

Saints Alive!



www.AvonLakePC.org

Avon Lake
Presbyterian Church
Volume 8, Issue 1
January 2009

Sunday, January 11, 2009

We will celebrate the renewal of our baptismal vows. Persons wishing to do so will be invited to come forward during the service for the blessing. It's a great way to start the new year!

2¢ -A- Meal

Sunday, January 18, 2009

Please bring your pennies, nickels dimes and dollars and add them to the collection pot to help deal with hunger issues locally and nationally. We have 2¢-A-Meal cans on the name tag table in the church foyer—please take one home to daily collect your 2¢-A-Meal pennies. If you wish, you may also write a check to ALPC with 2¢-A-Meal written on the memo line. Questions may be directed to Beth Janis at 933-5621.

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Sunday, January 18, 2009 Challenge The Pastor—Chili Cook Off

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Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 25, 2009 at Noon in the Sanctuary

The purpose of the meeting is

- to vote on the Pastor's "terms of call"
- to elect Elders, Deacons and a Trustee
- to elect the 2009/2010 Nominating Committee.
- to review the reports of all the committees
- To review the 2008 Annual Report

Activities and refreshments are planned for the children during the meeting so that parents can be present at this very important meeting in the life of our church.

Message from Pastor Tom

It would be nice if all of the difficulties of the old year could be wiped away with the same ease that we rip another month off the calendar. Just separate at the perforation, wad it up and throw it out, and – presto! – you get to start over again.

Unfortunately for us, it doesn't work that way. It's a new year, but we also know that we still have to carry this economic crisis with us. Many financial gurus say that the new year will be just as tough as the old one. It has already hit home around here as several folks have lost their jobs. Many others have had to readjust their finances because the outlook isn't as rosy as it was just a year ago. This has had an effect on the church in many ways, including the fact that our pledges are down this year, more than they have been in a long time. Even with one less ordained minister on the payroll this has meant serious readjustments to the budget, as well as to the ways that we pay for programs.

In the midst of all of that, what is there to say "Happy New Year" about? We can still say that to all those we love because we know that the future is in God's hands. We may be unsure of what is going to happen, but we also know that there is no time, no place, no situation which exists outside of God's power to work with us. And God is working for good.

In my office on one of the shelves is a little plaque that my Mom gave me many years ago. On it are the words of Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." These words were uttered when the people of Israel were about to go into exile. Talk about hopelessness! We have a lot of problems, but having an invading army banging on our door isn't one of them. Unless that is the invading army of despair and fear.

But we have just celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh living among us, full of grace and truth, giving us grace and truth. And hope. Jesus teaches us that we are more than a paycheck, more than a stock option, more than a 401-K. We are God's children, we are brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, brothers and sisters together in his love.

Because of that, we can move into the new year full of hope and faith. But remember where your hope and your faith lie. They lie in the love of God, which gives us the resources we need to face tough times. They lie in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gives us what we need to be resilient and hang in there. They lie in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, when we remember that we are not in this all by ourselves. We can call on the resources of the community of faith, to know that we will deal with this together.

Happy 2009!

Grace and peace,
Tom

Challenge The Pastor Chili Cook Off



Bring your best batch of chili, enough for tasting and small servings.
Bring a copy of the recipe, too.
Bring your Family *and Friends*
or

Just come and enjoy the food with your church family and friends.
Besides the chili, we will be serving crusty bread & butter, beverages and dessert.

Big screen TV to watch the games!

January 18th at 5:30 to 7:30

Pastor Tom is cooking (maybe Sue)

“Contest” will include a surprise award for the ALPC Chili Champion.

After worship services on January 4 & 11, enter to serve up your best chili or sign up to enjoy tasting the food .

Contact Jim Janis 933-5621 if you have any questions.

Thanks, Choir!

Thank you to the members of the chancel choir and bell choir for all the time, effort, and enthusiasm you shared to bring beautiful music to the season of Advent and Christmas.



