

The Messenger



A monthly publication of Third Presbyterian Church

December 2006, Vol. LXXV No. 12

Alternative Christmas Market Sunday, December 3

Wonderful Gifts...

Wrapped in Good feeling

The traditional Third Church Alternative Christmas Market will take place on Sunday, December 3 from 9:00am until 2:00pm. Holiday shopping will benefit:

Worship, Music and Arts
Schools #6 and #35
Children's Ministry Trip
Youth Ministry
Heifer Project
Interfaith Hospitality Network
Corner Place
One World Goods
Hunger Team, and others



Advent Potluck and "Ring and Sing" Friday, December 15 at 6:00pm

Make the Advent Potluck and "Ring and Sing" part of your holiday activities this year! It is sure to be a fun and refreshing evening of music, featuring the Third Church Ringers, Freedom Ringers and Chapel Bells! Bring a dish to pass that serves eight: main dishes, salads, vegetables and desserts are needed. At 7:00pm, join us for the Advent "Ring and Sing." This festive service will feature Christmas Carols performed by the bell choirs, as well as a time for carol singing by the congregation.

Joy to the World!

Christmas Eve at Third Church

10:45 a.m.

One Service of Worship
(Sanctuary)

4:30 p.m.

Festival of the Nativity
(Sanctuary)

8:00 p.m.

Communion
(Chapel)

11:00 p.m.

Lessons and Carols
(Sanctuary)

Chapel Concert Thursday, December 7 at 7:30pm

The second concert in the 2006-2007 series of Chapel Concerts by Candlelight gives us an unusual opportunity to hear music for clavichord as *Ulrika Davidsson* performs a program entitled "Sweet Sounds from the Clavichord," including music by Bach, Haydn and Henneberg. Ulrika has concertized throughout Europe as well as in the U.S., and has presented recitals and lectures at several international conferences. She teaches keyboard technique at the Eastman School of Music and is currently pursuing a Doctoral degree in piano and early keyboards at the Eastman School of Music under Barry Snyder and William Porter.

There is no admission charge; an offering will be received to support future concerts. Invite your friends to join you for this unusual opportunity. This series is made possible in part by the Janet S. and David B. Reed Fund.



Third Voice

Dear Friends,

The Old Testament prophets carry a different reputation, and wrongly so, in my humble opinion. They are portrayed as dour, grim, negative, judgmental, pessimistic... not exactly the kind of people we'd want showing up at the office Christmas party.

And yet to read the prophets – which we will do in some detail this Advent season – is to read words of hope. The prophet's job was to look around, with the eyes and mind of God, and tell the world what was wrong. But they did not stop there. Rather, they suggested ways to make things right. Often those ways involved returning, returning to long-lost practices of worship, of hospitality, of compassion, of justice.

The ancient Israelites, and by connection, we who live in the early 21st century, have convinced ourselves that things are the way they are, and cannot be changed. Prophets – then and now – will insist otherwise and seek to convince us of the same. They will insist that because God has not given up on us, that we should not give up on God, nor on the world that God created and seeks to redeem.

Two examples:

- Several hundred people gathered at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church to take on the issue of violence on Rochester. It seems like such an insurmountable problem. And yet here are people of faith, committed to an alternative vision, ready to work hard and work together to make a difference.
- Third Church will host a World AIDS Day Service on December 3. Again, HIV/AIDS seems like such an insurmountable problem, locally and globally. And yet here are people of faith, committed to an



alternative vision, ready to work hard and work together to make a difference.

Amid all of your other preparations this Christmas season, take a moment or two to remember the prophets. And remember that you, too, are a prophet. Because of the gift of the Christ child, we stand in a long line of those who have insisted that the way things are not the way things have to be. We stand with Malachi, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Isaiah, John the Baptist, Mary, and scores more, to insist that the light has come into the world, and that the darkness cannot overcome it.

Pray for peace and work for peace in this season of anticipation and preparation. And may the richest blessings of this holy season be with you and those you love. Merry Christmas.

Faithfully,

In Touch! *Forward in Faith*

Thanks to all those who have made their financial pledges for 2007. As of November 15, 315 households have pledged \$655,481 toward our goal of \$950,000. Pledge cards are available in the chapel, sanctuary and church office. You may also make a confidential pledge by calling Carol Foster at 271-6537, ext. 111 or cfoster@thirdpresbyterian.org. Again, thank you for your commitment and support.

