

The  
Newsletter  
of the  
Saline  
United  
Methodist  
Church



Pastor: Dr. James E. Tuttle  
Deacon: Rev. Laura Speiran

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Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:10 a.m.  
Contemporary Worship 11:15 a.m.

Summer Worship Hours:  
Right Start 8:04 a.m.  
Summer Worship 9:30 a.m.

# STEEPLE NEWS

December 14, 2008

“Ringing Forth the Good News”

Vol. 17; No. 23

## “Happy New Year”

Some of you are probably thinking, “What do you mean – ‘Happy New Year? That’s still 3 ½ weeks away.” That’s true on our work calendar, but not on our worship calendar. The Christian Year begins on the first Sunday of Advent; this year that was on Sunday, November 30. The word “advent” simply means coming; it’s the time to look forward to and prepare ourselves for the Celebration of the Nativity – the birth of Jesus...the coming into the world of the Son of God. Advent is a time to get our minds and hearts ready to really sing “*Joy to the World, the Lord is Come,*” to rejoice that the Lord God came to where we are.

It is also a time to remind ourselves that not only has God come, but that God will come; the One who created will come to complete and restore the creation to God’s original intent, establishing the “new heaven and the new earth.” God has not abandoned us, and God has not abandoned the creation (the world) God so loves.

As Laura Speiran reminded us in her sermon last Sunday, we live in an “in-between” time...in that awkward period of “yet-and-not-yet.” God’s reign on earth has begun, but it in no way is fully established. Any edition of the newspaper or any airing of the evening news will quickly confirm that; so we wait in anticipation. Advent is the season of hope-full waiting – confident anticipation of that day when we will live fully as God fully intends us to live.

We’re living today between the two advents, celebrating God’s in-break into the world in the babe of Bethlehem, when God inaugurated the kingdom and also anticipating the day when the Lord of Life and will come fully to establish that kingdom. Those two bookends hold life together. Because Christ came, life is not what it might have been; because Christ will come again, life is not yet what it will be.

As we’re planning our worship times for December, our hope is that the specialness of this season will inspire us, inform us and at the same time form us for journeying through the “in-between” times. In these weeks leading up to Christmas, look back in appreciation for Jesus, who has come to bring God to us. Look ahead in anticipation to when Christ will come again to bring us to God. And also, along the way, be open to those special “in-breaking” moments when God’s presence will become even more real to us.

My suspicion is that God truly wants to make God’s presence known to us through the Spirit and attempts to do so; but because I’m so preoccupied with just doing life from day to day, I miss out on some neat in-breaks – some God-coming moments. I’m attempting this Advent to keep my eyes open so that I might experience some hope-filled, in-breaking moments as Christ comes again along the way. Then it will be a blessed Advent.

– Pastor Jim

## **SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER**

*Sunday, December 7*

Communion at 9:00 am only  
Children's Christmas Program at 11:15 am

*Sunday, December 14*

Christmas Cantata: *Child of Wonder*  
9:00 and 11:15 am

*Tuesday, December 16*

Longest Night Service 7:00 pm

*Wednesday, December 24/Christmas Eve*

Family Service 5:00 pm  
Communion Service 7:00 pm  
Candlelight Service 11:00 pm

*Thursday, December 25*

Christmas Service at Brecon Village 10:00 am

## **PARADE CAROLING & POPCORN HANDOUT**

Thanks to Linda Jeffries, we have packets of microwave popcorn to pass out at the December 6 Saline Holiday Parade. The packets have labels on them inviting people to "Pop In and See Us Sometime." Anyone who would like to do some caroling, or to just hand out popcorn, may come to the area in front of Accent Jewelers from 4:00 to 5:30 pm. This is before the parade. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex so we have an idea of how many carolers to expect. If you have questions, please contact Margo Perry at 429-7471.



## **SCRAPBOOKS!**

Do you have envelopes, drawers, or even boxes filled with pictures and keepsakes waiting to be organized? Have you been meaning to get those pictures into albums but just haven't had time? Or have you started a scrapbook but never found the time to finish it? Come join us on Saturday, December 6 from 12:00 to 5:00 pm in Room H for a chance to get those pictures organized. Contact Cheryl Schlaff at 417-3951 or [cheryl@fumc-saline.org](mailto:cheryl@fumc-saline.org) if you plan on coming.

