

The Visitor

Visiting the Homes of
Families and Friends of the
Mercer United Methodist Church
250 East Butler Street, Mercer, Pennsylvania 16137
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**November—December
2009
Edition**



From the Pastor

The following is a summary report for Mercer United Methodist Church 2009 given at our recent annual Charge/Church Conference on October 29th:

2009 has been a good year for Mercer United Methodist in many ways; some examples include: a modest increase in average worship attendance (from 167 to around 175); the welcoming of 19 new members (including 9 Confirmands); a modest increase in our overall giving; and a sustained generosity in missions giving (not only Mission Share, but also our Food Pantry, United Methodist Committee On Relief—UMCOR, missionaries, etc...).

In addition, we adopted a mission statement that is an attempt to put some flesh on the bones of what it means to be a “disciple.” Whether this mission statement remains a mere slogan on the cover of our bulletin or becomes part of our DNA remains to be seen. Indeed our challenge in the coming years (not just next year) is to take more and more seriously Jesus’ call to follow him in all aspects of our lives; to “lead lives worthy of the calling to which He has called us” (Ephesians 4:1).

The MERCER United Methodist Church seeks to be:

*A Disciple-forming community,
GATHERING in Jesus’ name; GROWING in His love; GOING in His service*

The 6 Marks of a Disciple:

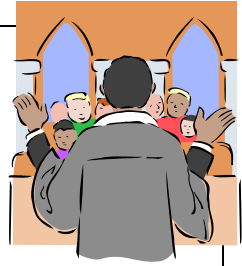
A **HEART** for Christ Alone
A **MIND** Transformed by the Word
ARMS of Love
KNEES for Prayer
A **VOICE** to Speak the Good News
A **SPIRIT** of Servanthood & Stewardship

made evident by:

regular worship attendance
participation in small group studies
hands-on ministry
attitude of humility and gratitude
able to share gospel (1 of 6 ways)
living simply and generously

Pastor Eric

How many of the following statements ring true for you as regards your experience in the life of our church?



1. As a member of my congregation, I know what is expected of me.
2. In my congregation, my spiritual needs are met.
3. In my congregation, I regularly have the opportunity to do what I do best.
4. The spiritual leaders in my congregation seem to care about me as a person.
5. There is someone in my congregation who encourages my spiritual development.
6. As a member of my congregation, my opinions seem to count.
7. The mission or purpose of my congregation makes me feel my participation is important.
8. The other members of my congregation are committed to spiritual growth.
9. Aside from family members, I have a best friend in my congregation.
10. In my congregation, I have opportunities to learn and grow.

—from Growing An Engaged Church by Albert Winseman

F.Y.I...

We have temporarily suspended the ritual greeting time during worship and the “passing of the peace” until the flu season is past.



Just Like Jesus

—by Max Lucado

Jeanne Harper will lead a winter women’s bible study in her home beginning Saturday, January 9th at 10:00 a.m.

Just Like Jesus is one of Max Lucado’s most popular books.

Hebrews 12:12 states that heaven invites you to set the “lens” of your heart on the heart of Jesus and make him the object of your life.

Sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Brittany Shaffer, our part-time Youth Director, will be leaving us in December as she is graduating from Grove City College. We have very much enjoyed her year-and-a-half with us and have deeply appreciated her faithful ministry to the youth and children of our church.



In addition to meeting weekly with our Senior High youth, she also helped Pastor Eric in teaching the Junior High confirmation group and was instrumental in coordinating and directing our children’s Christmas play as well as our summer VBS program.

Please take the time to wish her well on the next step of her journey in faith and in life.

Thank you, Brittany!!

**Community
Thanksgiving
Service**

Sunday, November 22, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Speaker:
*Pastor David Robinson
of the Mercer Chapel*



***Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Services***

*Contemporary Service
4:00 p.m.*

~~~~~  
*Traditional Service  
8:00 p.m.*



***“The Unopened Gift”***

~Children’s Christmas Play~



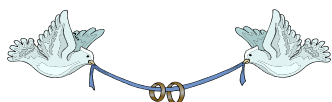
Sunday, December 13th  
at both worship services

**Open House**

to celebrate the

***60th Wedding Anniversary  
of***

***Wayne and Phyllis Miller***



Sunday, November 22nd

Noon—3:00 p.m.

In the Church Fellowship Hall

*All are invited ~ no gifts, please*

**The “Cancer...Going, Going Gawne”  
Relay For Life Team**

...appreciates your continued support of their efforts to raise money for The American Cancer Society.

We are currently selling cookbooks as a Relay-wide fundraiser. The cost is \$15.00 and are available from Linda in the church office.

In December the team will be selling pies, which will be delivered before Christmas. Order forms will be in the church bulletin, or you may contact Linda in the church office.

All proceeds go to The American Cancer Society.

*With your help, we can find a cure!*

Thank you.

The Gawne Relay For Life Team





## From the Missions Team...

The Missions Team has been busy “serving others” with our old missions projects, but also bringing some new missions into our paths.

We are very excited and pleased with the way our free Community Luncheons are going. We had 28 at our October Luncheon. November 14 and December 12 are the next luncheons.

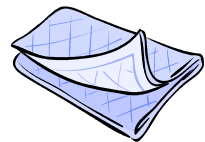


The Mercer Manor program is also going well, thanks to all of you who are taking turns each month. Hosts for the November program will be the Friday Night Fun Raisers and in December Jeanne Harper and Sue Baker will provide the program.

We have had a few requests for our Community Clothes Closet. If you can help with any of these items, please take them to the church office or contact Bonnie King:

- Snowsuit—Boy—size 12 months
- Shoes—Boy—child size 10
- Vest—Men’s—size small—white/yellow
- T-shirts—Men’s—size small—white/no pockets
- Jeans—Ladies’ - size 18
- Long Sleeve Tops—Ladies’ - size XL or 1X

Our Blanket + project began in October (Blankets and Tools) - Church World Service has changed the name, but it is still the same mission. In 2008 the congregation generously gifted \$1,374.00 to this outreach. We can only hope for a generous support once again!



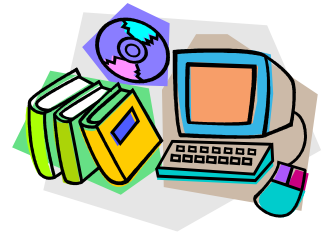
Our RADA Cutlery Fundraiser is in progress. We will be taking orders in the church library on Sunday mornings from 10:00—11:00 through November 29th. Remember that RADA cutlery items make great Christmas gifts. Please stop by and visit our table between church services.

We will again support the Toys for Tots program this December. A box will be placed in the church library beginning November 6th through December 15th. All toys must be NEW and UNWRAPPED— for children ages new born through 12 years. Last year Toys for Tots serviced 287 Mercer County families, and our church filled 2 boxes and contributed a monetary donation to help support the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Program! The Mercer County Family Center is the host agency providing the services for Mercer County. If you would like further information, or have questions about the Toys for Tots program, please contact Bonnie King.



## From our Missions Team...continued

One of our newest missions is called Kollege Care Kits...we will be sending a Care Package with "finger-food" items and some sort of "warm fuzzy" along with a spiritual message from Pastor Eric. We hope this will brighten the student's day when they receive this either in the mail or hand delivered, and let them know they are being thought of and are in our prayers while they are busy preparing for their finals. At the end of November we will be sending 18 kits. The care packages will be sent to students who are Freshmen through "Super Seniors" in their 5th year.



Last, but not least, we want to give a Hardy Thank You to Pat Grundy and Bob Falla for taking care of the dishwasher problem. We were glad to hear that it was not a major problem, and it was just some basic cleaning instructions that we need to be aware of. In the summertime especially, when the dishwasher is not used much, food particles left in the drain become corroded, causing the sensors to malfunction. So...the answer to the problem: follow the cleaning instructions each time the dishwasher is used! I think we can handle that!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!  
God Bless Everyone!  
The Missions Team

### Congratulations!

To Rob and Debbie (McClay) Daugherty  
on the birth of their son



*Dylan Scott*

October 28, 2009

### Our Congratulations!

*Tamara Butchy  
and  
David Harwood*

*married September 19th  
at Calvary UMC*



*Kristin Jordan Hockenberry  
and  
David Dunbar*

*married August 29th  
at Balm UMC*

### Baptism

October 18, 2009

*Zander Harrison Greggs*

son of David and Kathy Greggs



**Our Sympathy**  
to the Family and Friends  
of  