Worship Schedule

December 3-Advent I

Communion at 8:30 and 10:45am
Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-26
"Prophetic Preparation"
John Wilkinson preaching

December 10-Advent II

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6
"Prophetic Forgiveness"
John Wilkinson preaching

December 17-Advent III

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18
"Prophetic Expectation"
John Wilkinson preaching

December 24-Advent IV

One morning worship service at 10:45am
Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve
Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20
"Prophetic Remembrance"
John Wilkinson preaching

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Christmas Eve

4:30pm Festival of the Nativity
(Sanctuary)
8:00pm Christmas Eve Communion
Service (Chapel)
11:00pm Service of Lessons and Carols
(Sanctuary)

December 31

One morning worship service at 10:45am
Luke 2:41-52
"Increasing in Wisdom and Years"
John Wilkinson preaching

Advent Booklets Available

Every week in Advent, light a candle as you prepare your heart anew for the coming of the Christ. A simple devotional guide is available, with or without an Advent Wreath. Copies are available in the literature rack outside the Church Office.

First Monday

Evening Prayer

December 4 at 7:00pm in the Chapel

This service will focus on Advent as a time of preparation and waiting for the coming of our Lord. John Wilkinson will serve as liturgist with Lauren Apt (flute), Glenna Curren, (cello) Anna Lenti, Bridget Neary, Abbie Stevens and Sandy Gianniny (harp) leading the music. Candle Lighters will be Jo Whang and Gloria Pleger. Come for a time of prayer and meditation in the beauty of the Chapel. All are welcome.



Milestones

Born

- **Mackenzie Grace Gabel**, October 30, 2006, in Boston, to Christopher and Jennie Gabel. Grandparents Mary-Jo and Conger Gabel (*East Brighton 1 Parish*) and great grandparents Wren and Esther Gabel (*Central Brighton Parish*) rejoice in her arrival!
- **Nell Holmes Miller**, November 15, 2006 to Chris and Carlyle Miller. Grandparents Bob and Lindsay Holmes (*Central Brighton Parish*) rejoice in her arrival!

Baptized

Owen Russell Dack, son of Russell and Kristen Dack (*Mendon, Rush, Ontario and Livingston Countries Parish*), on November 12, 2006

Sympathy is expressed to

- Mike and Carol Fici (*Mendon, Rush, Ontario and Livingston Parish*) on the death of Michael's father, **Joseph Fici**, on September 20, 2006
- Emily Gazley (*East Avenue Area Parish*) on the October 26, 2006 death of her husband, **Herbert Gazley**

- Bethany, Dezirae, Bryan and Luke Rague (*City West, Chili, Spencerport and Brockport Parish*) on the death of Bethany's husband and their father, **James E. Rague**, on October 26, 2006
- Gregory and Shannan Monrad (*West Penfield Parish*) on the death of Shannan's grandmother, **Ann S. Swallow** on October 29, 2006
- Bob Parrett (*Gates, Greece, Hilton Parish*) on the death of his mother, **Elzabetta Parrett**, on November 8, 2006 in Columbus, Ohio
- Louise Fowler (*East Avenue Area Parish*) on the death of her husband, **W. Frank Fowler**, on November 9, 2006

Congratulations to

Shirley Moore, (*City Southeast Parish*), honored for dedication and service to the Wilmot Cancer Center. She recently received the Hettie Shumway Award for outstanding services from Friends of Strong.

Building Improvements

It's so easy to walk around our church and marvel at how beautiful a building we have! Some of the buildings are well over one hundred years old and it's obvious that, over the years, they've been well-maintained.

Keeping our buildings in good condition takes a lot of effort, time and money. This year we were fortunate to be able to use the money from the sale of the house, lovingly donated to Third Church by the Chamberlain family, to replace and paint 52 windows in the Parish House. These new windows are energy-efficient and will help us to save money on our fuel bills.

Have you noticed the new carpeting on the outside steps as you come into the Meigs Street entrance? There is also new blue carpeting inside the building on the stairs and entrance area. In addition, new carpeting has been installed on the second floor of the Education building.

34 Meigs Street, the building next to our church that houses our RAIHN outreach program, received a new coat of paint and will shortly be receiving new, energy-efficient windows on the second floor.

Roof repair is an ongoing project at Third Church. We spend approximately \$10,000 every year to keep our slate roof intact. In addition, a faulty section of roof needed to be rebuilt, due to the water damage it caused to an interior wall outside the Arnold Park balcony.