## **CHRISTMAS MEMORIES BOOKLETS**

A booklet of Christmas Memories from families within our congregation is available TODAY and next Sunday. Please stop by the P.E.T. machine in the Narthex where you can pick up a copy from Saralyn or Kaylee Klepaczyk. The cost for the Christmas Memories is a donation and all funds will support the P.E.T. project. Thank you for your donation and to everyone who contributed stories.

## **LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE**

Our fifth annual Longest Night Service will be held on Tuesday, December 16, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. This service is for the whole community. If you or people you know (whether in our church family or not) are struggling this holiday season with feelings of grief, loss, or disappointment, this service is meant to be a time of comfort and peace. It is difficult sometimes to be around all of the festivities when you do not feel like celebrating. Come to the Longest Night Service and rest in God. There will be an opportunity to light a candle in memory or as a symbol of hope, as well as restful music and a short meditation. No offering will be taken. Please direct any questions to Deacon Laura Speiran in the church office.

## **WISE CHRISTMAS POTLUCK**

Please plan to join the WISE Bible Study for their Christmas potluck on Tuesday, December 16 at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to pass, enjoy good food and fellowship, and learn more about our new book study, which will begin in January.

If you've ever been curious about WISE, this is the perfect time to meet our members and discover what we do. We actively welcome anyone who is interested in studying God's word and applying it to their lives. Childcare is provided! If you have any questions, please call Gail Karaman at 429-0651.

## **J.O.Y. FELLOWSHIP**

J.O.Y. stands for "Just Older Youth!" (This is a group for those 55 and older.) Come for lunch, fun, and fellowship. Our next get-together is on December 18 at 12:00 noon. We will have Tuna Melt, Clam Chowder and Fiesta Salad. Because this is December, we'll have a Christmas celebration. You are invited to make a \$5.00 donation for the lunch, but it is not required. Please sign up at the Opportunity Wall, or call Rev. Laura Speiran in the church office if you have any questions or dietary concerns.





## CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG PARTIES

Warm up your voice and join us for two opportunities to spread holiday cheer this season:

- Sunday, December 21, 3:00 pm at Brecon Village Auditorium
- Tuesday, December 23, 7:00 pm at Saline Evangelical Home Dining Room

These are 4-Star, FUN holiday events, so bring your voice to either one or both sing-a-longs. Your participation will be greatly appreciated by the residents! Cookies and punch will be provided. For more information, contact Doug Cogger (944-0103) or Doug Beard (944-0444).

## MUSIC TOGETHER CLASSES

Music Together classes for children ages birth to 5 years and their parents or caregivers, will again be offered at the church this winter. The new session begins in January and features weekly classes of wonderful music activities including singing, movement, and instrument play. Daytime and evening classes are taught by Angela Schmidt and Nicole Lampman, registered Music Together teachers. Interested families are invited to attend a free demonstration class in the coming weeks. Please call Angela Schmidt at 429-3385 for available times and to make a reservation. For more information about Music Together and the winter class schedule, please visit our website at [www.HandInHandMT.com](http://www.HandInHandMT.com)

## UMW SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEA

Food! Fun! Entertainment! Join us on Sunday, February 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come dressed in your tea attire...maybe even come wearing your tea-era!

## HELP WELCOME OUR VISITORS

We all have a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and share about our church! On the first Sunday of every month, for 20-30 minutes after each of the services, we will hold a Visitors' Welcome in the Fellowship Hall. Visitors are invited to have coffee or juice and a snack, and chat with the people who go to church here (that would be you ☺). Please sign up on the opportunity wall or just come to the Fellowship Hall to say hello. All you need is a welcoming smile!

## WINTER CARD PARTY

Mark your calendars for First United Methodist Church of Saline's next church-wide Winter Card and Game Party. We are gathering on Saturday, January 10 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm in Room O/P. Please bring a snack, your friends, and your favorite games!



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Jesus is always at the center of a Stephen Minister's ministry. He initiates Stephen Ministry by calling you to follow him in the path of servant hood. He is your source of strength and power as you serve. And the goal of your service is that his name be glorified. Maintain this Christ-centered focus by sharing Christ's compassion with others, relying on Christ to be the caregiver, using the skills Christ has given his people, and modeling the trustworthy character of our Savoir Jesus Christ. This ministry requires 8-11 hours per month of time from your life. The same amount of time that many of our other ministries require from their volunteers. Would you like to learn a new set of skills? Consider becoming a Stephen Minister. A new training session will begin in January. If you have questions, please call Bobbe Hinsman, Training Coordinator @ (734) 429-0716.

## EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

The First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti invites you to begin your Christmas celebration by attending our presentation of a Living Nativity. Experience the true meaning of Christmas through this pageant reenacting the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus Christ with live actors, animals, authentic-style costumes, and music.

The Living Nativity will be presented on the church's east lawn (1100 W. Cross Street, between Oakwood and Wallace) on Sunday through Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be three presentations each evening: 6:30, 7:00, and 7:30 pm. You are invited to sing carols or pet the animals between presentations. The event is offered free of charge, and refreshments will be served throughout the evening.



## INFUSION YOUTH UPDATE

### Senior High

Wild Worship Wednesday (W3) – It's a night of connecting with friends and connecting with God for Senior High Youth. Join us every Wednesday from 8–9:30 pm in the Youth Room.

Life Together Groups (LT) – Every Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm we will be connecting to God and one another through small group Bible study. Please join us! We always end our time together with a yummy meal prepared by the families of those participating in an LT group.

December Celebration – Join us on Saturday, December 13 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm for Christmas Caroling and a Christmas celebration together. No prior singing experience required. Come share in spreading joy to others!

Mountain T.O.P. 2009 Summer Mission Trip – If you would like an opportunity to serve God and love others next summer, please pick up an information packet about our Mountain T.O.P. summer mission trip happening July 11 to 19. The deadline for registration and your \$75 deposit, is December 17. Parents and adults will be needed to help meet Safe Sanctuary guidelines of 2 adults for every 5 students. Adult participants are needed by March 1 to make the trip possible. Please talk to Emily Krach with any questions and to get an information packet today.

*Mark your calendars...more info coming*

- *30 Hour Famine – January 2 - 3*
- *Camp Barakel Winter Retreat – February 13 - 15*

### Junior High

Dinner and Drama – All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to Dinner and Drama every Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. We eat dinner together as a group in Room F and then prepare and practice as a drama team. Come join us this Wednesday!

Junior High Youth Group – Sunday Nights you will find us playing games, checking out God's Word, chatting about living for God, eating snacks, and having a ton of fun! Come join us on Sunday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the junior high room.

December Celebration – Join us for Youth Group on Sunday, December 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm for Christmas Caroling followed by a Christmas Celebration Together!

*Mark your calendars...more info coming*

- *SpringHill Winter Retreat, March 6 - 8*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNERSTONE

*"For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory."  
Psalm 32:7*

The Children's Christmas Program will be on December 7 during the 11:15 am worship service.

### Register Now for Session II of R.O.C.K. in LOGOS

We are now accepting registrations for the Winter/Spring session (Session II), January 14 to May 13 (Carnival Day). A drop box, along with registration forms for new families, is available at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex. There is no fee for Pre-K thru Kindergarten, but a registration form must be on file. Returning families do not need to fill out a registration form, but please let us know if any of your information has changed. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Herrick at 429-4235.

### **ELE'S PLACE:**

*A healing center for grieving children*

Ele's Place is a healing center for grieving children that was launched in Ann Arbor in May 2007. For over 17 years, we have been providing grief support to children and families throughout Mid-Michigan who have experienced the death of a family member or close friend.

Our primary program is ongoing, peer support groups for grieving children ages 3–18 and their parent(s) or guardian(s). These weekly groups provide creative activities that help children to share their feelings and memories with others their age who have experienced a similar loss, helping them learn to cope and begin to heal. There is no charge to families for our services.



Once a month we have a Tour of the Heart, an opportunity to learn more about our programs and the impact we make on grieving children. If you have questions or are interested in participating in our program, please call us at 929-6640.

### **HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

The church office will be closed on December 25<sup>th</sup>, December 26<sup>th</sup>, and January 1<sup>st</sup>. The office hours on December 29<sup>th</sup>, December 30<sup>th</sup>, December 31<sup>st</sup>, and January 2<sup>nd</sup> will be 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

## SAVE SEBBY

### NATIONAL BONE MARROW REGISTRY

We are requesting prayers for the grandson of friends in California. Sebastian Moustirats (<http://savesebby.com/>) is 18 months old and was born with a rare immune deficiency syndrome known as Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome (WAS). WAS is characterized by the increased tendency to bleed caused by a reduced number of platelets. Those afflicted with WAS also suffer recurrent bacterial, viral and fungal infections as well as eczema of the skin. He can only survive if he receives a marrow transplant. There are two ways you can help.

