



Waterville Words

January 2012

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Kymin Morsching
- 1 – Lacey Roemhildt
- 6 – Taylor Flatau
- 8 – Darlene Thrun
- 16 – Tauston Lamont
- 19 – Chris Fyvie
- 24 – Karlane Jensen
- 25 – Teresa Hill
- 25 – Alexandra Heuss
- 26 – Chris Villwock
- 26 – John Klotz
- 27 – Linda Beavens
- 31 – Cassie Carlsen



AND ANNIVERSARY

- 30 – Tom & Brenda Barber

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep in your prayers...

- ~Judy Frost who is having issues that require surgery and Jim & Judy are asking for prayers to help them accept whatever is in God's plan.
- ~Elie Stangler and family. Elie's great-granddaughter, Kaylee Holicky was having some heart problems but is now doing fine.
- ~Elie's daughter Kathy Morimoto, who had a heart attack.
- ~and Elie's grandson TJ Collins who is home for the holidays, but ended up in the hospital with viral meningitis
- ~Julie Delaske and her family. Julie has an aggressive cancer but recently had a good doctor's visit and he was a little more hopeful. Julie will continue to do chemo and hopefully it will continue to work.
- ~The family of Violet Sell who passed away last month.
- ~Those facing health concerns or cancer diagnosis
- ~Those in the hospital or care facilities
- ~All students and teachers returning to classes
- ~Our church and world leaders
- ~Those that are in the service and their families including Ken Wollin (who recently passed ALL his tests!)
- ~Those traveling and away from us during the winter
- ~Those facing unemployment



Prayers of Joy

- ~for Elie Stangler's granddaughter Sarah Edwards who recently graduated from MSU! She will be continuing on for her master's degree.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Thank you to everyone who helped with our giving tree this year. I was able to visit with the families when they picked up their gifts and I know how grateful they were - their words and their eyes told the story. All the parents said over and over again: "This is too much." "We didn't expect so much." "Your church is so good." One mom happened to see one of the cards with the word Mom written on it; and she responded with: "For me? There's one for me?!"

If you've ever had the opportunity to read the story of the Starfish, you'll understand what I mean when I paraphrase the final line of that story and say: "For these families you did make a difference." Thank you and bless you for caring. Anita



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR JANUARY AD COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9 AT 6:30 PM.

We will be reviewing 2011 and making plans for 2012. We will also be discussing a significant memorial that was left to us in 2011 and would appreciate input as to how to use those funds. We will also be voting on the budget for 2012 and discussing some changes in reporting to the Annual Conference. So, please join us if you are able. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Don Wetzal or Pastor Cindy.

ADULT SMALL GROUP STUDY GOES TO THE MOVIES

Join us as we begin our new year together on Sunday, January 15 with a potluck and viewing of the movie "The Adjustment Bureau". This movie invites us to take a look at our relationship to each other, to God and think about how we make choices in our lives. We will also be brainstorming about our next study topic. All are always welcome. We begin at 5 pm at the Waterville Church with potluck and end at 7 pm.



NOTICE TO ALL

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN!

We will have our monthly meeting on Sunday January 8th at 9:00 am! (That's before church!!)

MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

WATERVILLE CARE CENTER BINGO

January 18 – Janette and Elie in charge

COFFEE HOUR

January 29 – Amy and Cleota hostess

GREETERS

January 1 – Don and Arlene Wetzel

January 8 – Greeter Needed

January 15 – Dennis and Karen Bauer

January 22 – Arlis Wallace and Jo Snyder

January 29 - Greeter Needed

READERS AND SCRIPTURE FOR DECEMBER

January 1 – Psalm 148 and
Luke 2: 22 – 40 - Don Wetzel

January 8 - Psalm 29 and
Mark 1: 4 – 11 - Reader Needed

January 15 - Psalm 139: 13 – 18 and
1 Samuel 3: 1 – 10 – Karen Bauer

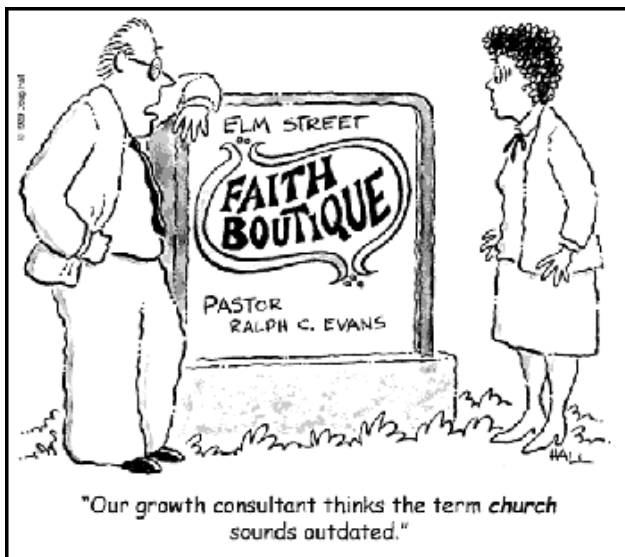
January 22 - Psalm 62: 5 – 12 and
Mark 1: 14 – 20 – Reader Needed

January 29 - Psalm 111 and
Mark 1: 21 – 28 - Reader needed



SPECIAL THANKS TO...