Our parking lot recently has been repaired, sealed and re-stripped to make parking a little easier.

Jim Chisholm
Property Committee

Gatherings

Presbyterian Men 7:30pm

Monday, December 4-Weishaar

Contact Pete Weishaar at 218-9891 or send an email to:
TPCmen-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Shawl Ministry 5:00pm

Mondays, December 4 & 18

Work and conversation goes until 6:00 or 6:30. If you have questions, feel free to call Pat Rumbold at 288-8142 or Nancy Adams at 889-4055.

Sisters in Spirit 9:30-11:00am

Fridays, December 1 & 15

The group is reading *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong. All women are welcome to join the group for book study, fellowship and prayer. Contact Amy Stratton-Smith (224-9051 or strattonsmith@frontiernet.net) for more information.

Song Fest at Valley Manor

Thursday, December 7 7:00pm

All are invited to join in the monthly Song Fest at Valley Manor. Refreshments are served. Secular and sacred music will bring us together. The event will conclude at 8:00pm. If you need a ride, call Joanne Anderson at 734-1307.

Mom's Group 7:30pm

Friday, December 1

We'll prepare gift bags for RAIHN families. Please bring items to decorate the bags or items to fill the bags. Items to fill the bag can include candy, personal-sized lotions and soaps, crayons, markers or other small items. We'll also collect cash to purchase socks and underwear once we know the families we will be helping. When we are done with the bags, we'll relax over treats (sweet and savory) and enjoy each other's company. We'll also collect items and cash Sundays in December or you can get items to Candice Lucas (473-4769) or Jenny Hutkowski (264-1157).

New T3's

(Twenties and Thirties at Third)

Friday, December 8 7:30pm

OK, we don't have a name for this new group yet, but if you're around 25-35 and maybe new to Rochester or to Third Church, or just want to connect with same, you're invited to come join us for a "Dessert and Game Night" on Friday, December 8, at the Sprague's, 116 Jersey St, 14609. Interested? Call Jim or Anne Marie Trammell at 425-0903 or email jimytram@frontiernet.net. (*Please note that there are cats at this house.*)

KUDOS!

The Over the Hill Gang deserves great thanks for their contributions to the upkeep of Third Church. Every Tuesday morning "gang members" gather to tackle projects around the building. Recently they moved officer mailboxes to the copier room and repaired a squeaky step on the stairway to the Celebration Center. As usual, they did an outstanding job! Some members work diligently each week stocking the Food Cupboard for the Monday/Thursday food distribution program. The work performed by the Over the Hill Gang frees up the Sexton staff so that they can attend to other job duties. KUDOS to the Over the Hill Gang for their fine work! If you would like to join "gang" members **Bob Eames, Tom Hargrave, Paul Macauley, Otto Muller-Girard** and **Hal Hood**, stop by Third Church any Tuesday morning around 9:00am and we will put you to work.



John Pilato
Lead Sexton

Adult Faith Development

The full Adult Faith Education program can be found at http://www.thirdpresbyterian.org/adult_ed

From Sect to Empire: Foundations of the Early Church

Sunday, December 3 (Last class)
Johnston Hall 9:30-10:30am
This course has been exploring early church history across five time frames: A Short History Lesson: 323 BCE, Identity amid Diversity, Formation of the Great Church, Councils and Heresies and The Fall of the Roman Empire. **George Gray** and **David Stimson** will lead the course. George and David are area attorneys and students at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

Healthy Children-Healthy Planet

Sunday, December 3 (Last class)
Whitney Room 9:30-10:30am
This class concludes the series helping parents understand how the pervasive effects of advertising, media and consumer culture can influence a child's view of the world. We will discover ways to create meaningful family times and healthful environments for children and explore ways to develop a child's connection to nature. **Amy Stratton-Smith** leads this series. She is a certified spiritual director.

The Advent Lectionary

Thursday, December 7, 14, 21
Johnston Hall 12:00noon
This course is tracing the trajectory of the classical Sunday texts of the Advent Season. Since there are three cycles in the Sunday tests, the biblical texts for Advent 2006 are different from those for Advent 2005. **John Wilkinson, Roderic Frohman** and **Deborah Hughes** lead the four-part series.

Child Moral Development: What Makes Kids Do Those Things?

Sunday, December 10 9:30-10:30am
This class will trace classical understandings of how children develop their capacity to make moral decisions.

