



## Music of Christmas

At Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

Please join us for a time of joyous  
and reflective music!

Bell Choir

Solos

Instrumental Ensembles

Vocal Ensembles

Chancel Choir

Youth Choir

Piano Music

This concert is for all ages

Sunday Evening December 13th

6:30 p.m.

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## Pastor's Page

Normally, December newsletters are a time for reflecting on this wonderful season where new life finds itself being born in the most unlikely places. As we get geared up for the frantic, hectic, crazy pace of this season, where we will be juggling schedules and projects and families, and God knows what else, a newsletter like this is a perfect opportunity to remember to keep it simple.

Well, that's easy for me to say. Right now my life is anything but simple. As I write these words, my wife, Nancy, is tying up loose ends at Thornwell Home for Children, where she works, so that we can spend next week in Little Rock with almost all of the family for the Thanksgiving Holiday. In the meantime, I am busy putting papers and books and belongings together to come to Avon Lake to be your Interim Pastor! Nancy will be coming with me to help me get settled and we are both excited! Arriving on December 9, my first day at work will be on the 10<sup>th</sup>, with my first Sunday on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Life is not simple now.

Nor is it for you. Many of you have been working hard for months now to prepare for this new page in the story of the life of ALPC. And many of you are still hard at work, getting the office and the computer and the apartment ready, and God knows what else. No. Life is not simple right now. Who needs Madison Avenue to get us cranked up for the season? We're doing quite well ourselves, thank you!

And it is at times like this that God appears. It is **precisely** at times like this that new life comes sneaking up behind us on cats' paws on the first snowfall.

...like a savior showing up in a cow stall.

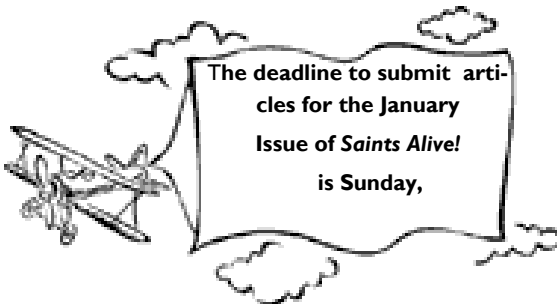
There they were—A marriage, not even begun and already in trouble; a child out of wedlock on the way; running for their lives with a price on their heads and no place to stay except the barn out back—and there, in the middle of the half-chewed hay and muck—right there in the frantic terror of it all, with death's hot breath on your neck, right there in the hectic, crazy insanity and messiness of life where you're absolutely certain all is lost—right there! Emmanuel—God-With-Us—takes his first breaths. And we have never been the same since.

One of my favorite quotes hangs on the wall of Nancy's office...

*If, as Herod, we fill our lives with things, and again with things, if we consider ourselves so unimportant that we must fill every moment of our lives with action, when will we have time to make the long, slow journey across the desert as did the Magi? Or sit and watch the stars as did the Shepherds? Or brood over the coming of the child as did Mary? For each one of us there is a desert to travel, a star to discover, and a being within ourselves to bring to life.*

Maybe it really is simple after all.

Shalom,



Poinsettias are used to decorate our sanctuary during the Christmas season. If you would like to help out by purchasing a poinsettia, please use the order form that will be in the church bulletins for the next two weeks. Plants may be taken home after worship services on Christmas Eve.

## **Worship Schedule**

### **Sunday, December 6:**

#### **Second Sunday in Advent**

Join us for Family worship at **10:00 am**

*No Sunday School or Confirmation Class*

### **Sunday, December 13:**

#### **Third Sunday in Advent**

(First Sunday for Rev. Bill Lindeman)

Join us for worship at **10:00 am**

The *Music of Christmas* concert **6:30 pm**

### **Sunday, December 20:**

#### **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Join us for Family worship at **10:00 am**

*No Sunday School or Confirmation Class*

### **Christmas Eve**

### **Thursday, December 24:**

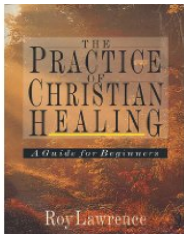
**Family Service** **6:00 pm**

## Adult Sunday School

### Room 3 – Session Room

#### After the worship service – childcare provided

The goal of this year's Adult Sunday School class will be to take the revealed Word of God and use it to bring insight on contemporary issues allowing those involved to make Godly applications in their lives and share what is learned with others. This will be accomplished by utilizing the following; "The Wired Word", topics and /or articles suggested by the Christian Education



### New Adult Education Opportunity

Beginning Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> ALPC will be offering an Adult Sunday School Class on: "The Healing Ministry of Jesus"

Join us in the Church Library following the worship service as we journey through the Gospels and The Practice of Christian Healing by Roy Lawrence; studying the way Jesus healed when he walked among us and learning about the way he still heals today!