- To all the adults and children that made the Christmas program a wonderful, uplifting experience.
- To all the volunteers that made the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services so special.
- To PPRC and Adult Study Group members who took time out of their busy December schedule to meet with the Board of Ordained Ministry on the pastor's behalf.



CONFIRMATION CLASS CONTINUES

We will resume our regular schedule in January with a study of Epiphany. Class is held the third Sunday of each month from 1 – 4 pm. We will be rotating locations between the churches every two months:

January 12 Waterville EUMC

February 19, March 18 Elysian UMC

April 15, May 20 Blooming Grove UMC

We will also be asking for folks to prayerfully consider serving as mentors during the summer and fall of 2012 to help the youth with special projects. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Cindy at 362-8260 or via email at soulfreegates@yahoo.com

IMAGINE NO MALARIA

During the Christmas Program in December, you were filled in on the Imagine No Malaria Campaign that the United Methodist Church is supporting over the next several years. The youth informed you of many facts and figures associated with malaria in Africa. A special mission offering was collected during that program and will be sent on to the Minnesota Annual Conference to fulfill part of our pledge to the campaign. Lea Williams, the UMC Field Coordinator for Imagine No Malaria is coming on March 4, 2012 to speak during the worship service. She is a phenomenal speaker and obvious passion around this campaign. Please be sure to come hear her message!

SOUTHERN PRAIRIE DISTRICT SKI DAY

Sunday March 4, 2012

Mt Kato - Mankato MN

Open to all Districts!

Open to all ages – not just youth!

Skiing from 2pm – 9pm

Pre-Registration due by Wednesday

February 29th

Sign-package up for one or more parts of the

package

Forms and Money Due day of event

Cost:

Basic Package (lift ticket and group items) - \$23

Ski/Snowboard Rental - \$17

Beginner Lesson (must be at least 7 years old) \$3

Food Package (through Mt Kato & includes hotdog or hamburger, fries, & pop) \$6

For registration materials or questions contact:

Janet Sahlstrom at 507-236-0254 or

sportsgirl2002@hotmail.com



Prairie Lakes Parish Activities

Waterville Evangelical
 Worship 10:30 am
 Sunday School during worship

January 2012

Blooming Grove
 Worship..... 8:30 am
 Sunday School 9:30 am

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Year's Day Service No Sunday School at BG						
Pastor Cindy on Vacation						
8 Communion Sunday WV Andrews Baptism	9 4 pm Bible Study at Traditions 6:30 pm WV Ad Council	10 Pastor Cindy's Day off	11 7 pm PPRC at WV	12	13	14
15 Delaske Baptism at WV 1-4 Confirmation Class at WV 5 pm Adult Study Group at WV	16 5 pm Spaghetti Supper at WV	17 Pastor Cindy's Day off	18 Bingo 6:30 pm BG AD Council BG UMW at Eleanor's	19	20	21
22 BG Men's Pancake Breakfast	23	24 Pastor Cindy's Day off	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Pastor Cindy's Day off				

PASTORAL LETTER

“So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived! All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation”

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 Common English Bible (CEB)



My spiritual director asked me today how I was sharing Christ with the world. Well, I had a few thoughts about how I was doing that in my work and in my daily encounters with people but, to be quite frank, I think I may have lost track of sharing Christ about mid-December. When the work started piling up and the deadlines were pending and computers weren't working right, I lost track of why we celebrate this magnificent season. We celebrate the coming of God into the world as one of us. And we celebrate ourselves as made new because of that presence of God in the world. That does not end on Christmas Eve but is just beginning. So, how are we made new this year? How do we allow God to guide us toward love and peace and away from fear, hate and despair? How do we live out our new birth in this year of 2012?

John Wesley's understanding of new birth in Christ has to do with what God is doing IN us. When an infant is born, that child hears and sees in a new way, although we know that hearing and sight is possible in the womb. But just as the physical birth brings new clarity to the infant, so does our spiritual new birth bring us to new understanding of the world around us. But it goes deeper than just new understanding. We are called into new life in Christ. We are no longer living our life alone, with our own mind to guide us, but we put on the mind of Christ and look at the world through the eyes of Christ. We are fundamentally changed in how we look at things, how we act in the world and how we share God's love with others. This is what we celebrate each Christmas and into the New Year. This new way of being in the world, not based on old hurts and hates but trusting in God's love and grace for us and in us and working through us. So, as we begin this New Year, ask God to guide you toward further reconciliation and ask God to show you how to share Christ's love with those around you. And ask God to guide you more towards the needs of the world. For each day, we have a chance to be made new in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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Temp – Return Service Requested

