

St. Paul's Epistle

~ An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples ~

Volume 32, Issue 12

December, 2009

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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Rev. Ruth Solo

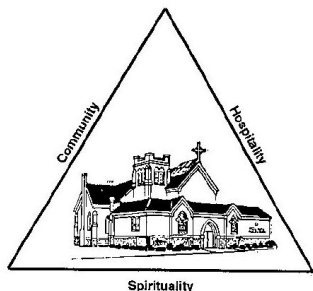
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Dear Friends,

How do you think of Christmas? Is it a time to gather with family? Is it a time to shop 'til you drop? Is it a time to go to as many parties as you can? Is it a time to decorate your house and lawn? Is it a time to wear festive clothing? For some, it's all of these and more. There's nothing wrong with being a part of the festive celebrations of the season. But just don't forget that for us, as Christians, this is the celebration of when God came to us as a poor babe in a manger. When we remember the real meaning of this joyous holiday (holy day), we are humbled.

Jesus didn't arrive in festive clothing. All his mother had to put on him was "swaddling cloths", which were strips of cloth torn to bind the baby. Jesus didn't get to gather with family. Mary and Joseph were away from home, in a town of ancestors, but surrounded by virtual strangers. Jesus didn't have sumptuous foods. His food was what his mother provided, and Mary and Joseph ate what little they could find in the crowded village. Jesus didn't have beautiful decorations and scented candles to delight his new born senses. His room was decorated with straw and cob webs, and all around were smells of animal waste and sweat and decaying straw.

But, Jesus did have a party to welcome him. Shepherds from nearby fields came when they'd heard from angels that the Saviour of the world had been born. And angels had sung of the glory of God in those fields.

Our party in worship on Christmas Eve is our attempt to recreate that moment when God's messengers told of the birth of God's Son, and the heavenly host sang "Gloria." Maybe we can invite a lonely person to the party, give clothing to the poor, bring food for the Five Loaves Pantry, help decorate a room for a nursing home resident, shop for a family hit hard by the market crash. "When you do this for the least of these, you've done it for me," said Jesus. Joy to the world.

Peace,
Pastor Ruth Solo



Thought for the Month:

Christmas comes every
time we see God in
other persons.

— Ann Weems, "Christmas Comes"






December Youth Calendar

December 6, 2009	To be Announced
December 13, 2009	Carry-in lunch & "At The Cross"
December 20, 2009	Christmas Party 6:30—8:30 PM
December 27, 2009	No Youth

**Congratulations
Elida High School
Football Team
5-5 Record
Best in 14 years!**

**We are proud of our
Alex and Reggie McAdams,
members of the 2009 team.**

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



UM Student Sunday, November 29, 2009

St. Paul's UMC honored our college students on November 29, 2009.

The Ohio State University:

- Megan Bible
- Jon Blewitt
- Jennifer Kinney
- John Segovia
- Jenni Theodore
- Cody Warris

University of Northwestern Ohio:

- Doug guess
- Kelly Warris

University of Findlay:

- Lindsey Reiff

Manchester College:

- Logan Smith
- Tyler Smith

Valparaiso University:

- Sarah Dyke

University of South Carolina:

- Tara Strauch

Washington Univ. of St. Louis:

- Aaron Thompson

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Secretary:	Jone Lane
Choir Director:	Mary Kaye Pease
Organist:	Linda Holman
Pianist:	Lois Cook
Youth Director:	Corinne Piper
Custodian:	Dave Decker



December 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Newsletter
deadline:
the **20th**
of each month



Growing Disciple Makers

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God is doing amazing things at the United Methodist Children's Home, and you have the opportunity be part of it. Through Fifth Sunday offerings, congregations just like yours are honoring their ownership of the Home by making sure that the needs of these children are met. Through your giving, you will be providing safe and kind adults who will protect children, nutritious meals to feed them, and skilled professionals to help them to heal from prior abuse and mental illness.