*Agnes Inman*

# MUMC YOUTH

GRADE 9-12

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

## COMING UP:

- **11/1/09**  
Drama Practice  
5pm-6pm
- **11/2/09**  
MUMC Youth  
5pm-6:30pm
- **11/9/09**  
MUMC Youth  
5pm-6:30pm
- **11/16/09**  
MUMC Youth  
5pm-6:30pm
- **11/22/09**  
Thanksgiving  
Scavenger Hunt  
5:30pm
- **11/23/09**  
No Youth
- **11/30/09**  
MUMC Youth  
5pm-6:30pm
- **12/7/09**  
MUMC Youth  
5pm-6:30pm
- **12/14/09**  
MUMC Youth  
Christmas Party  
5pm-6:30pm

## MUMC Youth Night

On November 2 the youth will begin meeting on Monday nights for their weekly youth meeting. The first night will be filled with games, an ice cream sandwich eating competition, and a drama performed by the youth. They have been practicing the drama, *Everything* by Lifehouse. The students have been working hard to help prepare for the kickoff. They have each been challenged to invite friends from school. Please keep our weekly meetings in your prayers as we extend the love of our Heavenly Father to students from both our church and the surrounding community.



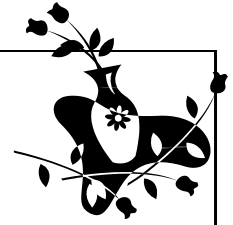
## “The Unopened Gift” by ActsOne

Join us on Sunday December 13, 2009 for the performance of “The Unopened Gift.” The children and youth will be preparing for this production during the Sunday School hour starting in November. This play expresses the love that the Father has shown us through His son, Jesus Christ. The children will be having fun dressing up like the Bible characters that we have all read about, while others will be portraying the adorable animals that can be found in the manger!



<http://www.actsone.org/>

## Thank You...



...to Kale Fithian and his team for all their hard work on the Church Directory - the directory should be available early 2010

...to the ladies who provided the wonderful lunch - from the Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce

...from The Navigators for the monetary gift for use for the Kingforth's

...from UMC Global Ministries for the monetary gift to Nothing But Nets

...to Debby Jazwinski, Carol Amon and Lori Fowler for painting the church nursery

...to Elene Adams and Nellie Mount, our Bible Study Babysitters

...from Jerry Porsch (The Music Man):

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation and thanks to all who shared their talents for the summer special music from May 24-Sept. 6: Adam Porsch, Cathy Hogue, Cory, Brent, Mindy and Clint Glover, Wade Calderwood, the trio of Pam White, Cathy Hogue and Marla Moretti, the "Family Sound" of Roxanne Chapman, Kathy Glunt and Anita Willaman, Clyde and Edna Walker, Greg Vanderveen, Jonah Klixbull, Jason Sample, and the Praise Team. Wow! I am blessed!

What a privilege to praise God with so many outstanding, talented people. May God continue to bless them and all the great folks at Mercer United Methodist Church.

Last of all - fantastic job on the Patriotic Sing-A-Long at both services on July 5th. Well done, congregation!!



### Our Church Nursery Needs...

*Pack 'n' Play  
Walker/Activity Center  
Glider Rocker*

Please contact the nursery staff  
or church office  
if you can provide any of these items



### *Dinner and Door Decorating*

The Fellowship Team will host the

#### *Annual Christmas Door Decorating Contest*

Saturday, December 5th  
3:00-6:00

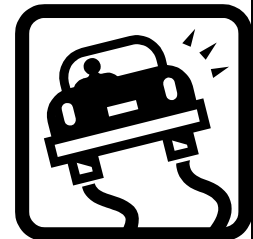
*Dinner served 5-5:30*

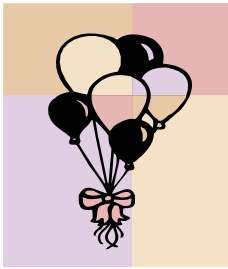
### Seniors for Safe Driving Class

will once again be held at the Mercer United Methodist Church

on Wednesday, December 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

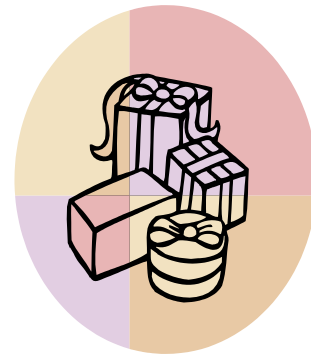
To register for the class, call 800-559-4880  
*(Please do not call the church office to register)*





## November ~ December Birthdays

|       |                                                               |       |                                        |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------|
| 11-01 | Joann Ringer<br>Dennis Buchanan<br>Megan Calderwood           | 12-01 | Janice McGhee                          |
| 11-02 | Doug Long<br>Jordon Baker                                     | 12-02 | Cathy Lindquist<br>Zach Wasser         |
| 11-03 | Linda Carlson<br>Joe Smith                                    | 12-04 | Larry Filer<br>Liam Mount              |
| 11-05 | Bonnie King<br>Brenda Struthers                               | 12-05 | Allen Minshull<br>Harrison Murray      |
| 11-06 | Kathie Harris                                                 | 12-06 | Jack Flickinger                        |
| 11-07 | Lee Moore                                                     | 12-08 | Debbie Thorn                           |
| 11-08 | Susan Mount<br>Nikole Shaner                                  | 12-10 | Linda Foster                           |
| 11-11 | Tom Amos                                                      | 12-11 | Joshua Klixbull                        |
| 11-12 | Thaddeus Schreiber                                            | 12-12 | Eric Mount                             |
