

# Peckville and Bradley Memorial United Methodist Charge

## Christmas 2010 News Letter

### From The Pastors' Pen

Greetings in the name of **Christ**,

Come celebrate the coming of Christ with your church family! Join us as we await once more the coming of the Christ Child. Advent is the season of preparation for remembering Christ's incarnation at Christmas. It is a time to slow down and reflect in this busy season as we prepare for Christ to come in our hearts and in our world.

The Advent Season, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, is perhaps the busiest, most hectic times of the year. In the breathless rush to make the most of the season, it is easy to forget that this sacred season is less about "holiday cheer" and more about a "holy child." Advent is our opportunity—a gift from God in itself—to receive the gift of Jesus. Here, in descending order, are the Top 10 things not to do during Advent.

- 10. Do not forget your rituals:** Be careful not to treat Advent as just another busy time of the year. When we enter the Advent season, life is supposed to be different.
- 9. Do not add to the frenzy:** If you are a parent, try not to add to the craziness of this season by being frantic yourself about last minute shopping, entertaining or decorating.
- 8. Do not forget your Bibles:** What Bible passages point to Advent themes of preparation, promise, hope, expectancy, God's enduring faithfulness, the time when God's kingdom will be fulfilled? Advent is an excellent time of the year to familiarize you again with the Bible's stories that lead up to the birth of Jesus.
- 7. Do not try to be perfect for the Holidays:** Believe it or not, it's not the end of the world if the Christmas tree has a bare sport on one side, if a bulb in one of the window candles is burnt out, or if you cannot find just the perfect gift for that special someone. The holiday season can be

stressful enough without allowing the drive for perfection to overwhelm you.

**6. Do not over do your schedule:** Learn to say "no" to some of the demands or events that may beg for your presence. Know your limits.

**5. Do not overdo gifts:** I recently heard of a study that indicates children on average receive 60% more for Christmas than they expect. Remember, the focus is Jesus, God's supreme gift to us, not our gifts to others.

**4. Do not go into additional debt:** This is easier said than done. However, it is important to remember that the gift-giving of Christmas is supposed to come from our gratitude to God for his gift-giving of Jesus. Rather than large expensive gifts, consider giving smaller, more thoughtful items.

**3. Do not expect the culture to follow your lead:** Christmas is not about Martha Stewart—quality centerpiece, the gourmet Christmas feast, or getting the "hot toy of the year." Our Spiritual health depends on our resisting the cultural message that we need to get out and "shop till we drop." Jesus came into the world for a different reason.

**2. Do not forget the less fortunate:** Remember that the real Christmas story is not set in a warm and cozy house. What more loving witness could you offer than to seek out some holiday opportunity to identify with the poor as God does?

**1. Do not wait until Christmas Eve to come to Church:** Avoid the holiday rush and join us for worship in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Worship in the church is absolutely beautiful this time of the year, with beautiful and powerful Advent hymns. Join us for Advent worship and allow it to bring you back to a sense of expectancy and alertness for the coming of God into our world, into your very life.

My prayer for you and your family is to have a Blessed Christmas,  
Pastor Sharon and Fred

## ***Christmas is Giving***

***Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel. – ISAIAH 7:14***

***She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. – Matthew 1:21***

### ***Advent***

***Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24). If Christmas Eve is a Sunday, it is counted as the fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas Eve proper beginning at sundown. Originally, the Advent season was a time of strict fasting, observed in anticipation of the festival marking the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Christ, just as we prepare our homes for Christmas.***

### ***Christmas Food Donations***

We are at present collecting non-perishable food items for the area food basket program. Please bring non-perishable food items to any of our church programming or worship during the month of December

Please do your part to help those less fortunate than us.

## **Bradley Memorial United Methodist Women**

Holiday Greetings from the Bradley Memorial United Methodist Women. We look forward to the upcoming Advent season, starting off with the trimming of the Crismon tree, (and our little ones joining in), lighting the Advent candles, enjoying the beautiful music George and June always provide us with, rejoicing in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and spending time with our church family in worship and prayer. Since the last issue of the newsletter, we have been very busy little Elves, making Welsh Cookies, having a 31 Purse book party, selling Candles, and are now in the process of making a Mom's and two year old daughter's, Christmas morning very special. We decided to sponsor a family from the Women's Resource Center, and look forward to shopping for Princess items, books, and items that will make their lives a little easier at this wonderful time of the year. Isn't that what Jesus would want us to do? Have you thought about doing the same? I feel so Blessed to have so many wonderful women in our organization to help whenever they are called upon to do so. We ask that you try to stop, reflect, and remember, EACH of your hurried days this Advent season, the true meaning of Christmas. We wish you a Blessed Advent season, and a very Healthy, Happy, and Prosperous New Year. May God's blessings continue to shine upon each and everyone. Nancy McLain, President, and all of the UMW women.

