

# WinCHIMES



## Winfield Community United Methodist Church

An Affiliate of Gary United Methodist Church

DECEMBER - JANUARY 2009/2010

I love Advent and Christmas. I think the festive decorations, the colors, the nativities, the lights. I know a large part of what we do to celebrate Christmas has nothing to do with Jesus but I've been rediscovering the excitement that I might have had as a child. And I know putting up my Christmas tree before Thanksgiving gives many people a chance to mock me a little but I was so excited to finally get it out of its container, I just didn't want to wait till December.

I think some of it is having my own space and things. Which is a little bit funny, because my favorite Christmas memories (and probably my least favorite memories) have been around my family. The big celebration, the dinner, the nice dishes. I claimed it as my job to set the table for the meals at my mother's house--partly because no one else wanted to bring out the silver and the crystal. The nicest things my mother has, the things that live safely in boxes and neatly on shelves throughout most of the year. Family Easter celebrations were during the day and seemed less elegant. But Christmas.

I learned from my mother (indirectly), that things should be saved. Do you like this toy/color/crayon/smell of lotion/flavor? Well, play nice/use sparingly/color lightly/don't waste/eat slowly or you won't have it. There are things living in the bathroom closet that I got as gifts in junior high school and didn't use too

much of because I wanted to make sure that when I really wanted to use it, it would be there waiting for me. And they are still waiting for me.

I think that's why I like Christmas so much. The nicest things come out. It's the time when everything we've been waiting to use is pulled out of the cabinets, from the boxes and we get to see it and use it, it sits on our table.

It seems fitting to have Christmas to the elaborate celebration that we've turned it into. In the dark, cold of winter, we wait the coming of God. We celebrate that God came to earth in the life of Jesus, and we wait for Jesus' return. And in the celebration that God came here, to be with us, we bring out the best we have. We brush off the dust that sat for the past year, we stop waiting to use those special things on the shelves because we have a God who came, who is here, and who is still to come. And that is worthy of a tree a bit early, the silver, the china, and our celebration.

May God greatly bless you and your loved ones this season. No matter how much you have, or how little, let us offer the best we have in celebration to God--our very hearts.

Pastor Leanne

**Assistance Needed.** Winfield Community Church has decided to install a handicap (i.e. family) bathroom on the sanctuary level of the church. We have had a generous member donation of \$10,000 and a donation from the Conference of \$1,000. Since announcing the project we have had additional contributions of \$250. We have a preliminary plan and estimate ranging from \$8,000 to \$16,000 to build the bathroom. The range of cost depends on actual bids to do the various parts of the construction and details found during the demolition of the area where it is to be built. We feel that the present contributions are enough to begin the project. The contractor we have selected is considering when he can start the project. Also the contractor has indicated that he is willing to work with us to use volunteer labor on the various stages of construction.

We are asking that members of Gary and Winfield consider how they might contribute both financially or with their talents for construction. If you are interested please contact: Bill Miller, Trustee chair persons, Winfield UMC, 630-668-4925.

**Our Choir rehearsals** on Monday nights at 7 p.m. All are welcome to join us.

**Please continue to check the bulletin boards for ways in which you can serve in different areas of the church.** We are always looking for Sunday School teachers, readers for scriptures and prayers, fellowship and flowers.

**Fellowship volunteers still needed.** Our new format for fellowship continues with a different family hosting a Sunday or even an entire month. Duties include making coffee, lemonade or other cold drink, bringing goodies and cleaning up afterwards. Contact Fran Miller to volunteer.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The tithes and pledges for October 2009 were \$3,030.00. The total regular receipts for October were \$4,010.65. Operating expenses were \$3,904.72. We did not make our October apportionment but are planning to meet our obligation by year end. The ending October balance in the operating account is \$2,159.80.

We have used \$3,200.00 from the saving account so far this year to cover 2009 expenses and an additional \$2,000.00 was needed in early November. Stewardship Sunday will be Sunday, December 6. We ask all members and friends to make a financial pledge for 2010 and if you are not able to attend worship that Sunday please mail in your pledge to the church office. Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of the Winfield Church. Please contact John Taylor if you have any questions.

### **Parish News**

Congratulations to Leanne Adams and Eric Weech who were married on Saturday, November 7th at Winfield Church. Pastor Leanne Rose officiated.

### **Special Christmas Services**

The Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candles will be on Thursday, December 24 starting at 6 p.m. Please join members and friends as we celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. Bring your family both local and out of town guest to this special service. A special Christmas offering will be taken to help with the general operating fund.

**Needing transportation to church?** Jim Wiggins will be happy to provide transportation to anyone who needs a ride to church. Please call him at (630) 293-7324. If anyone is able to help provide transportation on days that Jim is not available, please contact him directly.

**Non-perishable food being collected every Sunday.** In response to the growing need for food at the local food pantry, we are asking everyone to bring in canned goods and non-perishable food every Sunday. A collection basket is located in the foyer along with a donation container for those who wish to contribute money that will go towards the purchase of food..

### **Building Updates**

On Sunday, October 12th, the first to arrive for service noticed that the building was quite cold. The sanctuary furnace was not working. Attempts were made that morning to get the furnace to work but it was not possible. We had two heating repair companies look at the furnace and it was determined that it needed to be replaced since it was the original furnace and it could not be repaired. The Trustees contacted five providers and selected Airmaker from Wheaton to install a new furnace. The cost to replace the sanctuary furnace was about \$7,000 which included the cost for the original repair inspection by the first two companies. The Ad Council determined that these capital costs will be obtained from the investment account we have from the proceeds of parsonage sale that took place many years ago. Items of a capital nature can be paid for with our investment account at the United Methodist Foundation. We regularly receive a quarterly earnings check from the Foundation which is used for operating expenses. The furnace is now working and we thank the trustees and especially Bill Miller for all his work, research and keeping the process moving.

The restroom project is also progressing. We need to obtain an architect to prepare drawings which will need to go to the Village of Winfield for inspection and approval. This requirement has slowed the overall progress but the Ad Council is still very hopeful that the handicap restroom will be done by spring 2010. As of 11/8, we have received a total of \$12,250 for this much needed project. As the project gets started, the Trustees will inform the congregation of the status. We ask that members and friends to give a special offering for this project.