More churches than ever are making mission contributions to help the children of UMCH. However, other funding sources (such as government support) now fail to meet the cost of safe care. Your decision matters! We're so grateful to so many who are helping UMCH children, but we are asking every church to respond to this call to action!



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

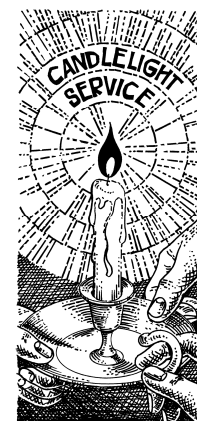
December 13, 2009
Christmas Carry-in Luncheon
 in Fellowship Hall
 following Worship Service
 Bring a dish to share.
 Drinks provided.

"At the Cross" Band will perform
 their Christmas program
"Nativity 2.0"
 Join us for an afternoon of
 fun and fellowship.

The Cantata
"Rise Up!"
A New Light A-Comin'
by Larson and Martin
 will be presented by
 our Chancel Choir
 during the worship hour on
December 20, 2009
 Please plan to attend.

December 13, 2009

Christmas Caroling to our Shut-ins
 Following the Luncheon
 Everyone is invited to join in this
 time of music and fellowship.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 with Communion
December 24, 2009
10:30 PM

December 31, 2009
9:00 PM
2nd Annual New Year's Eve Party
 Hosted by Journey Class
 in Fellowship Hall
 Bring your friends and family!

The Heart of Church

Greeters

December 6	Ruth Burgoon & Susan Nartker
December 13	Open
December 20	Brian & Angie Nartker
December 27	Open

Nursery Volunteers

December 6	Volunteer Needed
December 13	Volunteer Needed
December 20	Volunteer Needed
December 27	Volunteer Needed

COMMUNION VISITORS WANTED:

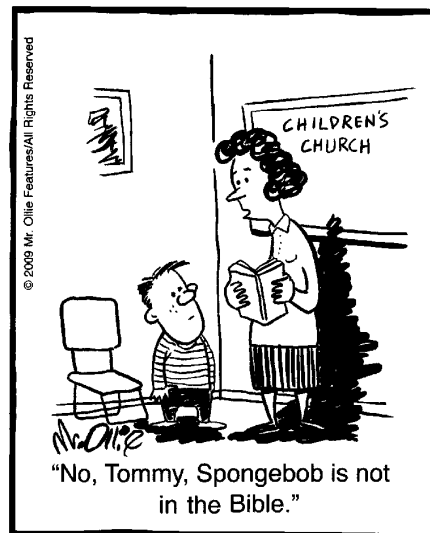
We are in need of two more people to give of their time to visit our shut-ins and take communion to them when needed. The ideal is for each person to visit two people per month. We currently have eight people on the list, two of whom attend church most of the time, but are living in assisted living facilities, and should be visited. We have six people who are unable to attend church at present. Currently, Pastor Ruth and one lay person are involved in this ministry. If you feel called to be a visitor for these saints, please contact Pastor Ruth for information.



Children's Worship (Conducted During the Worship Hour)

1st Sunday of Each Month	Pastor Ruth—Story No Children's Church
2nd Sunday of Each Month	Steve Moser—Story Slone Whetstone—Children's Church
3rd Sunday of Each Month	Pastor Ruth—Story No Children's Church
4th Sunday of Each Month	Corinne Piper—Story & Children's Church
5th Sunday of Each Month	Pastor Ruth—Story Steve Moser—Children's Church

Book of Timothy



The Business of Church

Consecration Sunday November 22, 2009

After a delicious lunch, St. Paul's members were given the results of the Consecration Pledge Cards.

- Fifty-two giving units completed an Estimate of Giving Card for 2010.
- Twenty-eight of the fifty-two giving units increased their financial commitment above last year's amount.
- The fifty-two giving units that completed the Estimate of Giving Card committed a total of \$141, 882 for the General Fund Budget for 2010.