| 11-13 | Miles Krofcheck                                               | 12-14 | Kevin Neiswonger<br>David Greggs       |
| 11-14 | John Adams<br>Lori Fowler<br>J.P. Zohoranacky                 | 12-15 | Leslie Baker                           |
| 11-16 | Christopher White                                             | 12-18 | Emalyn Connelly                        |
| 11-19 | Richard Struthers                                             | 12-19 | David Cook<br>Sam Jazwinski            |
| 11-20 | Devin Wasser<br>Leah Martin                                   | 12-21 | Chad Jordan<br>Molly VanWoert          |
| 11-21 | Paul Koppenhaver                                              | 12-23 | Ed Bridges                             |
| 11-22 | Mary Wiese<br>Kathy Glunt<br>Mandy Soltez                     | 12-24 | Bob Kelso                              |
| 11-23 | Bob Beck                                                      | 12-25 | Carol Amon                             |
| 11-24 | Betsy McConnell                                               | 12-26 | Ken McKay                              |
| 11-25 | Gene Adams<br>Gerald Arrow<br>Jeff MacTaggart<br>Kate Nevarez | 12-28 | Dave Gill<br>Kerry VanWoert            |
| 11-26 | Sara Mills<br>Joyce Willis                                    | 12-30 | Laurita Povilavicius<br>John Struthers |
| 11-27 | Debby Roddy<br>Kara Peters                                    | 12-31 | Judy Gawne                             |
| 11-28 | Jim Dibler                                                    |       |                                        |
| 11-29 | Carol Berger<br>Ryan Moore                                    |       |                                        |
| 11-30 | Bob Roddy                                                     |       |                                        |



# November 2009



| Sun                                                                                                                                 | Mon                                                                                                                       | Tue                                                            | Wed                                                                                                | Thu                                                               | Fri                                                      | Sat                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1<br/>9:00 Worship<br/>10:10 S. School<br/>11:00 Worship</p> <p>5-6 Drama Practice</p>                                           | <p>2<br/>10:00 Friendship Corner at Mercer Manor<br/>5:00 Youth<br/>6:30 Little League Mtg.</p>                           | <p>3<br/>Election Day</p> <p>4:00 Pre-school Board Meeting</p> | <p>4</p> <p>6:30 Praise Team<br/>7:30 Choir</p>                                                    | <p>5</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study</p>                                  | <p>6</p> <p>6:00 Fundraisers at Carini's in Transfer</p> | <p>7</p>                                                                     |
| <p>8<br/>Preschool Sunday<br/>9:00 Worship<br/>10:10 S. School<br/>11:00 Worship<br/>7:00 Spiritual Gifts Study</p>                 | <p>9<br/>10:00 Friendship Corner at Mercer Manor<br/>5:00 Youth<br/>7:00 Trustees<br/>7:00 Gar. Club<br/>7:30 Worship</p> | <p>10</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts</p>                               | <p>11</p> <p>6:00 Mercer Manor Program<br/>6:30 Praise Team<br/>7:30 Choir<br/>7:30 Fellowship</p> | <p>12</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study</p>                                 | <p>13</p> <p>4-7 Preschool Chicken Pie Supper</p>        | <p>14</p> <p>8-10 Angel Food Distribution<br/><br/>Noon Mission Luncheon</p> |
| <p>15<br/>9:00 Worship<br/>10:10 S. School<br/>11:00 Worship<br/>7:00 Spiritual Gifts Study<br/>7:00 Spiritual Gifts Study</p>      | <p>16<br/>10:00 Friendship Corner at Mercer Manor<br/><br/>5:00 Youth<br/>7:00 SPR Mtg.</p>                               | <p>17</p> <p>Noon—50+</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts</p>               | <p>18</p> <p>6:30 Praise Team<br/>7:30 Choir</p>                                                   | <p>19</p> <p>3:30-5:30 Stromboli Pick-up<br/>7:00 Bible Study</p> | <p>20</p>                                                | <p>21</p>                                                                    |
| <p>22<br/>9:00 Worship<br/>10:10 S. School<br/>11:00 Worship<br/>12-3 Open House for the Millers<br/>7:00 Spiritual Gifts Study</p> | <p>23<br/>10:00 Friendship Corner at Mercer Manor</p>                                                                     | <p>24</p> <p>1-7 Red Cross Blood Drive</p>                     | <p>25</p> <p>6:30 Praise Team<br/>7:30 Choir</p>                                                   | <p>26<br/>Thanksgiving</p> <p>Office Closed</p>                   | <p>27</p> <p>Office Closed</p>                           | <p>28</p>                                                                    |