Per Capita 2009

In your monthly offering envelope packet there is a special offering envelope specifically for your contribution to the Per Capita. Per Capita is a “head tax” assessed by the denomination to help with the cost of the work in the local Presbytery, the Synod and the work of the General Assembly.

This year **our Per Capita is \$20.50 per member. Please make your check out to ALPC** in the amount of \$20.50 for each member of your family who is a Confirmed member by January 25th. Please Mark “Per Capita” on your check. This year our church will pay \$12,136.00 on December 31st.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

What is Stewardship?

On the Office of Stewardship page of the Presbyterian Church (USA) website, you will find the following description:

“Stewardship is about making choices, as individuals and in community. It is more than giving money to the church. Stewardship is about being faithful disciples, caring for and managing all that God has given us.

Stewardship is not just one part of Christian discipleship; it involves every aspect of life in all the stages of life.

Stewardship is the grateful response to God’s grace and goodness. It requires a consideration of how our choices affect us and others, of how we can be good caretakers of the created world, and of how we can best serve God as disciples of Christ.”

It may seem like a tall order to think of stewardship involving every aspect of life. I know there are areas where I can do better. But I have made the choice to follow Christ, putting God first in my life. Through prayer, in thankfulness to God’s grace and goodness, I ask God how I can best serve as a disciple of Christ. As we end 2008, I thank each of you for the opportunity to serve and worship with you. As we begin a new year, please think about your choices and how you can best serve God as a disciple of Christ.

Lee Lohr on behalf of the Stewardship Ministry

Chris Chase
Dale Griffen
Penny Helbig
Carolyn Rudd
Arlene Strauch

From the Property Committee: Welcome to OUR church!

This is **OUR** church. We own this church. And because we own it, we have the privilege and the responsibility of caring for it. To plagiarize, “*Ask not what your church can do for you....but what can you do for YOUR church.*”

We don't want anyone to slip on our sidewalks/entrances during icy, snowy weather. What can you do about this? Maybe more than you realize..... If you come in to church for any reason and you notice slippery ice in the entrance areas, pick up a cupful of salt - from the bin at both entrance ways - and spread it on the icy area. In this small way, we care for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We now have a snow blower; thanks to a congregation member who kept us in mind when their parent became too old to use it. God bless them. Maybe you can do a bit more than spread a cup of salt. Maybe you can use the snow blower to clear the walk ways and entrances. God bless you. We have a volunteer schedule on the table in the foyer. Say "yes" when someone calls you to take a shift. We desperately need your help in snow removal - sign up to keep our church a "respite from the storm" for all.

We are different from many other churches in that we draw heavily on volunteer support to keep our costs down. We have “Blue Jeans Sundays,” where we ask volunteers to help out on all kinds of projects. Our contract with the parking lot plowing company does not include shoveling our sidewalks. Some churches do this but we've endeavored to keep our costs down. We count on willing volunteers. From a cost-analysis perspective, it doesn't make sense to pay for the hours and gas it would take to have our custodian to drive in to clear the entrances and walkways; however they do need clearing. Winter keeps leaving it's evidence. Won't you consider helping us with these tasks so we can be frugal with our budget costs?

We can make it happen!

Any member of the Property Committee would be happy to talk with you about helping out; Jeff Spenser, Jack Storm, Tony George, Mark Eisaman, Larry Madison, Kathy Navarro or Dick Francis



Session Highlights December 15, 2008

Learned that:

- 178 persons received Communion on November 30, 2008.
- The Deacons are planning 2009 Fellowship Events, taking Gift Bags to our Shut-in Members, and calling families that have not been to worship for a while and who may need help.
- That 70 members, after having been contacted, have been moved from the Active Roll to the Inactive Roll.

Approved:

- The holding of a Special Session Meeting on Sunday, January 11, at 12:30 p.m., in order to discuss and make some decisions on the 2009 Budget.
- Some adjustments to the 2009 staff salaries.