Judith Smetana, a developmental psychologist, is the Frederica Warner Chair in Education at the University of Rochester's Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development.



Adult Faith Development opportunities will resume January 7. The full Adult Faith Education program can be found at http://www.thirdpresbyterian.org/adult_ed



New Books in the Church Library

Debbie Applegate: "The Most Famous Man in America: Henry Ward Beecher"

Thoroughly researched, passionately written and richly detailed, this biography of America's greatest 19th century preacher reveals his fascinating tangle of all-too-human traits. It gives us insight into the religion, politics and culture of Victorian America.

Jim Wallis: "Living God's Politics: A Guidebook to Putting Your Faith into Action"

More than anyone else, Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourners Magazine*, is mentioned as a worthy successor to Niebuhr. He chides liberals for failing to understand how religion and politics mix. And he rebukes conservatives for equating Christianity with red-state views on abortion and social issues.

Alan J. Roxborough: "The Sky is Falling? A Proposal for Leadership Communities to Take New Risks for The Reign of God"

The church exists as something bigger than itself. Understanding that one thing alone will be worth your time in reading this book with an open mind and open heart. It is a manifesto, a proposal for a new way of imaging a common life together as a pilgrim people of God, seeking to fulfill God's purposes for the world in our time.

Patricia Lloyd-Sidle, Editor: "Celebrating Our Call: Ordination Stories of Presbyterian Women"

This is an inspiring collection of 14 women's reflections, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Presbyterian Church.

Douglas F. Ottati: "Theology for Liberal Presbyterians and Other Endangered Species"

This witty, concise book of 103 pages by theologian Ottati contends that liberal Protestants still have much to contribute to the contemporary world, an alternative to the increasingly conservative thought in our culture. He teaches what he sees as the foundation of liberal theology. An excellent book for group discussion.

Lewis B. Smedes: "The Art of Forgiving: When You Need to Forgive and Don't Know How"

In a world full of hate and revengefulness this book offers an excellent, practical road-map in why we forgive, what we do when we forgive, whom we forgive and how we forgive. It is an inspiring and practical road-map, which, if mastered, can change the face of human relationships.

Treasurer's Box

In terms of income, we enjoyed a good September and an even better October, with both months showing stronger-than-expected income from current year pledge payments. We've also received almost 96% of our 2005 pledge payments. Our non-pledge contributions and Sunday plate offerings also have been good. Unfortunately, our per capita pledges for 2006 are running behind schedule—if your pledge has not been paid, please make that payment.

Our Endowment Fund market value was \$5,680,154 at the end of September, which represents a third-quarter investment return of 2.8%.

Personnel, program and building expenses are still running very close to budget expectations—kudos to the committees!

We've just completed another Stewardship campaign, and I want to emphasize how important your pledge is to Third Church. Let's be honest—pledges are not "fun" or "exciting." However, they are an indication of the level of commitment that we as a congregation are willing to make to the ministry and mission of this church. We need that commitment to be 100%—so if you haven't yet made your pledge for 2007, please do so!

Finally, it's hard to believe that this is the December issue of the *Messenger*. May you have a blessed Christmas, and may 2007 be a healthy and happy year for each of you.

Jan Chisholm
Treasurer

Carnegie Hall Concert

Peter DuBois will be accompanying (on piano) baritone Derrick Smith and trumpeter Herb Smith in recital in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York on **Thursday, December 14 at 8:00pm**. Tell friends and acquaintances in the N.Y.C. area, and encourage them to attend. Titled "Sounds of the Season," the program will include works by Bach and Handel, as well as the "Sonata for Trumpet and Piano" by Paul Hindemith and a variety of settings of holiday carols. Ticket information may be found on the Carnegie Hall website at www.carnegiehall.org, clicking on the calendar for December 14.

Children's Ministry News

Contact: *Becky D'Angelo-Veitch, Children's Ministry Coordinator*
271-6537, ext. 118, rveitch@thirdpresbyterian.org or *Christina Lenti, Associate*
Director of Music at 271-6537, ext. 110 or clenti@thirdpresbyterian.org.

Fund-Raising Opportunities for the Children's Music and Ministry trip to the Cathedral of Hope, East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA "Sharing Ourselves, Sharing our Song"

During this trip, April 20-22, 2007, the children of Third Church will present a concert at a Presbyterian Retirement Home and sing in worship at the "Cathedral of Hope" in Pittsburgh. This trip will be a time of community building, making connections and sharing our gifts with another Presbyterian congregation. The children will also visit the wonderful "Children's Museum of Pittsburgh" as part of the weekend's activities. This should be an exciting and rewarding experience for our children. Please be generous in supporting them in this new project.