## Adult Sunday School Study

In July 2010, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will consider the possibility of adopting the Belhar Confession. This Confession was originally written in response to Apartheid and adopted by the synod of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa in 1986. Since then, the Reformed Church in America and the United Church of Christ have adopted the Confession, recognizing that racial injustice continues in the United States.

Starting in January, the Adult Sunday School class will participate in a study (about 6 weeks) of the Belhar Confession, including discussion questions and looking at Biblical references. Any adults are welcome to participate. The class meets after worship in the Session Room (Room #3). To read the confession, go to [www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/confession/belhar.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/confession/belhar.pdf) or preview the study guide at [www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/confession/belharstudyguide.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/confession/belharstudyguide.pdf).

## Advent Materials for the Whole Family

We have several family activities to choose from this year. They will all be on the table in the foyer beginning November 29<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to take as many copies as you can put to use and have a very blessed Advent!

A Children's Advent Calendar - filled with Scripture verses, activities, thought starters and Advent images for every day of Advent.

### 1st Sunday in Advent is November 29



It is a tradition during Advent for families to light the Advent candles at the beginning of the worship services, as well as the Christmas Eve services. Each family is given a short script to read as they light the candles. The parts can be divided up any way the individual families want to divide them. We also would like to include unique family groupings such as Circles, Sunday school classes, a group of friends, or any combination of people who would like to share this experience together. If you are interested, please call Carolyn Dzuro at 933-6240 (at church)

### 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.

### PLEASE NOTE ...

**On the first Sunday of the month**, when Communion is served, the Worship Service will be a Family Worship Service. There will be NO Sunday School Classes for children or youth on that Sunday. The Adult Education Class will meet after the Worship Service until noon. There will be childcare provided until noon.

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

We would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's pledge campaign and assure those who are still discerning their gift that it is not too late! Pledge cards are in the pews and can be placed in the offering plate on any given Sunday or mailed to the church office. We are very grateful for the generous response from so many of you and hopeful that we will meet our goal. As of this moment (November 18), 109 of you have pledged a total of \$209,913. Our goal is \$320,000 so we are two-thirds the way there!!! We will keep you posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.



We would also like to invite you to come and pray with us Monday evening, November 24<sup>th</sup>, and every fourth Monday of the month, at 7:00 P.M. in the church sanctuary. Our focus during this time of prayer is to lift up the leaders of the church (both members of the staff and lay people) and all the various ministries. We have many new ministries just beginning and a brand new Interim Pastor so there is much to pray for. We thank God for all that He is doing for us and through us and thank you for all the wonderful ways you participate.

God bless and may you have a wonderful holiday season,

The Stewardship Committee

Penny Helbig, Carolyn Rudd, Arlene Strauch

P.S. If you are looking for an opportunity to be more involved in the life of the church and have the first Monday free from 7:30 to 9:00 you joining the Stewardship wonderful time together others to join us. If you questions call Arlene at



evening of the month might want to consider Committee. We have a and would love for are interested or have 933-5521.

## DEACON'S CORNER

On October 24th, about forty people attended the first Tailgating For Jesus in the parking lot of our church. I'm pretty sure and mostly positive that no one left hungry after what turned out to be a feast. From the burgers and sausage to the side dishes and deserts people brought everything was FANtastic. The weather cooperated and we were able to get in a few outdoor games which along with a patio campfire provided that perfect October outdoor oasis. Activities for the younger children kept them happy and busy and everyone who is a parent knows how important that is. We also had great music to support the theme that we support Jesus and give thanks for all he does for us. Think about this event for next year and remember it will only get better.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

December 13 at 6:30 pm, the Deacons will be providing cookies for the

### ***Music of Christmas***

Hot chocolate, cider and coffee will also be served. Come celebrate with us!



### **Looking ahead to 2010**

(2010, Is it really?) You need to break out those chili recipes as the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual ALPC Chili Cook Off will be held on January 17th. It's not too early to try those new recipes out during the upcoming holidays. If they don't work, maybe the in-laws will leave early. Of course I'm just kidding because if it's anything like last year, there is no bad chili made by Presbyterians and, we are all someone's in-law!

