

Third Word News & Notes

JANUARY 2012



Pastor's Message

January has been regarded as the month of new beginnings since the time of the Romans. The first month of the year gets its name from Janus, the ancient god of doorways who was the patron of the beginning of new undertakings. Good endings to those undertakings was the task of other gods. Jesus taught that God is our loving Father who watches over our beginnings and remains faithful to us to the very end. He is the Alpha and Omega, the First and Last, the Beginning and the End. Scripture says, "He who began a good work in us will also bring it to completion." As we begin a new year and face whatever new challenges and opportunities it may bring with it, we can do so with the confidence that God is always with us in the person of Jesus who is our Emmanuel. My prayer is that 2012 will be a productive and blessed year for one and all.

Pastor Norm

The Little Star of Bethlehem Pageant

The pageant was a success again this year. Thanks to the students who participated: Joshua Sullo, Matthew Tomer, Delaney Mendoza, Joshua Kennedy, Kaitlyn Tomer, Samantha Ehlers, Emily LaValley, Hannah Blakeslee, Marina Fletcher, Lauren Turner, Masala Maya Solinis and Collin Kennedy. Special thanks to Elaine Sorvillo, Ellie Hojda and Erin Hassmann who helped direct the pageant and costume all of the players. We hope to be a success again next year.



Missions

Our Missions group worked hard once again to send clothes, food and toiletries to those at St. Vincent DePaul and the Eddy Shelter. The group also sponsored several families at New Horizons, a women's shelter. The BCE group sponsored a family for the holiday that had lost everything during hurricane Irene. Thanks to the many wonderful people who spent time during the holiday to shop and wrap gifts to make a brighter holiday for others.

Christmas Eve Services

We had two services on Christmas Eve. The Family service at 5:00PM was led by Kim Kennedy. The service incorporates children into the service by giving them jingle bells to use for all songs. The service ended with the congregation singing the 12 Days Of Christmas with two helpers showing the words on cards. We had a wonderful song of "Who Would Send a Baby" sung by Bonnie Jean Connal.



The Candlelight service was well attended this year. It is a lovely service of carols and readings by several of our deacons. The readers were: John Starrett, Barbara Erlendson, Cookie Stojak, Betty Shaw, Jennifer Shaw, Larry Cummings and Gail Wright. Janet Manthay performed "O Holy Night" and John & Nicole Starrett performed "What Child Is This?". It was a wonderful service on a wonderful eve.



Confirmation Classes Continue In The New Year

Our 8th and 9th graders will continue their Confirmation training on January 8th and 29th with Pastor Norm. They will be discussing the life and Gospel of Paul and then the life and Gospel of Martin Luther.

Boy Scouts Of America and PFS Ham Dinner

The next dinner at Third Church is a Ham Dinner to benefit the Boy Scouts. The date is January 14th from 5:00 to 7:00PM. It will be delicious dinner served by Boy Scouts of all ages.



238th Annual Meeting Of Third Church

The annual meeting is scheduled for February 5th at 11:30AM. All of the congregation has been invited to attend and lend their voices and ideas to the meeting. The president, Russ Hassmann, will oversee the meeting. Many committees have and will have submitted their reports for review. The largest item on the agenda is the budget for the coming year. Sharon Maloney, will give a report on the status of the pledges to date. The Christian Commitment Committee has been working hard to obtain 100% of members to pledge to meet our budget this year of \$140,000. A follow up report will be given in the next installment of the newsletter.