Heard:

- That Paul Selvage will be serving on the Presbytery of the Western Reserve's Administration Ministry.
- There will be a Special Meeting of the Presbytery on February 23, to present and have votes on some of the General Assembly's actions.
- That the members of the Confirmation Class will have Adult Covenant Partners for the next phase of their training.

Shirley Hook, Clerk of Session



DEACONS ANNUAL LOVE SHRUB

Start Celebrating Valentines Day early. Sign up at the Deacon's Bench and receive your *Secret Valentine*. Then send them cards or little gifts that week and meet them February 8th for a lunch after the 11:00 a.m. service. Lots of Fun, Fellowship and Food! **All are welcome** - adults and children. Don't forget to give a clue in your last card. See you there. Call the church office with questions 933-6240.

Mission Work Still Underway Thanks to You and Your Friends

The decorations have been stored, the greeting cards mailed,. The team has concluded the calculations and checks have been sent. Another Alternative Holiday Market, our eighth, is behind us.

In spite of the substantial downturn in our economy and the fact that many of our shoppers had limited resources , mission work is still in the hearts of our congregation.

Here are the final totals:

Bob Woodruff Family Fund	\$553
Community Service Alliance <i>PROCOP House</i>	\$544
Engineers Without Borders <i>Toledo Chapter</i>	\$1,326
Family Promise of Lorain County <i>IHN</i>	\$669
Habitat for Humanity of Lorain County	\$659
Heifer Project International	\$1,259
Love-A-Stray	\$845
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries <i>Community Re-Entry:</i>	\$455
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries <i>Women's Re-Entry Network</i>	\$515
Medical Benevolence Foundation	\$830
Malawi Crisis Nursery	\$591
Moringa Tree	\$426
Ministry of Hope	\$1,356
NOROC-New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children	\$835
One Acre Fund	\$1,085
Student Conservation Association	\$512
Ten Thousand Villages	\$706
The Smile Train	\$1,294
Total	\$14,460

Financial Report

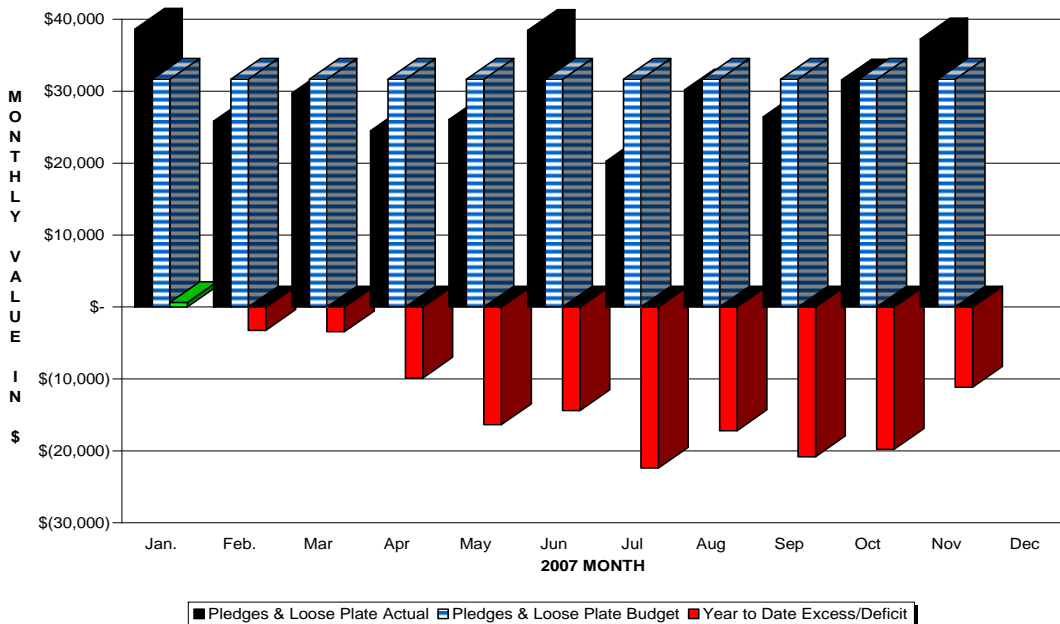
Thank you for your generosity in November. As you can see from the graph below, November giving was way over budget and we took over \$8,000 off of our deficit. If we keep this performance up in December, we have a good chance of eliminating our deficit for the year. It will be extremely important to end 2008 as positively as possible. With the tremendously challenging economic times our pledging for 2009 is down over 20% or about \$70,000 from this year. This will mean we will have to severely cut our budget next year and look at many innovative ways to continue with the programs and mission of our church. If you haven't pledged yet, please prayerfully consider doing so as soon as possible. If you are able to increase your pledge we would greatly appreciate your generosity.