Sponsor a Child

At the Alternative Christmas Market on December 3 there will be opportunity to donate money to the children for their trip. The children will also be selling various Christmas items that they have made. Look for their table and their eager faces!

Christmas Cookie Sale

Sunday, December 10 during coffee hour, the children will sell Christmas Cookies. A "Third Church Christmas Cookie Cookbook" will also be available for sale. Proceeds will help support the music and ministry trip to Pittsburgh next April.

Carol Choir Nativity Costuming

will take place on Sunday, December 3 and 10 in the Moot Room.

Sunday School Reminder:

There will be large group Sunday school for children up to first grade during the 10:45am worship services on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Regular church school will resume on Sunday, January 7.

Rotation 3 for Qabats, "Jesus, Prince of Peace" will begin on Wednesday, December 6, and continue on December 13, January 10 and January 17.

Youth Ministry@Third

Contact: *Bill Taber, Youth Ministry Coordinator*
271-6537, ext. 107 or wtaber@thirdpresbyterian.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR... April 29, 2007 is the date for this year's youth musical production of the newly written musical, "10th and Luke." Originally scheduled for Sunday, March 18, it will now be performed on Sunday, April 29, 2007 at 10:45am and 7:00pm. The show is a wonderful re-telling of the story of The Good Samaritan (found in the 10th chapter of Luke). The book and lyrics were written by a team of youth and adults from the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, and music was composed by award-winning composer Andrew Bleckner. You will not want to miss this special event, so be sure your calendar is up-to-date!

Retreat News

The annual fall retreat for youth in Grades 7-12 this year saw 18 youth enjoying a time together with other young people from the Presbytery at Hot Shots here in Rochester, followed by an overnight at the First Presbyterian Church in Victor and a rather rainy day of hiking and exploring nature on Saturday, October 28.

Good Samaritan Theme for Sunday Evenings

Sunday evening youth programs this year are based on the theme of the Good Samaritan (tying in with our upcoming youth musical).

Youth Committee Leadership Updates

Youth Ministries welcomes new involvement this year from *Jennifer Held*, the new chair of Youth Committee. Also new advisors *Bridget Neary, Paul Henry, Ann McMican*, and *Susan and Vic Del Pozzo* are welcomed as great additions to our enthusiastic youth team this program year.

Planning Ahead

The Youth Christmas Party is planned as part of Sunday Evening Youth Fellowship on December 17 as we enter the Christmas season.

New Pictorial Directory

The Congregational Fellowship Committee is pleased to announce that we will be producing a new pictorial directory in 2007. We have selected Lifetouch Church Directories as our vendor for this project, and we are looking forward to a beautiful and useful directory. If you would like to help organize this project, please contact Rose Pethick at 388-8546. We're looking forward to seeing *you* in our new directory!

"Keep the Promise" Prayer Service to Commemorate World AIDS Day

Sunday, December 3 at 7:00pm

A special prayer service will be held in the Third Church sanctuary in conjunction with the world campaign to stop AIDS. Wade Norwood, Director, Safety Net Initiatives of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency will deliver a reflection. The worship service is sponsored by 35 church and community groups, including Third Presbyterian Church.

Seeking the Common Good

•World Peacemaking & Mission

Rob Veitch, 865-9918, rveitch@jcs.com

•**Economic Development**, Elizabeth Wallace, 271-6807, ewallaceny@earthlink.com

•**Hunger**, Carol Coons, 227-5953, cycoons@netacc.net

•**Homelessness**, Laurie Mahoney 473-0583, LMahone1@rochester.rr.com

•**Louisiana Hurricane Relief Team**, Jean Coco jeancoco@frontiernet.net, 241-9523

•**Public Education**, Tom Gillett, 461-4581, tdgillett@frontiernet.net

•**More Light**, Gloria Pleger, 461-9605, kpleger@rochester.rr.com

•**Earth Keepers**, Melissa Carlson, 442-1364, mcarlson@eznet.net

Contact an Outreach Committee Chair to learn more about a ministry that interests you.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS REPORT

On Sunday, October 15, for the fourth consecutive year, during morning worship, 323 letters, at least 75 more than last year, were signed by members of our congregation and hand delivered to Senators Clinton and Schumer. These letters pointed out that only one-half of one percent of the federal budget is presently devoted to poverty-focused development assistance, and called upon our legislators to support the addition of \$5 billion more in 2007. Third Church is committed to reducing hunger in our community: the Offering of Letters helps to make our voice heard in reducing hunger world-wide. Congress adjourned for the August recess without taking further action on the 2007 foreign assistance appropriations bill. Our letters will encourage our senators to continue to work on and support the State Department-Foreign Operations bill, even though the congressional elections will shorten the legislative sessions this fall.