- 1) Register to save a life by joining the National Marrow Registry. The procedure is a simple cheek swab. More information is available by calling 800-471-3020 or by visiting the following website: <http://www.marrow.org/HELP/>.
- 2) If you know anyone in the San Francisco Bay Area who would be interested in becoming a platelet donor for Sebastian, they can contact Carlene Vasquez at the Stanford Blood Bank, (650) 723-6667, to schedule a pre-screening.

The more individuals registered in the National Marrow Registry, the greater the chances for a match for Sebby. Although, you may not be a match for Sebby, there are a lot of people for whom you may be a match. As you look at the National Marrow Registry website, you can see the need to increase the number of potential donors. Please think about taking steps to register or to encourage family, friends, and neighbors to register. Your prayers are greatly appreciated. Thank you,  
Katherine Baisden, Rob Robbins, & Maggie Robbins



**OUR SYMPATHIES TO** ~ Brenda and Donald Dickinson and family on the passing of her father, Villard Corum; Art & Genny Singleton on the passing of his sister, Wanda Herter; Oneta Coffey and family on

the passing of her aunt; the family of Dorothy Finkbeiner on her passing; the Minnette family on the passing of Will's aunt, Mary Tooke; the family of Ken Christler on his passing; Linda and Doug Dillon and family on the passing of her sister, Patty Morgan; Lois Gray and family on the passing of her husband, Bud; Joyce & Mitch Noble and family on the passing of her sister-in-law, Nancy Sharkey.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN SPECIAL LIVING SITUATIONS** ~ Alice Tonks, Anna Reese, Juleen Dodge, and Linnie Mae Scott who are at the Evangelical Home; Phyllis West who is at Sunrise; Emily Bailey who is at the University of Michigan Hospital; and Lois Gray who is at Bortz Health Care.

**PRAISE/CELEBRATIONS** ~ Edna Richardson's successful surgery; Lisa Marshall done with her chemo; DW Beard's return home from Iraq; Sam Babcock's return home from the hospital; Bonnie Bender done with cancer treatments; Emily Krach; our wonderful Christian youth; Nathan Miller's completion of his Navy training; the engagement of Nathan Miller to Samantha; for family and friends; our wonderful Christmas decorations; the donation of 18 P.E.T. frames.

**PRAYER CONCERNS** ~ Elizabeth Gasparovic, Marge Stoddard, Wanda Beard, The Grossman family, Emily Bailey, Paul Applegate, Dorothy Heath, Sam Babcock, Tim Klepaczyk, Our President Elect, Sekerka's sister and brother in law, Walter Schmidt, Gerti Klager, Rob Fowler, Carol Curry, Rich Nagel, Mary Lee, Mary Anne Butler, Jill Morrison, Amy Altenburger, Louis Pinterelli, Roger Ott, Paulette Nichols, Jane, Geoff Acree, the Brenner family, Jacquelyn Macy, Dawn Fowler, Peggy Klapper, Jean Hoyer, Tom Riggs, Steve & family, Gene Becker, Julia Waits, Ardis, Arleene, Angela Graham, Edward Francis, safe travel, fractured family relationships, families who live far apart, family and friends, those facing unemployment, those going through tough times, those facing surgery, those dealing with depression, those dealing with mental illness.



**MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES** ~ J.T. St. Denis; Bennett Phipps; Timothy Frisbee, son of Pam & Gene Frisbee; Nick Gilveli; Kevin Raymond, son of Susan Raymond; Bobby Singh; Dan Erlwein; Sam Spicer; Erik Maddock, son of Don & Andrea Maddock; Doug W. Beard, son of Doug & Wanda Beard; Mark & Brad Nadig, sons of Carroll & Sandy Nadig; Nathaniel Held, son of Keith & Patsy Held; Aaron Friese; Sergeant Eric Coppernoll; John & Ryan Engel; Russ Bodine, son-in-law of Martha and Robert Seward; Joseph Miller; Nathan Miller, son of Jeff & Susan Miller; Benjamin Cripe; Derek Burge; Justin Burge; Nick Turosky; Tom Carter.

# CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 20, 2008

<b>7 Sunday</b> 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Children's Christmas Program 3:00p EVH Worship 3:30p New Horizons Band 4:00p Offsite LT Group 5:00p Disciple III 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p Jr. High Youth 6:30p Girl Scouts #1309	<b>8 Monday</b> 10:00a Shawl Ministry 3:00p GS Troop 824 6:00p Vision Forward Team 7:00p Trustees	<b>9 Tuesday</b> 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 9:00a WISE 10:10a Stephen Ministry 6:30p Friendship Ministries	<b>10 Wednesday</b> 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 12:30p Quilting 3:00p R.O.C.K. in LOGOS 5:30p Jr. High Dinner/Drama 6:30p Praise Team, Choir & Orchestra 7:00p 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation Class 7:00p 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Confirmation Class 8:00p Sr. High WWW	<b>11 Thursday</b> 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 9:30a Prayer Ministry 7:00p Cubs Pack 461 7:30p Hand Bells	<b>12 Friday</b> 4:00p Private Party	<b>13 Saturday</b> 9:00a Cantata Rehearsal 3:00p Cubs Den 4 4:00p Flying Club Banquet
<b>14 Sunday</b> 9:00a Christmas Cantata 10:10a Sunday School 10:10a Stephen Ministry 10:15a Parish Nurses 11:15a Christmas Cantata 4:00p Offsite LT Group 5:00p Disciple III 6:00p Disciple I 6:30p GS Troop 1309	<b>15 Monday</b> 7:30a Stephen Ministry 10:00a Shawl Ministry 3:00p GS Troop 824 6:00p Adult Ministry 6:30p Finance 7:00p Community Care 7:30p Church Council	<b>16 Tuesday</b> 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 9:30a WISE Potluck 7:00p Longest Night Service	<b>17 Wednesday</b> 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 12:30p Quilting 6:30p Praise Team/Choir Rehearsal 7:00p 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation Class 7:00p Building Committee 8:00p Sr. High WWW	<b>18 Thursday</b> 9:00a Lil' SAINTS 9:30a Prayer Ministry 12:00p J.O.Y. Fellowship 6:00p Brownie #792 7:00p Choir 7:00p Cubs Den 1 7:00p Cubs Den 2 7:00p Cubs Den 3 7:00p Cubs Den 5 7:30p Hand Bells	<b>19 Friday</b>	<b>20 Saturday</b>

**\*\*A current church calendar can be viewed on our web site at [www.fumc-saline.org](http://www.fumc-saline.org)**

### DEADLINES

The next Steeple News deadline is **Monday, December 15 at 12:00 pm.** Volunteers are needed to assemble the newsletter **Thursday, December 18** in Room F at 8:30 am. The weekly deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at noon.

#### Worship Attendance:

Nov 16 - 491  
 Nov 23 - 581  
 Nov 30 - 510

#### Head Ushers:

Charlie Bender, Carlos Melendez, Carl Snow  
 Darlene Heffelbower, Patti Hogue

#### Greeters:

Dec 7 - Bredemitz Family  
 Dec 14 - Evans Family

#### Welcome Center:

Linda Jeffries

First United Methodist Church  
 1200 North Ann Arbor Street  
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## *“Tis the Season of Sharing”*

Are you confused? Keep this FUMC seasonal sharing guide handy for reference.

<b>Mission</b>	<b>How to begin</b>	<b>When due</b>	<b>Wrapped or not</b>	<b>Contact person</b>
Angel Tree (children of prisoners)	gift tag hand-out Nov. 23	gifts to box in Narthex Dec. 7	yes, with angel tag	Margo Perry 429-7471 Diane Killebrew 429-4739
Methodist Children's Home	list in Narthex Nov. 23	gifts to box in Narthex Dec. 7	no	Kathy Renberg 944-5223
UMW Whitehall Nursing Home	list in Narthex Nov. 16	gifts in bag in Narthex Dec. 7	yes	Shirley Padding 477-9223
SASS food baskets	list in Narthex Nov. 23	bring to Fellowship Hall on Dec. 21 by 12:30	open, decorated box	Clarke Macy 429-3729 Margo Perry 223-4216
Cass Ave	sign up in Narthex for sweatshirts & for food to go Christmas Day	sweatshirts – box in Narthex <u>week before</u> Christmas food – Christmas Eve	yes, with size	B Melendez 668-6350 Dale Adkins 429-5990
Gift of Hope	available in Narthex Dec. 7	last chance Dec. 21		Nicole Lampman 429-7547



