

*December 2009, January 2010*



December is upon us, and that means a time of joyful expectation and anticipation for Christians. The Advent season takes us on a faith-filled journey with the believers of old to Bethlehem, the birthplace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We celebrate that journey in many ways at Waverly. Adult Sunday School focuses on the 4 mission agencies we are reaching out to this season; our U2Charist musicians and singers will provide another venue to hear God's call to justice; the Christmas Fest gives children of every age the opportunity to make Christmas decorations and cookies for each other; we provide space for those not feeling "joyful to

the world-ish" at our Blue Christmas service; the arrival at Bethlehem takes place in our traditional Christmas Eve service as we watch the characters of the nativity story come to life through song and word. Join us as we journey together this Advent and marvel in its miracles.

## **ADVENT 2009 WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **NOVEMBER 29**

"Prepare Ye The Way" cried John the Baptist and that is exactly what we do! We light the candle of Hope; our Waverly Praise singers & musicians lead us into Advent with a reprisal of Jars of Clay's "The Road."

### **DECEMBER 6**

Our gifted Waverly singers and musicians present the U2Charist service, a service melding the music of U2 with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We light the candle of Peace.

### **DECEMBER 13**

Joy Sunday: our Wuppets perform; we light the candle of Joy and bedeck the Christmas tree with our prayer doves.

### **DECEMBER 20**

Our Sunday School classes will sing and we' light the candle of Love.

## DECEMBER 27

We celebrate the first Sunday after Christmas with our traditional Lessons and Carols service – a chance to sing our favorite carols and to hear the “prayers of the people” from our prayer doves. *(no Sunday School or coffee hour this Sunday)*

### ADVENT OFFERINGS

*“Whatever you did for one of the least of these you did for me.” Mt. 25:40*

**Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>:** Women’s Shelter & Center *(WS&C provides a 24-hour crisis hotline, temporary shelter, counseling and support groups, advocacy and support services for women victims of domestic violence and their children.)*

**Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>:** The Heifer Project *(Heifer’s mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. Heifer does this by providing appropriate livestock, training and related services to small-scale farmers and communities worldwide.)*

**Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>:** Homewood YMCA *(The YMCA assists people in learning the skills and attitudes that will enrich their lives, lead them to interracial and intergenerational understanding and realize their full potential as members of our community)*

**Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>:** Wilkinsburg Boys & Girls Club *(the Boys & Girls Club is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for youth, with particular emphasis on members who live in urban communities of highly diverse cultures. The primary mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania is to promote health, social, educational, vocational and character development for boys and girls ages 6 through 18, by self-esteem, values, and skills.)*

*Waverly’s tradition of generous giving continues this Advent season in support of these organizations. A special offering will be taken during worship each week.*

**U2Charist comes to Waverly:** Welcome to the latest worship trend in mainline Protestant churches - the U2charist. The name suggests what it's all about - combining a traditional liturgy including the eucharist, or communion, with the music of the Irish rock group U2, known for its nontraditional Christianity. The services are also notable for their emphasis on the ONE campaign against global poverty and disease, causes in which U2 is heavily involved.

What started at an Episcopal church in Maine as an experiment has now gone global, with U2charists being held from San Francisco to New Zealand. Religious themes aren't new in rock music, although they are uncommon and usually generic. Anything too explicitly Christian makes record companies nervous. Kanye West hinted at this in his hit rap "Jesus Walks": "They say you can rap about anything except for Jesus ... But if I talk about God my record won't get played Huh?"

Through sheer artistry, U2 has been a notable exception. From the beginning, Larry Mullen Jr., David Evans (guitarist The Edge) and Paul Hewson (Bono), worked into their music spiritual longings, expressions of their Catholic-informed upbringings and righteous anger over social injustice reminiscent of biblical prophets.

U2Charists aren't new to Pittsburgh – Presbyterian, Methodist and UCC have presented them. But it's new to the East End and to Waverly. So, come and bring a friend on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> as the gifted singers and musicians of Waverly share with us a different way of embracing the Advent message. A special offering to support the Heifer Project will be taken.

## *Blue Christmas*

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in “I’m feeling blue.” Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people. There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope. Waverly’s Blue Christmas Service will be **Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 7:00PM** in the Sanctuary. Our special musical guest will be Sue Garton.

## **COOKIE WALK & ARTISAN'S FAIR RETURNS TO WAVERLY!**



JOIN US on Saturday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. - noon

Cookies galore!

Beautiful handcrafted items (jewelry, scarves, bags, stained glass, photography, candles, notecards and more!)

Waverly Treasures Table

Waverly Café

(and if you can bake cookies, see Molly Thayer or Michele Kerr)

Once again, the Christian Education and Membership Committees join together to bring you

### **Christmas Fest**

On Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, join us after church for a potluck dinner and an afternoon of making Christmas crafts and baking cookies

If it's December, then it must be time for

### **WAVERLY OPERA HOUSE**

Well, maybe time to start thinking about it! This is an Adult year so all of you grown-ups out there with a yen to sing and dance, see Gwen Vargas and Jean Bird, our “MADAM DIRECTORS” for this year’s show. Rehearsals start in January.