After years of hard work, Carol Malach is stepping down as chair of the Third Church Bread for the World Committee. The Hunger Team members, and all in the congregation thank her for all her effort in keeping the issues of hunger before our federal legislators. Any one interested in serving on or chairing the Committee is asked to contact Carol Coons at 227-5953.

After 13 Years Otto Muller-Girard, Jr. Hands Off Dining Room Ministry Leadership

For the past 13 years Otto Muller-Girard, Jr. has been the Coordinator of Third Church's largest volunteer mission program, the Saturday Morning Dining Room Ministry with over 100 involved volunteers. As reported last month, the new leadership team will be Robb and Nancy Adams and Phil and Beth Tschorke. The Dining Room Ministry has been open every Saturday, even when a Saturday falls on Christmas Day, since its opening 14 years ago by Henry Curme and Kathryn Stimson.

Many members probably did not know of Otto's long-term, competent leadership. This is probably just the way Otto wanted it. This quiet, faithful automobile engineer with Delphi Corporation has been responsible for (don't gasp):

- 1) scheduling the ten teams who rotate weekly
- 2) recruiting and scheduling the menu planning team
- 3) recruiting and scheduling the shopper teams
- 4) monitoring the annual DRM budget
- 5) scheduling the various teams around the various holidays
- 6) monitoring "quality control" standards by a weekly reading of the team logs
- 7) monitoring the status of the equipment in the kitchen and stock in storage
- 8) monitoring the ebb and flow of the guest statistics
- 9) relaying the implications of such information to the various teams
- 10) serving on the Outreach Committee and the Hunger Team
- 11) coordinating and integrating college and high school youth doing community service
- 12) reporting to the congregation annually

The wonderful thing about Otto is that he says the Dining Room Ministry "runs itself." This modesty belies the fact that it "runs itself" because Otto has planned and guided it to do so. The most glowing tribute to Otto's leadership comes from the guests themselves. Volunteers have often heard comments from our guests like, "This church puts on the best meals in the city..." "I feel at home here..." "The meals here are just like my Mom used to cook."

Well done thou good and faithful servant!



SIMPLE STEPS To REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT

Presbyterians For Restoring Creation (www.prcweb.org) suggests some simple steps to reduce your carbon footprint on the globe. See www.co3.org to calculate your carbon emissions, compared to the world average of four tons per person per year. Replace light bulbs with compact fluorescents, buy only Energy Star appliances, offset energy use by purchasing wind power from the utility.

The holiday season is a great time to consider reducing the waste in packaging and disposable products. Perhaps a family gift of tickets to a play, museum, concert or movie rental could replace battery powered toys and gadgets. And gifts to a local charity like Hillside or to the Heifer Project or Habitat can involve the whole family in choosing. When shopping, carry a tote bag and save on the energy used in recycling. Instead of paper products, consider washable napkins, hand towels, and sponges—the trees saved help cut air and water pollution.

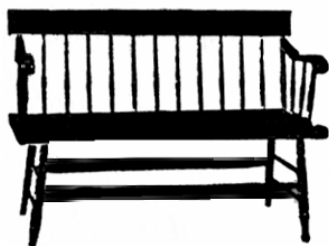


Hurricane Relief III

Our next team of hurricane relief volunteers will travel to New Orleans from February 25-March 3, 2007. It's not too late to join this group. For information or to register, contact Jean Coco (jeancoco@frontiernet.net) or Deborah Hughes (271-6537 ext. 108 or dhughes@thirdpresbyterian.org). If you would like to support this important mission trip, please note "Hurricane Relief" on your check to Third Presbyterian Church.

RAIHN United Way ID #2435.

Deacon's Bench



Many thanks to those who have recently supplied us with vases for Sunday morning flower delivery to church family members in hospitals or recovering from illness or loss. Our need for vases is ongoing. Your donations are appreciated!