Above: Congregation members and friends enjoy a wonderful meal and fellowship after laying their pledge cards on the altar to fund next year's budget.
Below: Steve Moser and Mindy Schulz lead the crowd in praise and worship music.



**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
with Communion
December 24, 2009
10:30 PM**

Committee Chairs

PPR Chair	Linda Craft
Trustees Chair	Jamie Wyant
Finance Chair	Art Holman
Physical Plant Chair	Ron Steiner
Treasurer	Gene Craft
Education Chair	Steve Moser
Administrative Council Chair	Scott Fessler
Worship Setting	Ruth Solo
Nurture	Martha Vazquez
Stewardship	Tim Piper
Missions	Maedene Holmes & Marty White

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

November 1, 2009	127
November 8, 2009	129
November 15, 2009	116
November 22, 2009	104

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,466.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
Nov. 1, 2009	\$3,403.00	\$799.02
Nov. 8, 2009	\$3,253.30	\$552.25
Nov. 15, 2009	\$2,610.00	\$313.00
Nov. 22, 2009	\$3,445.00	\$534.00



- Christmas gift suggestions:
- To your enemy, forgiveness.
 - To an opponent, tolerance.
 - To a friend, your heart.
 - To a customer, service.
 - To all, charity.
 - To every child, a good example.
 - To yourself, respect.

– Oren Arnold

FOOD PANTRY STILL GOING STRONG

Five Loaves Food Pantry at Allentown UMC, supported by St. Paul's UM Church, Immanuel UMC and Grace Church is still going strong. The pantry served **110 families** on Saturday, November 21st. They are averaging around 100 families served each of the two weekends they are open each month. Your continued giving of food and funds to the food pantry **is making a difference** in God's Kingdom as families are still struggling to feed their members due to a weak economy. Praise God for the generosity of the people of St. Pauls!



Sunday School Attendance

November 1, 2009	35
November 8, 2009	40
November 15, 2009	34
November 22, 2009	38

Flowers:

December 6, 2009	Dan & Margie Best
December 13, 2009	Poinsettias
December 20, 2009	Poinsettias
December 27, 2009	Virginia Hollar

Visit The United
Methodist Website at:
www.umw.org

Consulting the Manual



“And the glory of the
Lord shall be
revealed, and all
people shall see it
together, for the
mouth of the Lord has
spoken.”

Isaiah 40: 5



Bible Readings for December

Revised Common Lectionary
Year B

Week of December 6 Second Sunday of Advent

Color: Purple or Blue

Old Testament:

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

New Testament:

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

Week of December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

Color: Purple or Blue

Old Testament:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

New Testament:

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18



Week of December 20 Fourth Sunday or Advent

Color: Purple or Blue

Old Testament:

Micah 5:2-5a

New Testament:

Luke 1:47-55

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

Week of December 27 First Sunday after Christmas

Color: White or Gold

Old Testament:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

New Testament:

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

For more detailed information on the
Revised Common Lectionary,
please visit:
www.gbod.org

CORIZON ABIERTO

CORIZON ABIERTO

(Open Heart Ministries)
by Pastor Ruth Solo

Corizon Abierto is a coalition of pastors and laity who have been meeting in the greater Allen County area for several years to offer a ministry of hope, support and encouragement to people who have immigrated from Spanish speaking countries, or Latino people. For the past year and a half, I have been meeting with the group, chaired by Nola Heilman, to plan events which will allow Latino people to gather for times of worship, fellowship and celebration. Corizon Abierto provides the refreshments after Spanish speaking worship services at St. John's Catholic Church. They also sponsor an Easter Egg hunt for the children after worship on Easter Sunday. (My family hid the eggs this past Easter.) They sponsored a picnic for the Latino population this summer, and partnered with Brazo en Brazo (Arm in Arm), the Mennonite church's Hispanic ministry, at Pike Mennonite church for a "Fiesta Familiar" last year. During Advent, Corizon Abierto sponsors "Los Posadas", a service of shelter for the Holy Family at Trinity UMC.