## NEWS FROM CAMP CRESTFIELD

### Need a winter boost? Come back to camp!!

Crestfield is having its 2nd Summer Camper Reunion December 28 and 29, 2009!! Are you missing the counselors and friends from camp? Are you hungry for some pansausages and corndogs? Then you need to come to the reunion and get your Crestfield 'fix'. Arrive at 10:00 am on Monday and stay until 6:30 pm on Tuesday. Counselors and campers will reunite for 2 days and 1 night of fun. Stay in the cabins (yes they are heated!) and climb the wall and play capture the flag in the snow. Go hiking through the woods (bring your boots!) and how about a fire and some s'mores? Come to Crestfield during the holidays, and get a jump start on summer!

Cost is \$60.00 - which includes one night in the cabins and 5 meals. Registration Deadline is December 14, 2009. A non-refundable deposit of \$25.00 is required. This reunion is for any one who attended camp during the Summer of 2009. We hope to see you here!



### **PITTSBURGH PRESBYTERY SEARCH COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES CANDIDATE FOR PASTOR TO THE PRESBYTERY**

It is our great joy to present to Presbytery for consideration at the December 3, 2009 meeting the Rev. Dr. Sheldon W. Sorge as candidate for the office of Pastor to Presbytery.

The accompanying [brochure](#) will introduce you to Sheldon and provide interesting background information. The purpose of this letter is to share our profound gratitude to the Presbytery for entrusting us with this mission. We have learned a great deal about the church, the Presbytery, and ourselves, and we believe you will discover that Sheldon has been blessed by the Lord to embrace this role of leadership in our presbytery. There will be many challenges before him, and we pledge ourselves to walk with him as a committee of nurture for the next year.

This is a time for celebration! The Lord has blessed us with a convergence of our need and God's gifts. Advent is here, friends. It is time to look ahead to new seasons of growth and fruitfulness.

Yours in Christ,

The Pastor to Presbytery Nominating Committee

Rev. David Carver, Elder Mary Evans, Elder Gary Gallo, Elder Frank Hancock, Rev. Jean Henderson, Rev. Ted Martin, Elder Cathy Nelson, Rev. Carol Divens Roth, Rev. De Neice Welch

*(go to [Pghpresbytery.org](http://Pghpresbytery.org) for more information)*

**Waverly Winter:** with our new furnaces installed, we are looking forward to an energy efficient winter! But we need your help: make sure all doors are closed to the sanctuary and to the back hallway during the week.

## Share the Power of a Wish

We're looking for children to experience the magic of a wish. And you can help.

The opening of the new **Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh** coupled with additional protocols on patient access has left the **Make-A-Wish Foundation** short on referrals of qualified children who live in the Greater Pittsburgh area. While we continue to work with the hospital to find ways to reach their medical professionals and potential wish children, we need your help. Do you know a child with a life-threatening **medical condition**? Please refer them today. We're in the lucky position - thanks to the generous support of our many donors - to have the necessary resources to grant the wishes of as many children as you can refer.

To refer a child or for more information on helping us find qualified children, please call Dana at **800-676-9474** or email Dana at [dantkowiak@wishworld.org](mailto:dantkowiak@wishworld.org) . A referral form is available on our website. Please click here <http://www.wishgreaterpa.org/>

### Ping Pong Tournament and Game Night

**Saturday January 3, 2010**

**6-10pm**

Experience the thrill of competition in the Advanced Players Ping Pong Tournament or the nurturing instruction in the Beginners Rounds.

Pool and Air Hockey Competitions

Or

Bring Your Own Favorite Game!

Food, Fun and Prizes for all ages!

This is a great way to introduce your friends to Waverly!

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** *The Thompsons are looking for someone(s) who could spend some time with Bob on Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. If you can lend a hand, see Jean Bird.*



Welcome to Weight Watchers!  
Weight Watchers will begin meeting  
At Waverly on Thursdays beginning  
Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

**Holiday Fest a Success! Thanks to everyone who helped but a special thanks to Bonnie Titus, Tom Justofin and Mary Vandivier!**

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## JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 3<sup>rd</sup>

We celebrate Epiphany & the first Sunday of the New Year. Bob Dove will preach.

January 10<sup>th</sup>

Baptism of the Lord Sunday: we'll celebrate the Lord's Supper

January 17<sup>th</sup>

Rabbi Aaron Bisno, senior rabbi of Rodef Shalom Temple will be our guest speaker.

January 24<sup>th</sup>

Youth Sunday: today's service will be led by our graduating seniors.

January 31<sup>st</sup>

Jissan Coghlin, associate priest of the Zen Center of Pittsburgh will be our guest speaker

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Winter is coming and the Property Committee needs you!  
If you can help shovel sidewalks on snowy Sunday mornings,  
please see Rob Hosken.

### ***CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE .....***

We bring good news of great joy - we are a little over half way to our goal of \$77,000. The Session and other church leaders are prayerfully considering their gift and after the new year, we will be sending out letters to the rest of the congregation. If you would like to make your donation before the end of the year, please see John Wray. This campaign will enable us to address some urgent needs (i.e., the roof and the front steps) as well as putting some aside for future projects. And as is always the tradition at Waverly, 10% of what is raised will go to our mission projects and agencies.