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**2008 Angel Tree Program – A Prison Ministry**—The Angel Tree program helps to connect prisoners with their children. For the Christmas season, members of the congregation purchase gifts that are given to the children on behalf of their incarcerated parent. This year, Angel Tree gift tags will be available on November 23. After each worship service, look for the Angel Tree Christmas tree in the Narthex. You may select a gift tag to purchase either clothing or a toy for up to \$25. We also give gifts to the children's caregivers and those tags will be on the tree as well. Gifts need to be wrapped with the "angel" tag attached on the outside of the package and returned by Sunday, December 7. In addition, if you are interested in delivering gifts to families, please contact Margo Perry [dperry7471@comcast.net](mailto:dperry7471@comcast.net) or 429-7471. Your help in delivering gifts to families will be deeply appreciated.

**Gift of Hope**—The UMW is again offering the Gift of Hope channel of giving this Christmas season. Proceeds will benefit the following missions: Alpha House, Lil' SAINTS Preschool Scholarship, Liberia Youth Trade Training Center, and Heifer International. Make a donation via Gift of Hope to benefit one of the above charities and receive a Christmas ornament and a card (with a description of the charity) to give to that special someone "who has everything" or to say a Christmas "thank you" to teachers and others. It is a gift in mission that gives twice—once to the person you give it to, and again to the mission that receives the donation. Look for the Gift of Hope Christmas Tree and display in the Narthex beginning December 7. Contact Nicole Lampman (429-7547) with questions.

**Saline Christmas Food Basket Mission Project**—Saline Area Social Services has asked the church to provide Christmas food baskets. You can use a sturdy cardboard box, or a plastic laundry basket. Please decorate the cardboard boxes by gift-wrapping, painting, or using any other creative idea. Do not use a lid. Each box needs to be packed with the food for either one person or 4 people, along with a grocery gift certificate (\$10 or \$25). Clearly mark the basket with ONE PERSON or FOUR PEOPLE. The shopping list for the food baskets is on the table in the Narthex. Drop off your filled and decorated box in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 21 by 12:30 pm. When you drop off your basket/box please remove any perishable items and place them in the church's refrigerator. The Missions Committee will deliver all boxes to SASS by 1:30 pm.

**Whitehall Nursing Home Gifts**—The UMW is collecting gifts for Whitehall Nursing Home. Let's remind those living in retirement/nursing homes that people still care about them. Please pick up a list of gift items at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex. Please wrap and label your gift bag with the contents and return it to the Church by December 7.

**2008 Christmas at Cass Avenue**—This will be our 20<sup>th</sup> year to serve Christmas dinner at Cass Avenue UMC. We hope to serve about 250 homeless people as well as the residents of the Woodrow Wilson Shelter. We also send 65 dinners "to go" to the homeless Vets. We have a great need for both help and donations. Their need is great and our church has always more than exceeded their expectations. We give each guest at lunch a gift of a sweatshirt and a goody bag consisting of cookies, candy cane and a piece of fruit. We give stuffed animals to the children. We need sweatshirts, size M-XXL. Please wrap and label with size and drop off between December 14 and 24 in the large plastic containers labeled Cass Ave. in the Narthex. We also need fruit, pies, candy canes, 250 dozen cookies and cash donations (any amount is appreciated). We need cooks that will prepare the chicken early Christmas morning before we go. Please see the sign up sheets at the Opportunity Wall. Please bring donated food items to the church Christmas Eve and place on the labeled tables in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to go with us to Cass Ave we meet at 9:00 am in the Narthex and return by 2:00 pm. We will caravan together to Cass. Remember to bring a snack as we don't eat at Cass Ave. Please prayerfully consider coming with us on Christmas Day, it is a wonderful experience. If you have questions see the Melendez family.