This year, those who are interested have an opportunity to share in this experience by helping to provide cookies and small candy bags for the children. You are also invited to attend the Los Posadas at Trinity UMC on Saturday, December 19 at 6:30 pm. You would be there to help serve as well as join in the singing (if you can sing in Spanish). The devotion will be provided in English and Spanish for those of us who speak little Spanish. We are invited to come and join in a ministry of presence, to just "be there and be with," as Latino people of Allen County learn to

trust us as brothers and sisters in Christ. Let me know if you are interested in participating in this opportunity.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY A SUCCESS!

As part of the Consecration Sunday Program, we held a Leadership Dinner at Elmcroft of Lima. Around thirty of our church leaders and spouses attended the dinner and Reverend Steve Bennett, District Superintendent, was our guest speaker.

Leading up to Consecration Sunday we had Lay Speakers talk each of the three Sundays about what St. Paul United Methodist Church meant to them and how important it is to continue supporting our church so we may continue to do God's work.

Pastor Ruth Solo delivered messages on these Sundays referencing Bible stories related to giving, such as the story of the woman who gave her only coins to the church.

Then, Consecration Sunday was held on November 22, 2009 at St. Paul's Church and Reverend Steve Bennett gave an inspirational message about how God has blessed each of us.

Thank you to the Stewardship Committee, persons that made phone calls to our leaders and membership, persons that arranged the catering of the meals, persons that set up tables and chairs, persons that decorated and persons that gave a talk. Thanks to our Financial Secretary and Finance Chair for tallying the pledges. Special thanks to Pastor Ruth for her leadership role during this program and to Reverend Bennett for taking time to be our guest leader. A final report on our 2010 pledge totals will be listed in the next newsletter. Praise God for his blessings.

~ Tim Piper, Stewardship Program 2009 Chairperson

Celebrating...

I have always thought of Christmas as a good time; a kind, forgiving, generous, pleasant time; a time when men and women seem to open their hearts freely, and so I say, God bless Christmas!

— Fred, in Charles Dickens,
A Christmas Carol

CONGRATULATIONS TO KAYLA STEWART

Kayla Stewart, daughter of Ron and Ann Stewart, graduated from the Ohio State Beauty Academy in September. She is now employed as a hairdresser with the Cost Cutters salon in the shopping center near Hobby Lobby.



Mary LaRue will be celebrating her 90th birthday on December 3, 2009.

She has been attending St. Paul's for approximately 65 years! In her younger years, she was a youth choir director, and she and her husband were both youth directors. She had been a 50 year member of the Chancel Choir. Cards can be sent to 3071 Diller Rd.

Lima, OH 45807



Table Grace

In this holy season
join our hopes, dreams,
and prayers
for peace in our world
with those of all humanity.
Bless us and this food we eat
and strengthen us
to serve others.
Amen.

Relay for Life

In November the Relay for Life Team held a **Tastefully Simple** Party to raise money for this year's campaign. We would like to thank all of you who attended the party and/or ordered products. Although the results will not be known until the final deadline December 4th, we feel confident that we have a good beginning toward reaching our goal of \$2,500 for 2010. If you have a last-minute order, please see Linda Holman.

For those of you who are looking for an inexpensive homemade Christmas gift for a special friend or coworker, we have just the thing---chocolate covered pretzels, buckeyes, edible cinnamon berry potpourri, and turtles. These will be available each Sunday of December after worship for under \$10. Check them out in the library or the church office. All the proceeds will go toward our Relay for Life goal. Thank you for supporting our relay team.

Remember When...