The New Year is looking to be a challenging one financially. Please be open to the Spirit moving within us as session proposes new ways to respond to our mission as God's church.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please see me at church or give me a call.

Bob Ralston Finance Committee

2008 ALPC FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



You Were Invited You Answered The Call Now, You Are Thanked

Our Eighth Annual Alternative Holiday Market held on November 23, is the work of many members of our congregation. Some worked monthly throughout 2008. Many plans, contacts, promotions, documentations, and publicity were created in the homes and in the offices of our volunteers.

In the process, we discovered hidden gifts in each other, new forms of witnessing, and a faithful comradeship.

Now it is time to thank you.

Our volunteers who served in planning, preparation and hosting the market:

Glenda Allen	Fran Glidewell	Joan Metzger
Joe and Sally Bales	Barbara Graves	Carol Nussle
Steve and Susan Bernard	John Hukill	Jill Ralston
Denny Bradley	Linda and Mike Kotowski	Susan Reighard
Jason and Jenn Call	Virginia Lockmeyer	Georgia Sanchez
Bryan Crow	Carol and Larry Madson	Laura Simmons
Doug and Jackie Day	Janet Maurer	Nancy Spencer
Karen Francy	Judy and Sam McCain	Gary and Marcy Uhl
Carol Fratianne		Betty Lou Wallace

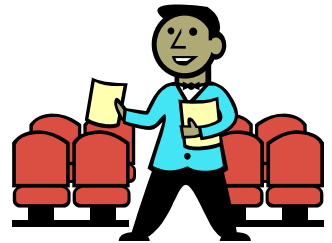
The Steering Team for the Eighth Annual Alternative Holiday Market:

Donna Bradley	Janet Parker
Art and Shirley Hook	Sue Scott
Chris Chase	Carol and Joe Unger
George Lawson	JoAnn Wainscott
Lynn Morway	



Join us for **scrapbooking in Hart Hall** on January 10 and 24th, 7:00 am until 11:00 pm. No frills, just space away from home. Set-up a table, bring your own snacks, converse with friends and scrap. Call Cindi at 933-6240 or e-mail alpresby@centurytel.net if you are coming. Hart Hall has plenty of space! We will provide fellowship!

Members scheduled to be an **usher or head usher** are asked to attend one of two training sessions either Monday, January 12th or Monday, January, 19th at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.



Sound Room technicians are asked to attend one of two training sessions scheduled for Monday, January 12th or Monday January 19th with training to start at 7:30 pm in the sound room. Thank you for serving in these areas.



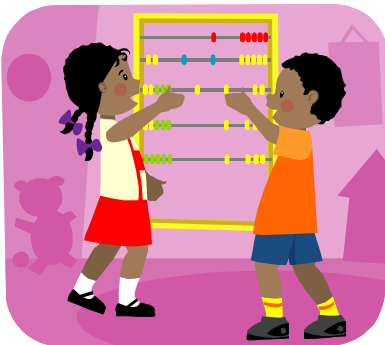
If anyone is interested in **networking/discussion/support for job search**, please send an e-mail to susan.vasu@oh.rr.com or call 440-781-4324. The intent is to form an e-mail group to share ideas, suggestions, opportunities, etc. We can also meet in person if there is an interest (resume writing/interviewing/job sites).