**Methodist Children's Home Christmas Gift Drive**—There are approximately 70 boys at the Methodist Children's Home who are in need of Christmas gifts. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church to help these children experience the joy that so many of us take for granted. We will start the gift drive on Sunday, November 23. Place unwrapped gifts in the box in the Narthex. The deadline is December 7. A list of suggested gifts is available on the table in the Narthex.

**2008 Angel Tree Program – A Prison Ministry**—The Angel Tree program helps to connect prisoners with their children. For the Christmas season, members of the congregation purchase gifts that are given to the children on behalf of their incarcerated parent. This year, Angel Tree gift tags will be available on November 23. After each worship service, look for the Angel Tree Christmas tree in the Narthex. You may select a gift tag to purchase either clothing or a toy for up to \$25. We also give gifts to the children's caregivers and those tags will be on the tree as well. Gifts need to be wrapped with the "angel" tag attached on the outside of the package and returned by Sunday, December 7. In addition, if you are interested in delivering gifts to families, please contact Margo Perry [dperry7471@comcast.net](mailto:dperry7471@comcast.net) or 429-7471. Your help in delivering gifts to families will be deeply appreciated.

**Gift of Hope**—The UMW is again offering the Gift of Hope channel of giving this Christmas season. Proceeds will benefit the following missions: Alpha House, Lil' SAINTS Preschool Scholarship, Liberia Youth Trade Training Center, and Heifer International. Make a donation via Gift of Hope to benefit one of the above charities and receive a Christmas ornament and a card (with a description of the charity) to give to that special someone "who has everything" or to say a Christmas "thank you" to teachers and others. It is a gift in mission that gives twice—once to the person you give it to, and again to the mission that receives the donation. Look for the Gift of Hope Christmas Tree and display in the Narthex beginning December 7. Contact Nicole Lampman (429-7547) with questions.

**Saline Christmas Food Basket Mission Project**—Saline Area Social Services has asked the church to provide Christmas food baskets. You can use a sturdy cardboard box, or a plastic laundry basket. Please decorate the cardboard boxes by gift-wrapping, painting, or using any other creative idea. Do not use a lid. Each box needs to be packed with the food for either one person or 4 people, along with a grocery gift certificate (\$10 or \$25). Clearly mark the basket with ONE PERSON or FOUR PEOPLE. The shopping list for the food baskets is on the table in the Narthex. Drop off your filled and decorated box in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 21 by 12:30 pm. When you drop off your basket/box please remove any perishable items and place them in the church's refrigerator. The Missions Committee will deliver all boxes to SASS by 1:30 pm.

**Whitehall Nursing Home Gifts**—The UMW is collecting gifts for Whitehall Nursing Home. Let's remind those living in retirement/nursing homes that people still care about them. Please pick up a list of gift items at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex. Please wrap and label your gift bag with the contents and return it to the Church by December 7.

**2008 Christmas at Cass Avenue**—This will be our 20<sup>th</sup> year to serve Christmas dinner at Cass Avenue UMC. We hope to serve about 250 homeless people as well as the residents of the Woodrow Wilson Shelter. We also send 65 dinners "to go" to the homeless Vets. We have a great need for both help and donations. Their need is great and our church has always more than exceeded their expectations. We give each guest at lunch a gift of a sweatshirt and a goody bag consisting of cookies, candy cane and a piece of fruit. We give stuffed animals to the children. We need sweatshirts, size M-XXL. Please wrap and label with size and drop off between December 14 and 24 in the large plastic containers labeled Cass Ave. in the Narthex. We also need fruit, pies, candy canes, 250 dozen cookies and cash donations (any amount is appreciated). We need cooks that will prepare the chicken early Christmas morning before we go. Please see the sign up sheets at the Opportunity Wall. Please bring donated food items to the church Christmas Eve and place on the labeled tables in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to go with us to Cass Ave we meet at 9:00 am in the Narthex and return by 2:00 pm. We will caravan together to Cass. Remember to bring a snack as we don't eat at Cass Ave. Please prayerfully consider coming with us on Christmas Day, it is a wonderful experience. If you have questions see the Melendez family.

**Methodist Children's Home Christmas Gift Drive**—There are approximately 70 boys at the Methodist Children's Home who are in need of Christmas gifts. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church to help these children experience the joy that so many of us take for granted. We will start the gift drive on Sunday, November 23. Place unwrapped gifts in the box in the Narthex. The deadline is December 7. A list of suggested gifts is available on the table in the Narthex.