



The Millburn Church

MESSENGER



January 2012

Contents

- 1 From the Pastor
- 2 Church Office Hours
- 2 Millburn Church
- 2 Messenger Deadline
- 2 Circle of Prayer
- 3 Christian Education News
- 4 January Calendar
- 5 January Birthdays
- 5 Coffee Hour Hosts
- 5 Giving Envelopes
- 5 Annual Reports Past Due
- 6 Annual Meeting
- 6 Chili Cook-Off
- 6 January 1st Worship Service
- 6 2012 Flower Chart
- 6 These Days
- 6 Building & Grounds
- 6 Cookie Walk Recap
- 6 Super Bowl Sub Sale
- 7 2012 Adult Mission Trip
- 7 Stewardship Message
- 8 Nov & Dec Board Notes
- 9 Chili Cook-off Flyer
- 10 Kids Page

From the Pastor's Desk

On Epiphany (which we celebrate on January 8) we remember the light the Magi followed and the Light of the World that John's Gospel describes. One metaphor for this light is the light produced by a lighthouse, like the one I remember as a child – the Wind Point Light House in Racine, Wisconsin.

It's not a perfect metaphor, but there are parallels.

After all, more than once the Light of the World has guided me back home, after having been away for a while (in more ways than one). More than once it has guided me back to safety, and here I mean 'safety' in a spiritual sense. More than once it has cut through the fog and haze and chaos of my confusion, my waywardness, my aimlessness, and re-set my course. Plenty of times I've drawn perilously close to shoreline rocks and jetties and piers and other dangers, but now I find myself where I probably should be and where I was probably always meant to be.

Since I've come to know the light celebrate at Epiphany, and appreciate it, and know it in a personal and intimate way, it can never be, for me, just any old light shining in the darkness.

Instead, it's a beacon, in the truest sense of the term. It's a guiding light.

Happy Epiphany everyone!

Love and Peace,

Pastor Jed



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Jed Watson

Monday – Thursday- 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Wednesday - Pastor’s study day
 Friday - Day Off

Margo Paramski, Director of Christian Education

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Shirley Haley, Church Secretary

Monday, Tuesday, Friday – 9 a.m. – 2 pm.

MESSENGER DEADLINE

The deadline for article submission is the **2nd Sunday of each month**. Next deadline is **Sunday, January 8th**. You may email your articles, comments, kudos, and other correspondence to Kris Franks, Messenger Editor (psychokittie53@hotmail.com) or to the Church Secretary. You can also drop off your submissions to the church office.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

- Meryl Perlstrom** – recovering from shoulder surgery
- Stacy Messner’s brother** – struggling with ALS
- Melanie Dillon’s Aunt Thelma**
- Norma Welch**- undergoing rehab at Rolling Hills Manor
- Jan Cappon**- undergoing therapy at Brentwood, Riverwoods
- Zelda Morgan**- in hospital
- Joan Schroeder’s nephew, Brian**- has lymphoma
- Danel Franks**- struggling with life’s issues
- Deb Grandos**- recovering from surgery
- Adam Hughes**- recovering from appendicitis
- Bob Tschannen**- mourning death of Uncle Louie
- Brian**- facing a life-threatening illness
- Tom Kuster**- undergoing a back procedure
- Dawn Revenaugh’s friend Carol**- mourning death of husband
- Storaasli’s friend Javan Gavin**- diagnosed with lung cancer
- Storaasli’s friend Carolyn Trymbiski**- undergoing rehab after car accident

If you wish to have someone added or removed from the prayer list, contact Shirley Haley at the church office or speak to Pastor Jed. **PLEASE NOTE:** A new Circle of Prayer list will begin the 1st Sunday of each month.

MILLBURN CHURCH

19073 W. Grass Lake Road, Lake Villa, IL 60046

Phone: 847-356-5237 Fax: 847-356-5669

www.millburnchurch.org

Rev. Jed Watson Pastor

pastor@millburnchurch.org

Margo ParamskiDirector of Christian Education

director@millburnchurch.org

Shirley Haley Church Secretary

secretary@millburnchurch.org

Worship

8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

=====

Millburn Church Early Learning Center

Julie Zehner.....Preschool Director

preschool@millburnchurch.org

Christian Education News

Margo Paramski, CE Director

Another Christmas Program has passed with children practicing, singing and performing for family and friends! *"Twas the Night Before"* told the Christmas story with all the children participating. I would like to thank Stacy Messner and Melanie Dillon for all their help with the program before and during the performance. I would also like to thank the teachers for their hard work and dedication in making this year's program a success. Without them, none of this would happen. And I could not forget the children whose enthusiasm was a delight to see during the rehearsal and performance. And last but not least, all the behind the scene workers that helped pull it all together from the C.E. Committee (and their families) who have proven to be great stage hands, costume helper Karen Benson, sound guy Mikkel Storaasli and the music directors, Becky Fuller, Kris Franks, Deb Grandos, and Ruth Young. Thanks to all that helped with this year's program!

There will be **no Sunday School on January 1st** but Worship Folders with coloring and activity sheets will be available for the children.