Cornerstone Preschool Enrolling Now

Our church sponsored preschool is now enrolling for the 2009-2010 school year. We offer classes for 3 year olds, 4 years olds and four plus. Our Open House is Thursday, January 15, 2009.

Cornerstone Preschool has just started its 24th year. The program is based on building the foundations for children to be successful in getting along with others. We try to develop a positive attitude and work on adjusting to their school environment. We encourage good communication skills, listening skills, and help children deal with their own problems and responsibilities.

Please call Nancy Bruder, Director of Cornerstone Preschool, (933-7646) to make an appointment to observe a class prior to registering for the Fall class.

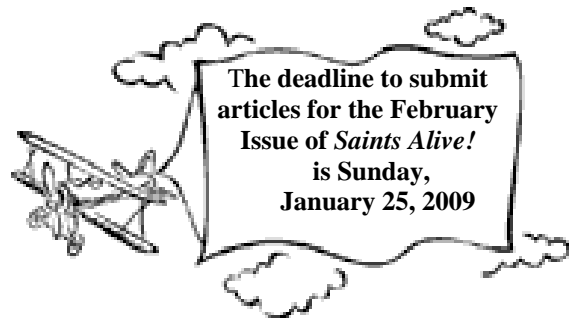


Mission Statement

In awe, we Receive God's Grace and Gospel.

In gratitude, we Respond with
Worship and Servanthood.

In love, we Represent Jesus Christ
as we minister to transform lives
in family, community, and the world.



Annual Report

Annual Reports are due in the church office on Sunday, January 11, 2009.

Our Youth!

Well, the Christmas season is officially upon us, as is the new year. We have some fantastic ideas for Youth Net in the coming year, and I can't wait to have some serious fun!

But first thing's first - The Family/Youth Christmas Eve 6:00 pm service was a hit! We were able to Glorify God and the birth of Christ by showing the numerous God-given talents our youth have here in the church. Word got out early and attendance was record-breaking. It was good to see some of the new faces as well as some of the faces we haven't seen in quite some time! A special thanks to all the youth below who participated:

Curtis Fratianne lit the first Advent candle
Alayna Bridgett played the violin
Megan Eisaman read the first Gospel reading
Laine Bennett, Megan Eisaman, Jocey Spitz (and Beau) sang *O Holy Night*
Sean Galloway lit the second Advent candle
Emilee Smith played the piano and Josh St. Claire played guitar
Megan Dufala lit the third Advent candle
Jimmy Chase played the piano
Corinne Fratianne lit the fourth Advent candle
Lani Assaf read the second Gospel reading
Beau gave A Christmas Monologue and lit the Christ candle

Keep watching your e-mails and the board outside my office for more information on upcoming youth events. Confirmation class and Sunday School will resume this Sunday, January 4th. Youth Net will resume January 11th! I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Senior High Bible Study/Discussion Group

In addition to the regular Youth Net, which is for Jr. High and Sr. High, there is a Bible study/discussion group for Senior High only. This group meets on Tuesday evenings in different places around Avon Lake. Tuesday, January 6, we will meet at the Rio Cafe in Avon Lake at 7 pm...just show up! Discussion topics are more in-depth than those during the regular Youth Net group meetings.

Call me anytime ... 440-787-6050—Beau

Presbyterian Women



We had Honey Baked Ham sale orders from 27 different people and made a profit of \$217.05 for our mission giving.

A huge thank you goes out to all those who helped with Hanging of the Greens and who will help take all the decorations down in the church ... especially to the Francy family! What a big job!



Thank you, also, to Sandi Ciarrone, who put up that lit Christmas Tree outside the entrance in December. What a nice way to welcome people during the Christmas season!

Circles continue to meet monthly. Their schedule is listed below.

If you are someone who might be interested in joining a Circle, please call Lee Lohr (934-6757) or the church office (933-6240).