**Youth Dinner Theater,
1987
Directed by Tom Tozer**



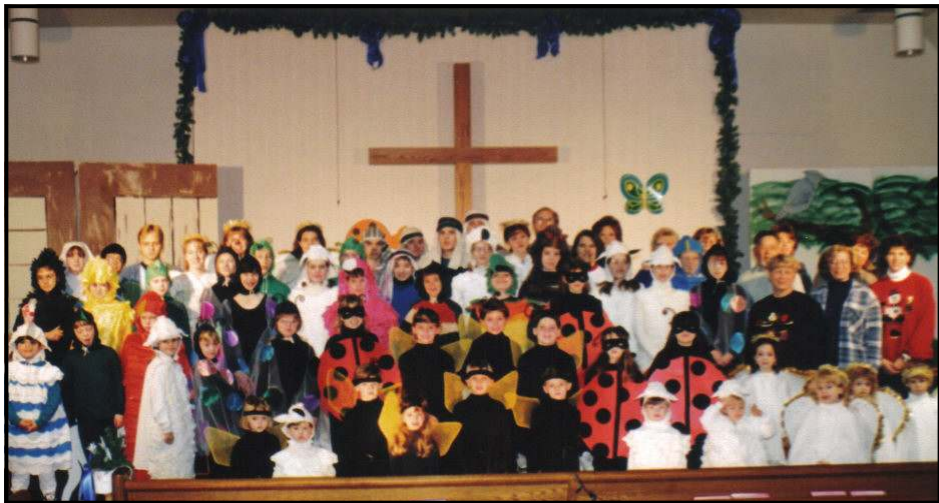
**Fat, Fat, Jeoshephat, 1989
Directed by Judy Chaffins**



**Three Wise Men and a Baby, 1995
Directed by Judy Chaffins**



**Angels, Lambs, Ladybugs,
and Fireflies
1997
Directed by Judy Chaffins**



Connecting With ...



The 2009 Confirmation Class was confirmed on November 1, 2009. Pictured above are the students and their mentors with Pastor Ruth. Front Row: Aric Thompson, Torie McAdams, Oliver Fessler Middle Row: Marty White, Myrna Metzger, Jamie Wyant Back Row: Pastor Ruth Solo

Thanks!

I want to thank all of you who expressed appreciation for my ministry during Pastor appreciation month in October. The cards were beautiful, and I'll cherish the personal notes. I offer a special thank you to Linda Craft and the Pastor Parish Relations Committee for the gift of tickets to Encore Theater's production of "It's A Wonderful Life." It's one of my all time favorite Christmas season movies, and I know the play will be just as inspiring. Thank you all for being a loving, Christ-bearing congregation.

*In Christ,
Pastor Ruth Solo and Rich Solo*

- Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital**
 - Dee Johnson
 - Marie Lee
 - Hope Mathwig
- Homebound Members**
 - Hazel Dunn
 - Ruth Hurley
 - Marie Lee
 - Hope Mathwig
 - Edna Osman
 - Jean Redd
 - Gladys Sherrick
 - Helen Waldron
- Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement**
 - Sara House
 - June Metzger
 - Rick Scholfield

Visit The United Methodist Communications website : www.umcom.org

This website offers book reviews, music reviews, and web ministry information among other relevant and interesting links.

The People of St. Paul's

*To My St. Paul's Family,
I would like to thank
everyone for the prayers,
visits, flowers and cards
during my recent hospital
stay. It is such a blessing
to have a wonderful,
supportive church family.*

~ Jamie Wyant



Rev. Ruth and the Church,

I just wanted to take the time to write a quick email to you and the church body to let you know that I really enjoy getting the monthly newsletter from the church. It is really nice to be able to take some time out of my day and sit back and read the newsletter and remember my church in Elida, Ohio.

Not to mention that I don't think I will find a church down here, as Methodist isn't even a word in Spanish. And of course, if I did find a church, it would be all in Spanish, which just is not the same. In light of all of this, I really do enjoy being able to read the newsletter each month.