## **United Methodist Youth Fellowship**

The Peckville UMYF has been had at work making Advent banners for the sanctuary, their gift to the church this Christmas season. The first one will debut on Sunday November 28!!

Other news is they will be having a bake sale, on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> following church. It will coincide with our December food and fellowship so stay for some great soup and support our young people all at the same time.

If you would like to help out by doing some baking for them it would be greatly appreciated.

### **A Word from Peckville's Finance Chairman**

Dear Friends,

Once again we are approaching the Christmas Season. People will be busy shopping for gifts for family and friends. It is a delightful time of the year for us to remember the many blessings we receive throughout the year. Charities and churches provide food and gifts to people in need. With that in mind, let us remember our gifts and service to our church. There are several funds in our church that may be used to remember our loved ones "in honor or in memory of". Also, Christmas poinsettias will be placed around the altar in remembrance. But most of all let us be mindful of the gift that God gave to us with the birth of His Son Jesus Christ.

### **Christmas is Music**

**Suddenly a Great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests." – Luke 2:13-14**

## **Christmas Memorials and Honoriums**

Christmas gifts in memory of or in honor of may be given to the following funds.

Memorial Fund – Bill Llewellyn

Organ & Renovation – George Kinback Jr.

Warring – Fendick Scholarship fund – George Kinback Jr.

Music Fund – Bonny Taylor

Sky Lake – Tom Taylor

To insure that your memorial or honorium is listed in the Christmas booklet, please have them in to the designated funds by Sunday, December 12. This is a big help to the charge secretary and she thanks you for your cooperation.

### **Living Nativity**

Peckville will be presenting a living nativity on Sunday, December 19 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. We need a commitment of at least 20 people who are willing to stand . Right now 6 people have come forward to help. If you would like to make a donation or help in any way please let Beth, Bonny or Pastor Sharon know. We are in need of people of all ages to stand in the nativity; help in the kitchen to provide refreshments, also needed are the refreshments themselves. Thank You in advance for all your help.

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*The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that He might offer up His life as a sacrifice for the sins of man. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas.*  
**Billy Graham**  
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and I appreciate the years that I have been able to do this.

Bonny Taylor

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**Christmas Eve Services**

Christmas Eve services this year will be at Bradley Memorial church at 7:00p.m. and Peckville at 9:00p.m.

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**Peckville Christmas Cantata**

The Peckville United Methodist Choir will present the cantata "Carols and Classics", created by Tom Fettke, on Sunday, December 12 at 11:00am. All are welcome.

**Peckville December Food and Fellowship**

Our December food and fellowship will be held following worship on December 19. It is soup day! If you have a favorite soup you make please bring it along!!

**Peckville Church Envelopes**

It's time to prepare church envelopes for 2011. Several have told me they do not want envelopes because they use checks instead of cash. If you are one of those who prefer not to use envelopes, would you please let me know as soon as possible. You may call and leave a message 489-6093. Envelopes have become expensive and I do not want to order them if they are not used. Thank You.

Bonny Taylor  
Financial Sec'y PUMC

**THANKS!**

I want to thank our church and the charge for the opportunity of serving as Lay Member to Annual Conference since 1960. I have made many new friends along the way throughout the conference

***Practical Strategies for a Peaceful Christmas***

***What is your heart's desire for Advent? Whatever it is, does it depend on you doing each and every thing on your to-do list? This year, evaluate your list realistically. Highlight the things you truly love doing. Circle the ones that exhaust you the most. If some of your highlighted items are also circled, then they're probably worth your effort. But are all of the items you circled really necessary? What would happen if you simply didn't do them? Would Christmas grind to a halt this year?***

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**Sky Lake Winter Retreat**

Jan 28-30,2011

Ages 3 - 11 \$42.00

Ages 12 and up \$84.00

being a part of God's wonderful creation  
seeing His outdoor sanctuary  
singing together in worship  
and listening to the sounds around you  
enjoy a warm fire place in a beautiful lodge  
playing games, singing and dancing with  
the young and the young at heart

cooking hot dogs and smores on an open fire

being served and taking turns serving meals

3 delicious, well balanced meals (and not having to fix them)

ice skating, sleigh riding, walks around the lake or just sitting in

the

warm lodge and watching this all happen.

Come and be a part of this GREAT time  
This is open to ALL ages  
Every year we get at least one or two new  
people.  
Maybe this year it will be YOU!

You will never regret it.  
For more information call Ron or Karen at  
383-1611 or Tom or Beth at 383-2119.