Valley Manor Christmas Song Fest on **December 7** at 7:00 p.m. All church members and friends are invited to join our Third Church Valley Manor residents. Deacon Joanne Anderson will lead us in our favorite hymns of the season.

On **December 10**, poinsettias will be delivered, by Deacons, to over 50(!) Third Church members who are no longer able to attend church services.

Parish Coffee Hour Hosts for December are as follows. Please call your Deacon to sign up for serving or providing refreshments:

December 3: (New Member Committee)

December 10: West Brighton Parish (Paul Jonasse, 461-1137) and East Brighton 2 (Mary Stewart, 381-6656)

December 17: South Wedge (Susan Fox, 461-1635) and City East (Seasson Vitiello, 747-8570)

Join Bob Eames for a Special Tour

Where is the Moot Room? How do the handbell players get in that balcony? What and where is the Columbarium? Who made the stained glass windows? When was the church fire and what was damaged? Where are the Food Cupboard groceries stored? Where do our IHN guests shower? If you'd like to know more about our Third Church physical plant, make plans to accompany Bob Eames on his famous Church Tour, offered **Sunday, December 10** following 10:45 worship.

Lewis and Clark To Kenya in February 2007

Well, not exactly. It is Robert Veitch and Rod Frohman who are going to Nairobi to "explore" the possibility of establishing a covenant partnership within the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, PCEA. The trip is being coordinated with the Kenya Network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Rod serves on the Network's Council. Both have African experience. Robert spent 18 months in the Congo working in a hospital and Rod has traveled to Africa with a mission team with his former congregation in Minneapolis and has maintained a 38-year friendship with a Kenya pastor and democracy advocate, Timothy Njoya, via exchange visits.

The possibilities of creating a mission partnership are exciting and challenging for Third Church. The challenges and needs of the PCEA are significant. It has 4 million members, 3000 congregations and 300 clergy. Leadership education is a major need. A Presbyterian university and seminary are being developed on the outskirts of Nairobi near the historic Kikuyu Presbyterian Hospital. Congregational development in all aspects is needed—mission, Christian education, internal life and worship/music. Life expectancy in Kenya is 45 years. 50% of the country is under the age of 15. HIV/AIDS is at pandemic levels. Orphanages abound.

Robert and Rod will leave February 5 and return February 12. During their "exploration" they will meet with established USA/Kenya partner teams, examine the working details of existing partnerships, hear about possible linkages for Third Church, establish relationships with congregations and pastors, worship with the Kihomo Congregation of Nairobi on February 11, meet with the leaders of the PCEA while staying at the PCEA Guest House in their General Assembly headquarters campus, take dozens of pictures, but make no commitments for Third Church. That alone is the prerogative of the Session.

Late in January Robert and Rod will meet with all interested persons to discuss the details and expectations for this trip. Stay tuned.

Christmas Decorations

If you would like to make a donation to help support the cost of our Christmas decorations, please send your check to the church office marked "*Christmas Flowers*" and note clearly the names that should be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

I would like this gift to be:

_____ In loving memory of:

_____ In honor of:

_____ In celebration of:

_____ A donation from:

The deadline for receiving donations is Friday, December 16.

Third Presbyterian Church Staff

- John Wilkinson, Pastor
 - Roderic P. Frohman, Associate Pastor/Church in Society
 - Deborah L. Hughes, Interim Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
 - William W. Young, Pastor Emeritus
 - Peter A. DuBois, Director of Music/Organist
 - Christina A. Lenti, Associate Director of Music
 - Ruth Draper, Assistant Organist
 - Rebecca D'Angelo-Veitch, Children's Ministry Coordinator
 - William H. Taber, Youth Ministry Coordinator
 - Pamela T. Foye, Parish Visitor
- To reach any of our staff, call Third Presbyterian Church at (585) 271-6513.



