

the Messenger

JANUARY 2007

Richardson Park United Methodist Church
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Pastor's Ponderings

There is something that excites us about the start of a New Year. The thought of a new start, a fresh beginning, a clean slate has tremendous appeal. Of course, we carry lots of "baggage" from one year to the next, but the thought of something brand new is still intriguing. Some words from the scriptures came to mind as I thought about a new year.

"God's mercies never come to an end.

They are **new** every morning." – Lamentations 3:23

"If anyone is in Christ they are a **new** creation, the old has passed away; see everything has become **new**." – 2 Corinthians 5:17

"I give you a **new** commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." – John 13:34

(Jesus said) "Look! I am making all things **new**."

Revelation 21:5

May you experience the grace and love of God in new ways in this New Year.

Peace Be With You,
Bill

A THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF

We would like to thank our church family. You give us wonderful gifts, not only at Christmas but all year long. Your support, encouragement, and "can do" attitude are a great blessing to us. We look forward to sharing ministry together in 2007.

*God Bless You and Have
a Joyous New Year.*

**BILL HARRIET ANN TERRI
BETH AND RYAN**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

June Victor	1/1
Michael Coverdale	1/2
David Swain	1/2
Paigely Boyd	1/4
Sarah James	1/4
Harold Spedden	1/4
Ken Horne	1/5
Noel Van Sant	1/9
Alexis Anderson	1/10
Cindi Beane	1/11
Joseph Watkins	1/12
Kenneth Taylor	1/13
Tiffany Scott	1/14
Julie Oakley	1/15
Kiersten Hughart	1/16
Gillian Fader	1/17
Virginia Pettyjohn	1/17
Angela Brown	1/18
Michael Burgos	1/18
Emmanuel Lee	1/18
Christopher Chancy	1/19
Chris Cochran	1/19
Jerry Paoli	1/19
Ruth Phillips	1/19
Katelyn Farley	1/20
Kristi Doughty	1/23
Phillip Loose	1/24
Christina Dale	1/29
Stacey Farley	1/29
JoAnn Jamison	1/30
Riley Ann Sullivan	1/30

NOTE: If your name is not listed on our birthday calendar, please call the church office at 654-0961. Thank you.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!



On December 10, we were pleased to welcome ten new members to the Richardson Park UMC Family. They are (pictured from left to right) Carrie & Will Fader, Beth & Mike Gallagher, Alissa & Brian Haynes, Carolyn & Hank Wootten, and Jean Van Vliet. Ruth Hawkins also was welcomed into membership but was not available for the photograph. Please do all you can to welcome our new members and let them know how good it is to have them here!

Some Old Words That Still Have Meaning For This New Year

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can, in all the places you can,
at all the times you can, to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.

John Wesley (1703-1791)

(Wesley was the driving force in the Methodist Movement)

KIDS' KORNER

Marlene Johnson and Annette Ott

Hi everybody! It's hard to believe that Christmas is over! But the warmth and love that Jesus brings us is eternal, and RPUMC invites you to start the new year off right and join us in worship.

PreK thru Grade 4 will be "following Jesus," based on the books of Matthew, Luke and John. Following Jesus means having faith. Nothing should get in the way of following Jesus. Following Jesus is the best thing we can do. Jesus wants everyone to follow him. Grades 5 thru 7 will be learning about "The Impassible Wall." We will be studying how sin in our lives separates us from a relationship with God and how to remove this "Impassible Wall" through reconciliation. Through 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, we will learn that by believing in Jesus Christ as our Savior, we become ambassadors for Jesus Christ. We also have learned about our "sin nature," and will be learning in subsequent lessons what God has in store for us and how we can strive to follow Jesus Christ, who sacrificed so much for us. We look forward to a season of learning in this season of joy.

If you have any questions, please speak with our dedicated teaching staff!

PreK thru Grade 4 - Marlene Johnson and
Donna Chambers

Grades 5 thru 7 - Kristi J. Doughty,
Michelle Anderson, and
Annette Ott

Grades 8 thru 12 - Bob Evely



MUSIC NOTES

Terri Weaver, Director

The Christmas season lifts up to lots of special music on Christmas Eve. The 6:30 p.m. Family service celebrated the season with choral selections and handbells by the children. The 10:30 p.m. service included a trumpet, flute and handbells throughout the service. My personal favorite, the candlelit *Silent Night* at both services, is a special quiet reflective time and helps us to remember that Christ is our light leading us. He is indeed the reason for the season. Thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas Eve very special.

The last Sunday of the year, Kristin Beane played her flute for a celebrated children's service. Now, 2007 arrives and starts Epiphany with classical music of J. S. Bach, Flor Peters, Felix Mendelssohn and many others.

In February, look for the **Music Notes** section of **The Messenger**. It will feature information on Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707), a Dane/German composer who lived during the Baroque period. J. S. Bach once traveled over 200 miles to hear Buxtehude play and stayed for three months. (Doesn't sound like a vacation!) His music still is studied and sung by choral groups, chamber musicians and organists 300 years after his death.

*Faithfully,
Terri Weaver*

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Permit No. 162

“THE MESSENGER”
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LAY READERS

January 7
January 14 Kristi Doughty
January 21 Betty Swain
January 28 Sath Amara

FLOWERS

*For the month of January, Phoebe and Elizabeth
Circles are responsible for the flowers.*

*Please submit your articles for the
February Messenger to the Church Office by Friday,
January 12. Thank you.*

ALTAR FLOWERS

~~January 7~~ Matalee Senft &
 Doris Munger-Schippers
January 14 Shirley Godfrey &
 Robert Truitt
 At the Cross Joyce Mills
January 21 Sandy & Ed Ide
January 28 Gail Crozier & Family

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING FOOD
FOR CAP THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH
MONTH.

*The purpose of Richardson Park United
Methodist Church is to help people
experience the amazing love of God and develop
a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.*