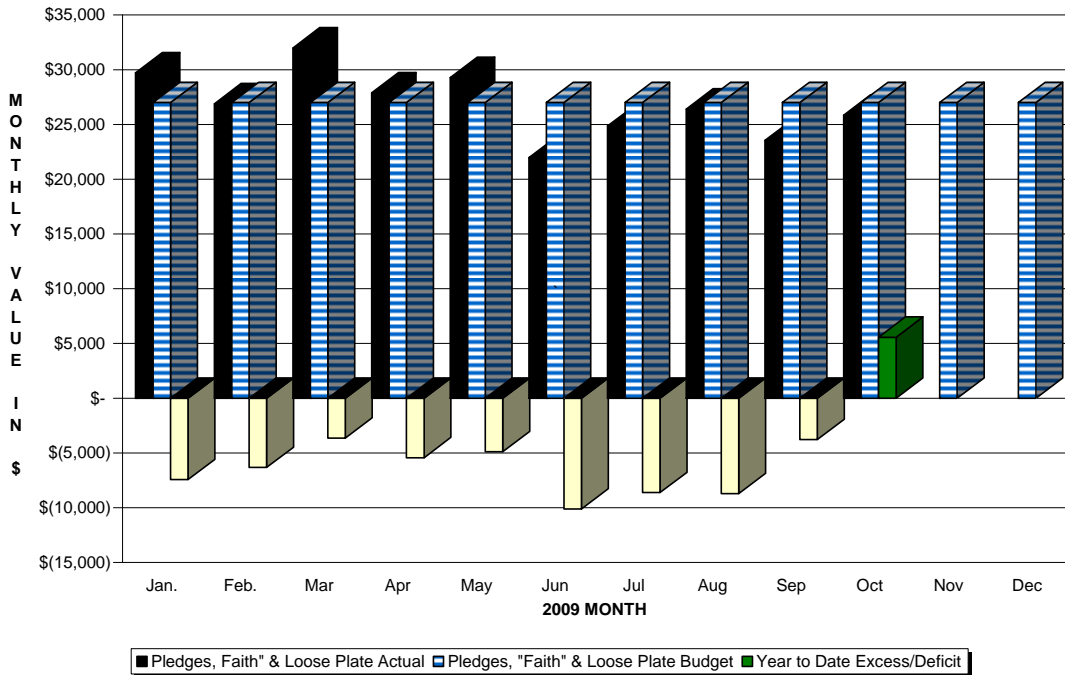
## Financial Report

TAKE A LOOK AT THE CHART BELOW AND CELEBRATE! We are in the black for the year at the end of October by almost \$5,600. Our giving is back closer to our budget and our committees and staff are doing a good job on the spending side. Let's keep up the good work through the end of the year and finish the year with a healthy excess.

We continue to progress with our "Keep the Flame Burning" campaign to pay for our new boiler. We are now at \$8,136. This is just about \$700 from paying off the entire bill. Please consider contributing to help us totally eliminate this expense.

Thank you again for your generosity in these difficult times. If you have not yet turned in your Pledge Card for next year please do so as soon as possible so that we can finalize the budgeting process and move confidently forward with God's plan for our congregation in 2010.

2009 ALPC FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



## Presbyterian Women

### HELP!!

**It became obvious to us that when we put out a plea to the congregation, people responded....**

We are having a special meeting at The Bean on Lear Road, on Thursday, January 14th at 7:00 pm to put together ideas on how to continue our mission of putting on a Rummage Sale here at ALPC. We need your ideas. We need your feedback. If you are not interested in necessarily being in charge of the Rummage Sale but want to see this important mission continue, please come to the meeting. If you can't come, please send your ideas to Cindi at

[alpresby@centurytel.net](mailto:alpresby@centurytel.net)

by Sunday, January 10.



## Building and Grounds Custodian Needed

The HR Committee is accepting applications for the position of Building and Grounds Custodian. This is a part-time (20-30 hrs/wk) position responsible for the maintenance of the building and grounds, with an hourly compensation. The applicant must be a self-starter with general custodial skills. To apply, please send a resume and



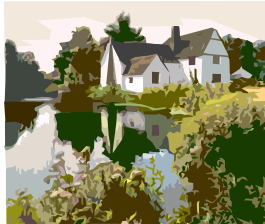
## Snow Shoveling Help Needed

Fun for the whole family! We are looking for volunteers to sign up to be responsible for shoveling the snow from our sidewalks and doorways during the winter months. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer (or call the church office at 933-6240). You will need to bring your own snow shovel and have the sidewalks cleared by 8am Monday through Friday, by 10:30 am on Saturdays and by 8:30 am on Sunday mornings.