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December Calendar

Friday, December 1

9:30am Sisters in Spirit

Saturday, December 2

8:00am Coptic Church
10:00am Dining Room Ministry
(Muller-Girard)
11:30am Alternative Market Setup

Sunday, December 3 First Sunday of Advent

8:30am Worship—Chapel
New Member Class
9:30am Alternative Christmas Market
9:30am Adult Faith Development
9:30am Youth Church School
9:30am Children's Education Plus
9:30am Junior Choir Rehearsal
10:45am Worship—Sanctuary
Church School
12:00pm Carol Choir Costuming
12:15pm Nominating Committee
4:30pm Covenant Ringers/Jr. High Bells
5:15pm Covenant Singers
6:00pm Youth Dinner/Fellowship
7:00pm World AIDS Day Prayer Service

Monday, December 4

8:30am Chapel Bells
9:30am Food Cupboard
5:00pm Shawl Knitting Ministry
5:00pm Personnel Committee
7:00pm 1st Monday Evening Prayer
7:30pm GLBT Support Group
7:30pm Presbyterian Men

Tuesday, December 5

7:00pm Congregational Fellowship

Wednesday, December 6

9:15am Morning Prayer
9:45am Staff Meeting
5:00pm Children's Bell Choir
5:30pm Qabats/Junior Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm Commissioning Class
6:00pm Church Buddies
6:45pm Glorious Things
7:15pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 7

9:30am Food Cupboard
10:45am Freedom Ringers
12:00pm Adult Faith Development
5:45pm Third Church Ringers
7:00pm Outreach
7:00pm Song Fest at Valley Manor
7:30pm Chapel Concert by Candlelight

Friday, December 8

7:30pm (T3) Dessert and Game Night

Saturday, December 9

8:00am Coptic Church
10:00am Dining Room Ministry (Norton)

Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

8:30am Worship—Chapel
New Member Class
9:30am Alternative Christmas Market
9:30am Adult Faith Development
9:30am Youth Church School
9:30am Children's Education Plus
9:30am Junior Choir Rehearsal
10:45am Worship—Sanctuary
11:00am Church School
11:45am Church Tour
12:00pm Carol Choir Costuming
12:00pm Deacon Poinsettia Delivery
12:15pm Nominating Committee
4:30pm Covenant Ringers/Jr. High Bells
5:15pm Covenant Singers
6:00pm Youth Dinner/Fellowship

Monday, December 11

8:30am Chapel Bells
9:30am Food Cupboard

Tuesday, December 12

5:30pm IHN Steering Committee
7:00pm Session

Wednesday, December 13

9:15am Morning Prayer
9:45am Staff Meeting
5:00pm Children's Bell Choir
5:30pm Qabats/Junior Choir Rehearsal
5:30pm Property Committee
6:00pm Commissioning Class
6:00pm Church Buddies
6:45pm Glorious Things
7:15pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 14

9:30am Food Cupboard
10:45am Freedom Ringers
12:00pm Adult Faith Development
5:30pm Joint Budget Finance
5:45pm Third Church Ringers

Friday, December 15

9:30am Sisters in Spirit
6:00pm Advent Festival/
Handbell Concert

Saturday, December 16

8:00am Coptic Church
8:30am Earth Keepers
10:00am Dining Room Ministry (Salzer)

Sunday, December 17 Third Sunday of Advent

8:30am Worship—Chapel
9:30am Adult Faith Development

9:30am Youth Church School
9:30am Children's Education Plus
9:30am Junior Choir Rehearsal
10:45am Worship—Sanctuary
11:00am Church School
12:00pm Christmas Basket Delivery
12:00pm Carol Choir Costuming
4:30pm Covenant Ringers/Jr. High Bells
5:00pm Nativity Rehearsal—Youth
5:15pm Covenant Singers
6:00pm Youth Dinner/Fellowship

Monday, December 18

9:30am Food Cupboard
5:00pm Shawl Knitting Ministry
6:00pm Adult Faith Development
7:30pm GLBT Support Group
7:30pm Presbyterian Men

Tuesday, December 19

7:00pm Deacons

Wednesday, December 20

9:15am Morning Prayer
9:45am Staff Meeting
5:00pm Children's Bell Choir
6:00pm Nativity Rehearsal
5:30pm Junior Choir Rehearsal
5:30pm Property Committee
6:00pm Church Buddies
7:15pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 21

9:30am Food Cupboard
12:00pm Adult Faith Development
7:00pm Children's Ministry

Saturday, December 23

8:00am Coptic Church
10:00am Dining Room Ministry

Sunday, December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:45am Worship—Sanctuary
11:00am Large Group Church School
4:30pm Nativity Service
8:00pm Worship—Chapel
11:00pm Worship—Sanctuary

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

9:15am Morning Prayer
9:45am Staff Meeting

Thursday, December 28

9:30am Food Cupboard

Saturday, December 29

8:00am Coptic Church
10:00am Dining Room Ministry (Theuer)

Sunday, December 31

10:45am Worship—Sanctuary
11:00am Large Group Church School