ride! More details in coming months.



We are on the web at  
[www.livinggodchurch.org](http://www.livinggodchurch.org)  
Email: [living\\_god@verizon.net](mailto:living_god@verizon.net)

## Country Says Thank You in Special Way

To show appreciation to troops stationed overseas, Xerox Corporation developed a program, [www.Let'sSayThanks.com](http://www.Let'sSayThanks.com). Visitors select a postcard from those designed by children across the country, ages 6-14. Next, they choose from 10 pre-written messages or elect to write their own personalized message. Xerox prints the cards on its paper and equipment, and mails them to deployed troops through a military support organization Give2TheTroops®. There is no cost to send a card.



**Vacation Bible School (VBS)** is coming to Living God. Keep watching the newsletter for more information.