*I also want to thank **Makayla** for the Halloween card and coasters which I now have posted up on my wall with all of the other cards that I get from home. Thank you, and the church body as a whole, for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers.*

***Lesley Parker**
Casilla 07-01-477
Machala-El Oro
Ecuador*

***Thank You Very Much,**
I wanted to thank
everyone for the cards,
flowers and gift cards,
and especially for
all the prayers.*

God Bless!

~Dave Decker



Praise Be to God!

**Prayer List Updates
Please Contact
Lavonne Segovia**

Meetings

December 2009

December 1, 2009
Trustees...7:00 PM

December 2, 2009
Christian Ed...7:00 PM

No PPR meeting until
February 8, 2010

December 14, 2009
Finance...7:00 PM

November 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30					

January 2010						
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Ad Council...No Meeting

No Missions meeting in
December

Sundays
Prayer...9:00 AM

Thursdays
Bell Choir...6:15 PM
Chancel Choir...7:30 PM

		1 A.J. White	2 Lavonne Segovia	3 Mary LaRue 90 years	4	5 Shirley Adams Todd Hanes David Segovia
6 Teresa Grigsby Sue Theodore Lisa Wurster	7	8	9 Heather Rabley	10	11 Ron McAdams John Segovia Phyllis Trigg	12
13 John L. Beverly Foster December 17 43 yrs.	14 Dennis L. Shara Bowsher December 19	15	16	17 Audrey Fox	18 Pam Gaghen Mary Holmes	19
20 Ruth Burgoon 80 years Mary Steiner	21	22 Kara Woeller	23 Kayla Stewart	24 Linda Craft	25 Denny Grapner 	26
27 Denny L. Janna Thompson December 29	28 Adam Crates	29 Tammy Segovia	30 Tristan Gaghen	31		

Anniversaries



John L. Beverly Foster
December 17
43 yrs.

Dennis L. Shara
Bowsher
December 19

Larry L. Gloria Brunk
December 21
40 yrs.

John L. Valerie
Kuenzli
December 27

Denny L. Janna
Thompson
December 29

Ron L. Karen Bible
December 30

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cooks

Bean Dip

by Janna Thompson

Ingredients		Instructions
1—8 oz. pkg.	cream cheese	Spread the cream cheese in the bottom of a square baking pan. Drain the chili beans and spread them over the top of the cream cheese. Spread the salsa evenly over the top and sprinkle the shredded cheese over the top. Put in a 350 degree oven until the cheese is melted and bubbles some. Serve with tortilla chips.
1—15 oz.	chilli beans (I use Bush's brand)	
1—8 oz. jar	salsa	
1—8 oz, pkg.	shredded Colby or Colby Jack cheese	



