

**Peckville and Bradley Memorial United Methodist Charge  
Christmas 2012 News Letter**

**From The Pastors' Pen**

A Christmas Thought... Rev. Michael  
Shambora

**Advent Season**

I spotted a little fable how a wealthy sheik and his wife were touring Europe when they decided to send some gifts to three friends at home.

Sauntering into an art gallery the picked out a Van Gogh, a Rembrandt, and a Picasso. The price for the three was in the multiplied millions.

It was at this point the sheik suggested, **“Now that we’ve got the cards, let’s get the presents.”**

You’ve doubtless heard and will hear again – “Let’s keep the Christ in Christmas.” It’s true.

So, Pushing aside the cards, presents, glitter and bright lights of the holidays, as usual, I will **try** my best to keep Christ central. How can I do less?

For whatever conception of Jesus may be, we ought, like the Wise Men, to approach Christ with a sense of reverence.

With the slenderest means at his disposal, within the briefest span of time, without formal education of any sort, and in possession of no university credentials, and with absolutely no financial backing – **HE CHANGED THE COURSE OF HUMAN HISTORY.** He did this in three generic ways:

- (1) He elevated our understanding of God.
- (2) He electrified common words like faith, hope, love.
- (3) He elected to follow Gods will in spite of peril.

In fact, these E-words (think of it) seem to have underpinned **all** His redemptive ministry, from the wondering at Bethlehem, to the wedding at Cana in Galilee, to the weeping at calvary, as well as the watching as He ascended to God.

Though I wish I could give each of you a Rembrandt or a Picasso for your love and support over the past year, all I can come up with is a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. I hope that’s sufficient.

Sincerely, Rev. Michael Shambora

***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.

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

Dear Friends,

By now everyone is back home after spending black Thursday and Friday camped out in front of their favorite Discount store. I still prefer to help prepare and enjoy a great Thanksgiving meal instead. With all that said, everyone is decorating their homes for Christmas. Our church is adorned with a Christmas tree, wreaths, garland and other seasonal trim. Advent season has begun and will culminate on Christmas day as we celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus. We will have a living nativity to celebrate His birth.

We will also have a special bulletin for poinsettias or memorial gifts in honor or in memory of loved ones. Please include a gift to our church on your shopping list. There are so many people hurting do to natural disasters or loss of jobs. Christmas is truly a time of giving.

God bless and Merry Christmas,  
Bob Elvidge, Peckville Finance chairperson.

### **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 – 489-6106

Organ & Renovation – Sue Lucas – 489-8042 or Sue Snyder – 383-2052

Warring – Fendick Scholarship fund – Sue Lucas – 489-8042 or Sue Snyder – 383-2052

Music Fund – Bonny Taylor – 480-6093

Hurricane sandy UMCOR relief – Paul Lucas – 489-8042

To insure that your memorial or honorium is listed in the Christmas booklet, please have them in to the designated funds by Tuesday, December 18. This is a big help to the charge secretary and she thanks you for your cooperation.

### **Christmas Caroling**

We will be Christmas caroling at the Long term center Saturday evening December 15, we will meet at the Peckville UMC at 6:00. Please join us!!!

### **Living Nativity**

Peckville will be presenting a living nativity on Sunday, December 16 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 (383-2119), Bonny(489-6093) or Fran(489-0301) 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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### **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 on Sunday, December 23 at 11:00am. All are welcome.

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### **Peckville December Food and Fellowship**

Our December food and fellowship will be held following worship on December 18. It is Chili day! If you have a favorite chili you make please bring it along!! If not come and chill out with the great food and greater fellowship!!

### **PECKVILLE SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Peckville's Sunday school Has been meeting twice a month. They are meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month(communion

Sunday) and the third Sunday ( Food and Fellowship Sunday)

### **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**

February 1-3,2013

Ages 3 - 11 \$49.00

Ages 12 and up \$96.00

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 delicious, well balanced meals (and

not having to fix them)

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 Lucas at 383-1611 or Tom Taylor at 383-2119.

### My Ramblings

I just finished reading a short article “Why don’t people come to church?” (Thanks Rees). It went on to talk about all the reasons that “Church People” believe new folks do not come to church. It listed all the same old reasons we hear over and over again, no children programming, something to draw in the youth, we don’t have a nursery, not the right style worship service, this list could go on and on.

What does keep people away from church is not any of the reasons listed above, the article said - it is the people. Yes you heard that right, it is the people within our churches! The truth is that very often it is you and I that keep people from attending church. We do not welcome or even smile for that matter at the new faces on Sunday morning. Sometimes we believe that all we need to do is fulfill our obligation on Sunday and then we can live the rest of our lives each week out in the secular world as we please, and sometimes this is not a pretty picture. Sometimes the way we live, and if folks know we are regular church goers that is enough to keep them from church.

One of my many favorite verses comes from 1 Peter 2:9 and 10 ( although I do have many)

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The message say it like this: <sup>9-10</sup> But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

The article I read went on to say if we are part of the problem, we can also be a part of the solution. We need to be living out our faith each and every day, at work, at home, in the grocery store for that matter. The way we treat people in our daily living has a lot to say about who we truly are and what we truly believe. I believe that we need to be a welcoming church, a welcoming people not only within our church buildings but in every aspect of our lives, It is then and only then that we can be true witnesses to what it means to be followers of that child in the manger, who did come to save ALL people from our sins.

I pray for a blessed Christmas and a Happy New year for each and everyone of you and that each of us can live out our calling as a chosen people!!

Peace and Love, Beth

**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  
12/23 – Christmas cantata at Peckville 11:00 am worship service  
12/16- food and fellowship following worship. (Peckville)  
12/16 – 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.  
1/3 – Peckville Ad Board @8:00pm  
2/1-3 – Sky lake winter retreat

**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)

Rev. Shambora can be reached at 371-8123.

***A Childs 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:**

**732 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