| <p>29<br/>9:00 Worship<br/>10:10 S. School<br/>11:00 Worship<br/>7:00 Spiritual Gifts Study</p>                                     | <p>30<br/>10:00 Friendship Corner at Mercer Manor<br/>5:00 Youth<br/>6:30 Finance<br/>7:30 Church Council</p>             |                                                                |                                                                                                    |                                                                   |                                                          |                                                                              |

# December 2009



| Sun                                                                                                                 | Mon                                                                         | Tue                                       | Wed                                                                                                  | Thu                                                        | Fri                              | Sat                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                     |                                                                             | 1<br><br>6:30 Cub Scouts                  | 2<br><br>6:30 Praise Team<br>7:30 Choir                                                              | 3                                                          | 4<br><br>6:00 Fun-Raisers<br>TBA | 5<br><br>3-6 Dinner and Door Decorating                         |
| 6<br>9:00 Worship<br>10:10 S. School<br>11:00 Worship<br>2-8 Fellowship Hall reserved<br>7:00 Spiritual Gifts Study | 7<br>10:00 Friendship Corner at Mercer Manor<br><br>6:30 Little League Mtg. | 8<br><br>6:30 Cub Scouts                  | 9<br>9-1 Seniors for Safe Driving<br><br>6:00 Mercer Manor Program<br>6:30 Praise Team<br>7:30 Choir | 10                                                         | 11                               | 12<br>8-10 Angel Food Distribution<br><br>Noon Mission Luncheon |
| 13<br>9:00 Worship<br>10:10 S. School<br>11:00 Worship                                                              | 14<br>10:00 Friendship Corner at Mercer Manor                               | 15<br><br>Noon 50+<br><br>6:30 Cub Scouts | 16<br><br>6:30 Praise Team<br>7:30 Choir                                                             | 17                                                         | 18                               | 19                                                              |
| 20<br>9:00 Worship<br>10:10 S. School<br>11:00 Worship                                                              | 21<br>10:00 Friendship Corner at Mercer Manor                               | 22<br><br>6:30 Cub Scouts                 | 23<br><br>6:30 Praise Team<br>7:30 Choir                                                             | 24<br>Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:<br>4:00 and 8:00 | 25<br><br>CHRISTMAS              | 26                                                              |
| 27<br>9:00 Worship<br>10:10 S. School<br>11:00 Worship                                                              | 28<br>10:00 Friendship Corner at Mercer Manor                               | 29                                        | 30<br><br>6:30 Praise Team<br>7:30 Choir                                                             | 31                                                         |                                  |                                                                 |



### 2010 Altar Flowers

\$20.00 per vase

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of    In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please circle one)*

Date for the flowers to be on the altar: \_\_\_\_\_

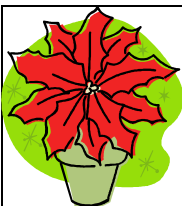
2nd Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will take the flowers following 11:00 worship

\_\_\_\_\_ Please deliver the flowers to a nursing home or shut-in

*Please use a separate order form for each vase of flowers ordered  
-additional forms are available in the church office or in the Narthex*

\$20.00 enclosed  
(Payable to Mercer UMC)



### 2009 Christmas Poinsettias

\$10.00

(Orders due by December 1st)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of    In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please circle one)*

*Please use one order form for each  
vase of flowers ordered - additional  
forms are available in the church  
office or in the Narthex*

\$10.00 enclosed  
(Payable to Mercer UMC)



Mercer United Methodist Church

250 East Butler Street  
Mercer, PA 16137

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Mercer, PA 16137  
Permit # 2

Return Service Requested

«First» « Last»

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«City State»

«Zip Code»