Molasses Cookies

by Tara Thompson Strauch

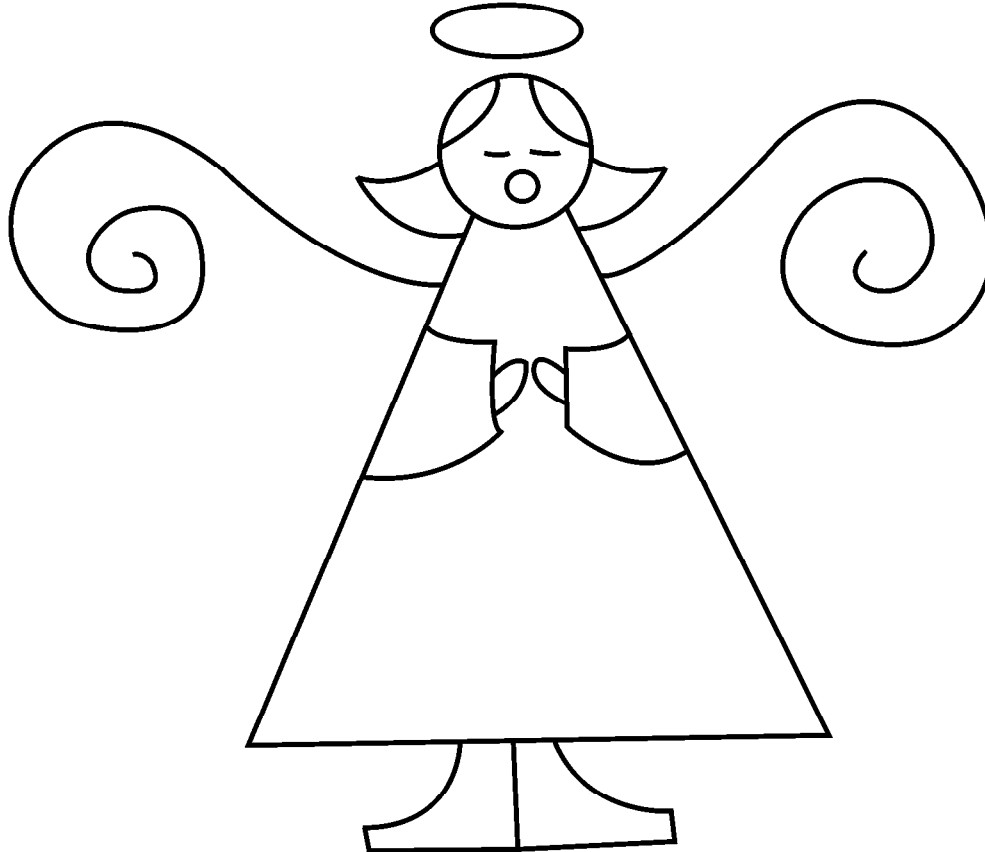
Ingredients		Instructions
2/3 cup	shortening	Dark molasses is best to use. Combine the first 5 ingredients together until blended. In a separate bowl combine the last 5 ingredients. Mix all ingredients together, preferably by hand. Roll dough into balls and roll them in white sugar. Bake at 350 degrees until tops are cracked and light brown.
1 cup	sugar	
1/4 cup	molasses	
1	egg	
1 tsp.	vanilla	
2 cups	flour	
2 tsp.	baking soda	
1/2 tsp.	ground cloves	
1/2 tsp.	ginger	
1 tsp.	cinnamon	



KIDZ KORNER

Color the Angel

Here is how the shepherds heard the news of Jesus' birth. Color the angel, look up Luke 2:8-14, and read the news



Good News

Fill in the correct letters and read what it says from top to bottom.

What letter is in this word

fear
toil
for
shout
hand
steal
shout
abuse
seat
late

but not in this word?

ear
til
of
shot
had
seal
shut
base
eat
let

What letter is in this word

cart
hate
said
belt
raid
bite
seat
brow
tone
brand
sent

but not in this word?

art
ate
sad
bet
air
bet
tea
row
ten
band
set

Answer: For unto us a child is born.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807



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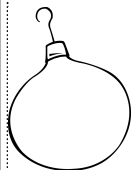


December 2009

Living Our Faith

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

There are many wonderful symbols associated with Advent and Christmas. Here are a few. You might have ornaments that already are these symbols or shapes. You might also want to buy a new ornament this year, or color these pictures, glue them onto cardstock, and hang them on your tree.



Christmas Ball

The balls we hang on our trees represent the world; Jesus came to save the whole world.

Bell

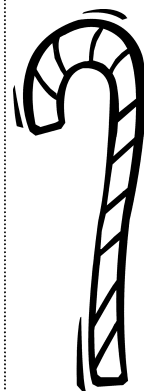
Bells are traditional ways that churches and communities proclaim good news. At



Christmas, bells remind us of the good news of Jesus' birth.

Dove

This is a traditional symbol of peace, reminding us that Jesus is the prince of peace.



Candy Cane

A candy maker in the American state of Ohio twisted peppermint sticks into the shape of the letter "J" to stand for Jesus. In later years, some have turned them the other way and used them to symbolize the shepherds' crook.