Hope to see you there.  
Love in Christ  
Ron

**Christmas is Hope and Love  
For to us a child is born, to us a son is  
given, and the government will be on  
His shoulders. And He will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting father, Prince of Peace. Of  
the increase of His government and  
peace there will be no end. He will reign  
on David's throne and over His  
kingdom, establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness from  
that time on and forever. The zeal of the  
Lord Almighty will accomplish this. –  
ISAIAH 9:6-7**

**Mission statement of the Peckville/  
Bradley Memorial Charge**

**To glorify God by sharing  
The gospel of Jesus Christ,  
Nurturing disciples,  
And reaching out to a world in need.**

## **Calendar of Events**

December – Food basket collection  
begins  
12/12 – Christmas cantata at  
Peckville 11:00 am worship service  
12/19– UMYF gift wrapping and  
bake sale – 12:00 TO  
2:00.(Peckville)  
12/19- food and fellowship following  
worship. SOUP DAY(Peckville)  
12/19 – Living nativity 6:00pm –  
8:00pm with enough help(Peckville)  
12/24 – Christmas Eve Services;  
Bradley Memorial at 7:00p.m.  
Peckville at 9:00p.m.  
1 /2 - cookie orders in (Peckville)  
1/6 – Peckville Ad Board @8:00pm  
1/10 – Cookies made at Peckville  
1/16 – food and fellowship(Peckville)  
1/29 – Take out only Roast Beef  
Dinner (Peckville)  
2/6 – Cookie orders in (Peckville)  
2/14 – Cookies made (Peckville)  
3/3 – Peckville AD Board @8:00pm  
3/6 – cookie orders in (Peckville)  
3/9 – Ash Wednesday  
3/14 – Cookies made (Peckville)  
**Everyone from both Peckville and  
Bradley Memorial are welcome  
and encouraged to attend any or  
all events that interest them.  
Come and bring a friend!**

***“Freely you have received, freely give.”  
Matthew 10:8***

**The charge Secretary (Beth Taylor) can  
be reached at 383-2119,  
[edt1157@yahoo.com](mailto:edt1157@yahoo.com)**

### ***A Child's Perception***

***"You know what the Baby Jesus is?"  
my six year old asked me this  
Christmas.***

***"What?" I asked absently, struggling to  
get our Christmas tree lights evenly  
distributed.***

***"The Baby Jesus," she announced, "is  
what God's love looked like when He  
turned it into a person."***

***I don't know if theologians would agree  
with all the ramifications of her  
statement. But I do know that my  
children often seem to have instinctive  
insight into spiritual things that wakes  
up my grown-up understanding.***

***At Christmastime, children play an  
essential part in our celebrations. So  
much of what we do is intended to  
please them – and all the while our  
hearts keep hearkening back to the  
Christmas memories of our own  
childhoods. On Christmas Eve,  
sometimes we can't help but envy our  
children the stars in their eyes,  
especially when our own eyes are dull  
with exhaustion.***

***Christmas is so much simpler for a  
child. Can we open our tired adult  
hearts to that same simplicity?***

### **Community of Prayer**

**As of the first of the year we will be refreshing both our community of prayer in the bulletin and our phone prayer list. Please inform any member of the phone prayer group or Pastor Sharon of those needing to be kept on. Thank You.**

### **E-Mail Addresses**

**As we continue to be good Stewards of all that God has given us, we are still trying to compile e-mail addresses to send out as many newsletters as possible. If I don't have yours please send it to me at [edt1157@yahoo.com](mailto:edt1157@yahoo.com) and please put church e-mail in the subject matter. Please remember that your e-mail will be used only for church mailings and we will blind copy the mailing so your e-mail address is safe. Thank You for your help and stewardship.**

**Beth**

**Your Advent Gift to Your Church**

**As we strive to be good stewards of what God has given us and try to cut back on some expenses within the church, we have not sent out Advent Envelopes this year. Please remember your advent gift to your church, you may place your gift in an envelope marked Advent Gift with your name on it. Thank You for Your Help.**

**My advent gift to my church  
Peckville \_\_\_\_\_  
Bradley Memorial \_\_\_\_\_  
Advent gift for 2010 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Peckville address:  
723 Main St. Peckville Pa.  
18452**

**Bradley Memorial address:  
106 Lincoln St., Dickson City,  
Pa. 18519.**

**Christmas is Joy & Peace  
And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the Glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." – Luke 2:8-11**

**Christmas is Faith  
The word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. – John 1:14**

**A Christmas Blessing  
God grant you the light in Christmas,  
which is faith;  
The warmth of Christmas,  
which is love;  
The radiance of Christmas,  
which is purity;  
The righteousness of Christmas,  
which is justice;  
The belief in Christmas,  
Which is truth;  
The all of Christmas,  
Which is Christ.**

**- Wilda English**