## Housing Help Wanted

Special help is needed in locating a one bedroom, furnished apartment, to be donated to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church for a period of one year.

This apartment would be occupied by our incoming Interim Pastor who currently lives out-of-state and will not be moving to our area due to his limited time of service at Avon Lake Presbyterian Church.



Your generosity in donating an apartment would be a substantial savings for the congregation's financial resources.

If you need more information, please contact me at 440-937-4020, or via e-mail at [shrlhook@aol.com](mailto:shrlhook@aol.com).

With gratitude for your consideration, the Session wishes you blessings and peace.

## Christmas Joy Offering

### December 20<sup>th</sup>

### “What Child is This”

This is one of four Mission giving opportunities sponsored by the PCUSA. Half of our donations made to the Christmas Joy Offering support needs of the [Board of Pensions](#) for assistance programs that provide aid to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families.

The other half supports [Presbyterian related racial ethnic education](#). This includes secondary schools like Barber-Scotia College in North Carolina, Cook Native American Ministries in Arizona and Menaul School in New Mexico.

Checks may be made payable to ALPC with Joy Offering noted in the memo portion. There are envelopes you may use for this special contribution in the pews. Questions may be directed to Beth Janis 933-5621 or you may go online to [www.pcusa.org/cjoffering](http://www.pcusa.org/cjoffering).



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

November 16, 2009

### Learned that:

- 194 persons received Communion on November 1, 2009.
- The Human Resources Committee is seeking a new custodian.
- “The Music of Christmas” is being planned for December 13. There will be a Cookie reception by the Deacons along with Christmas music sung by the Adult Choir, Bell Ringing, and children and youth participating.
- Beth Janis and Pam Novak painted Carolyn’s office walls and Pam made new window treatments for her office.
- PW is planning a Welcome Gathering for our new Interim Pastor.
- The Heat Exchanger for the Sanctuary must be replaced. The best installation price is being sought by the Property Committee.

### Approved:

- The Financial Package and The Call to The Reverend Dr. J. William Lindeman, to become our new Interim Pastor. The Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry has approved the Call and our “Interim Agreement” with Bill. He has accepted the Call, and his first Sunday in our pulpit will be December 13. Look for Bill’s article in this *Saints Alive!*
- The Property Committee is putting a dumpster for paper-recycling behind the church soon, to help us make some money for our youth program while going green. Even telephone books will be welcomed.

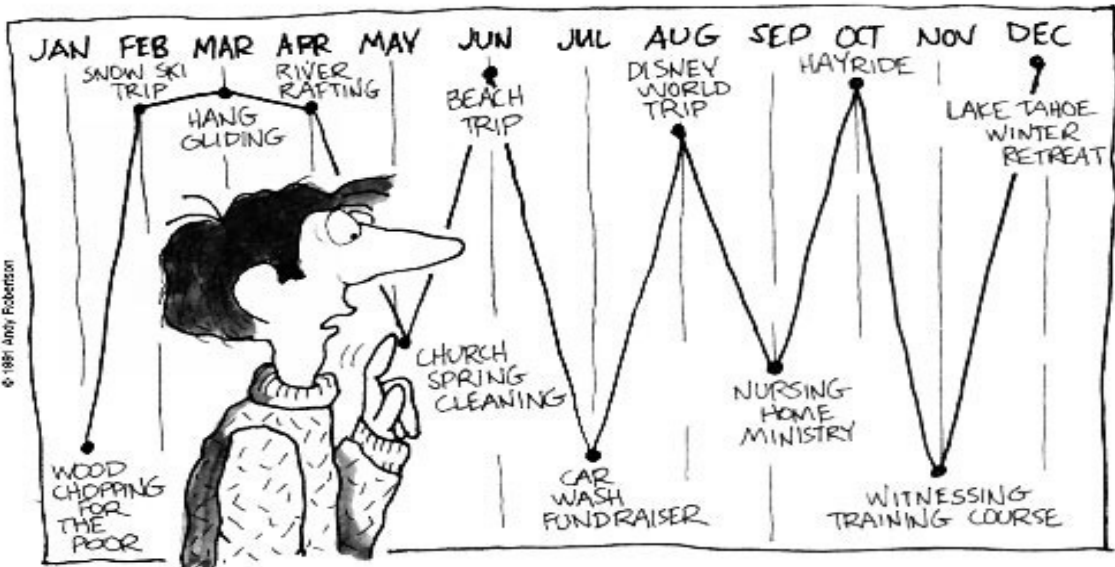
### Heard that:

- There will be three Christmas Eve worship services, as always. The times are 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m.; and 11:00 p.m.
- The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee has initiated a sign up sheet in the church foyer for any family or church group that would like to provide 3-4 dozen sweet treats for the coffee hour on any given Sunday. Yum!
- There are Advent materials on the foyer table for both adults and children to use over

## OH NUTS!



Our Youth Group is once again selling nuts this Holiday Season. Please help support our church's various Youth programs by purchasing some delicious items from Peterson's Nuts. You can pick-up a brochure after the worship service on the following Sundays: November 22<sup>nd</sup>, November 29<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>. Payment is due once the product arrives. Checks should be made payable to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church (please note Youth Nut Sale on check). Orders will be available for pick-up on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Any questions, please contact Holly Dufala (216-346-9337) or Linda Duffy



It wasn't until Max Simmons charted his youth group's attendance that he noticed the pattern.

## Presbyterian Women

### Calendar of Events for December

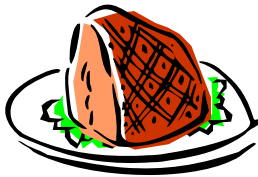


Nov. 29—Dec. 13 Ham Sale

Nov. 29—Dec. 13 Giving Tree

### Honey Baked Ham Sale

Presbyterian Women will be selling Honey Baked Hams again this year for Christmas. Orders will be taken November 29, December 6 and 13 in the church foyer. Delivery will be Wednesday, December 23. Some new items to purchase as gifts or for yourself for Christmas are:



Cake—Pumpkin

My Grandma's of New England Coffee

Red Velvet Cake

Honey Baked Mustard Assortment

Gourmet Jumbo Cashews

Honey Baked Ham Gift Certificates—in any amount!

Please see Kathy Navarro or call 440-233-6214 if you have questions.

### Presbyterian Women Giving Tree

This year's Giving Tree will be in the foyer from November 29—December 13. The Giving Tree will be set up in the foyer with one card for each person at Faith House. On the back of each card will be the first name of the child or adult, gender, age and the items on their Christmas Wish List. All you need to do is pick a card from the tree, and sign your name, phone number and Giving Tree card number on the Tracking Sheet



## Family Worship on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>

We will **not** have Sunday School for the children and youth on December 6<sup>th</sup> (Communion), December 20<sup>th</sup>, and December 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be a children's sermon for the kids to enjoy and any child who wants can go out to the foyer with Carolyn Dzuro to do small crafts until after the sermon.



## Sunday News

Children's offertory which was previously given during Sunday school, can now be given during the offertory in worship. Please ask an usher for a youth offering envelope.

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Please plan to stay after the worship services each Sunday for coffee, tea or lemonade with sweet treats provided by ... maybe you! There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for any family or church group that

*Thank You*

## Thank You Thank You

To everyone who came to help on (or before) Blue Jean Sunday. Some brought their own tools from home and others brought steady hands and strong backs.

Thank you, too, to Gary Uhl and the crew of Deacons who provided lunch for this group.

Gratefully,

## Prayer Concerns

### Serving in our Armed Forces:



Bradley Biddle (Ruth Murphy's grandson), Derek Fabry, Jennifer Homer, Matt Homer, Josh St. Clair, Jamie Waddell, Derek Weeden, Wes Wiblin, Aaron Angel (Scott Hay's niece's husband), 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), Michael Foor (Joyce Shramo's grandson), Robert Glover (Carol Eгна'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), Michael Marron (Dina Doughtry's son-in-law), Ben Donberg and Jaina Donberg (Mark Monjot's nephew and wife), Kevin Poyer (friend of the Lawson family), Joshua Reichlin (Ken Reichlin's nephew), Ryan and Kevin Tinsley (Nancy McBride's grandsons) and Adam Usher (Kay Usher's grandson).



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

Non Profit Organization  
BULK RATE  
U.S. Postage  
Avon Lake, OH 44012

**Sunday Worship**

**10:00 am**

**(440) 933-6240**

**[www.AvonLakePC.org](http://www.AvonLakePC.org)**

**[alpresby@centurytel.net](mailto:alpresby@centurytel.net)**

Pastor Emeritus	Alfred A. Hart
Dir. of Music	Muriel Homer
Dir. of CE	Carolyn Dzuro
Financial Secty	Sharon Pervo
Youth Dir.	Linda Duffy
Office Admin	Cindi Dansizen