- Tuesday, January 13, at 12:30 pm at Athena’s Restaurant Care & Share
- Wednesday, January 14, at 7:00 pm at a member’s homeSarah Circle
- Tuesday, January 15, at 7:00 pmCircle of SMILES
- Thursday, January 15, E-mail meetingPresbyterian Women Board**
- Tuesday, January 20, at 6:30 pm at Hilary Runyon’s.....Ruth Circle
- Wednesday, January 21, at 9:30 am in the church libraryCircle of Hope
- Tuesday, January 27, at 7:30 pm in the church library Circle of Friends
- Tuesday, January 27, at 7:30 pm in the church officeSerendipity Circle
- Thursday, January 22, at 7:30 pm, at Fran Asire’sCircle of Love

Coffee Servers



- Jan. 4** Beth Janis
11 Becky Betts & Donna Bradley
18 Al & Barb Zadroga
25 Bryan & Deanna Bridgett

Head Ushers

- Jan. 4** 9:30 Skip Albrecht
 11:00 Craig Shoemaker
11 9:30 Joyce Nicola
 11:00 Cheryl Dean
18 9:30 Todd Friesner
 11:00 Gary Matthews
25 9:30 Kathy Navarro
 11:00 Alan Wainscott

Ushers

- Jan. 4** 9:30 Nancy Albrecht,
 Anne & Dennis Bailey
 11:00 Dawn & Steve Meyer,
 Glenda Allen,
 Bryan & Deanna Bridgett
11 9:30 Bob Nicola, Kathy & Bill
 Hamilton
 11:00 Mike Dean, Nancy Spencer
 Robert & Marilyn
 Bulman, Chris Chase
18 9:30 Pam Novak, Anthony &
 Mary Lou Klier
 11:00 Rae Matthews, Mircea &
 Susan Vasu, Jackie & Paul
 Butrey
25 9:30 Janet Maurer, Gary & Susan
 Alshouse



Worship Assistants

- Jan. 4** 9:30 Karen Francy
 11:00 Dave Brunner
11 9:30 Tim Strauch
 11:00 Mark Bennett
18 9:30 Gary Alshouse
 11:00 Carol Hay
25 9:30 Kathy Hamilton
 11:00 Jim Janis



Sound Room Technicians

- Jan. 4** 9:30 Gary Alshouse
 11:00 Gary Uhl
11 9:30 Art Hook
 11:00 Tony George
18 9:30 Todd Galloway
 11:00 John Earley
25 9:30 Dave Littell
 11:00 Dave Taylor

Prayer Concerns

Serving in our Armed Forces:

Derek Fabry, Jennifer Homer, Matt Homer, Jeff Leopold, Jamie Waddell, Derek Weeden, Wes Wiblin, Aaron Angel (Scott Hay's niece's husband), Brandon Abrams (son of a co-worker of Marian Conn), Joshua Asire (Fran and Allan Asire's grandson), Bill Brown III (Sue Tompos' nephew), Tony Carosella (Carolyn Dzuro's nephew), Ben Donberg (a nephew of the Monjots), Robert Glover (Carol Egna's brother), Patrick Harris (Betty Harris' grandson), Richard Hebert (father of Waverly, Grace and Mallory), Ian Houston (a friend of Scott Simmons), Todd and Brett Kirwan (friends of the Wiblin's), Scott Mahnke (Kristen Haynal Mahnke's husband), Michael Marron (Dina Doughtry's son-in-law), Mike Medvic (friend of Becky Betts), Mark and Cheryl Monjot's nephew, Ryan and Kevin Tinsley (Nancy McBride's grandsons), Adam Usher (Kay Usher's grandson), Brad Wagner, Ryan Randal (friends of Sara Jungermann) and Stephen Yoda (Nick Yoda's brother).



Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
32340 Electric Blvd.
Avon Lake, OH 44012
Return Service Requested

Non Profit Organization
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Permit No. 29

Sunday Worship
9:30 & 11:00 am
(440) 933-6240
www.AvonLakePC.org

Pastor Tom Robinson
Pastor Emeritus Alfred A. Hart
Dir. of Music Muriel Homer
Dir. of CE Carolyn Dzurro
Financial Secy Sharon Pervo
Int. Youth Dir. Beau Dansizen