After Sunday School (ending at 11:00) on **January 8th**, we will be showing a movie in the 3rd/4th Grade classroom to the children so parents can attend the Annual Meeting in the sanctuary. There will be no Coffee Hour this Sunday.

Starting **January 15th**, and continuing through January 29, we will again be offering the Rotation Model for our Sunday School children in 1st through 6th Grade. All other children and youth will be in their regular classrooms during Rotation. This year's topic will be Appearances of the Holy Spirit. A schedule will be sent home with the children when they return to Sunday School on January 8th.

Save your change for another Noisy Offering! The Jr. and Sr. High will be pulling the wagon around on January 29th for a Noisy Offering. National Youth Event is coming up in July and we are sending 26 youth to this 5 day event with other UCC youth from around the country. All change collected will go to them going to NYE. So save your change and let's make some noise!

Youth












Our Youth Worship, Club, will begin again in January. On January 15th, we will be hosting a Coffee Hour and Baked Sale to benefit NYE (originally planned for 1/22). After Coffee Hour, we will be heading to the Ende's for Game Day to start off the new year. On January 22nd, we will have our first youth service of 2012 or as we call it **Club**.

Thanks to the Endes for hosting our Christmas Caroling party on Dec. 10th. Pizza, hot chocolate, some "great" singing and fun was had by all! A special "Thanks" goes to Jill Callahan, Wayne Nowak and Karen Ende for taking our youth to Chicago on Dec. 11th for shopping, sightseeing and supper. They all had a great time!

It's that time of year again, Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Sales!! The Senior High takes orders for many kinds of sandwiches. Pickup will be on Sunday, February 5th in time for your Super Bowl Party. Look for the sign-up table in Lauren Hall starting January 8th!

Thanks to the Senior High and their leaders, Russ Slade and Cyndi Medina, Tom Ellis (best grilled cheese maker ever!) and the Christian Education Committee for all their help setting up, running, and cleaning up for the Advent Faire.

January 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 Only 1 Worship Serv</p> <p>10 Worship & Holy Communion</p> <p>No Sunday School or Nursery Care</p>	<p>2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>3</p> <p>7pm Boy Scout Troop Mtg</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:15pm Adult Hndblls 7:15pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p>8 Messenger deadline</p> <p>Superbowl Sub Sale 8:30 Worship 9:15 House Band 9:15 Bible Study 10 Worship & Sun Schl 11 ANNUAL MEETING 12 Church Cncl Mtg</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 Cub Sct Den 1 6:30 Cub Sct Den 3 7:00 Church Council</p> <p>Meals-On- Wheels</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7pm Cub Scout Committee Mtg 7pm Boy Scout Troop Mtg</p> <p>Week for Millburn</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:15 Confirm Class 6:15pm Adult Hndblls 7:15pm Adult Choir 8pm House Band</p> <p>Cong. United</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7pm Knit Nite</p> <p>Church of Christ</p>	<p>13</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Jan 9th -13th</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30 Worship 9:15 Adult Choir 9:15 Bible Study 10 Worship & Sun Schl 11 Coffee Hour 11 Youth Bake Sale 11:15 Youth Hndchims 12 Youth game day at Ende's home</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7pm CE Comm Mtg</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:15 Messenger Collating 1pm Town & Cntry Homemakers Mtg 7pm Boy Scout Troop Mtg</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:15 Confirm Class 6:15pm Adult Hndblls 7:15pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30Compassionate Friends</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30 Worship</p> <p>9:15 House Band 9:15 Bible Study 10 Worship & Sun Schl 10 Installation of Officers 11 Coffee Hour 11:15 Youth Hndchims</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6pm Cub Scout Pack Mtg</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7pm MYLO 7pm Boy Scout Troop Mtg</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:15 Confirm Class 6:15pm Adult Hndblls 7:15pm Adult Choir 8pm House Band</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6pm Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Weigh-in</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6pm Set up for Cub Scout Pinewood Derby</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9am - 4pm Cub Scout Pinewood Derby</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:00 Blood Drive</p> <p>8:30 Worship 9:15 Adult Handbells 9:15 Bible Study 10 Worship & Sun Schl 11 CHILI COOKOFF</p>	<p>30</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>31</p> <p>7pm Patrol Leaders Council 7pm Boy Scout Committee Mtg 8pm Boy Scout Venture Crew</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>	



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Harry Stewart
Mia Beth Kuntz
Mike Pocius
- 6 Adam Ellis
- 7 Paige Force
- 8 Matt Ellis
Drew Ellis
- 9 Carol Denman
- 14 Anne Tussing
Ronan Zarinebaf
- 15 Linda Cloonan
- 16 Cindy Batz
- 18 Laura Horner
Adam Denman
- 19 Dan Tate
- 20 Dan Haley
- 21 James Grolmes
Megan Deacetis
- 24 Kristie Hughes
- 26 Kyle Williams
- 27 Dean Doner
Kristi Cardinell
- 28 Mason Durst
Aurelia Medina
- 29 Matt Dillon
- 30 Alan Thain
Linnea Nelson
Bill Holst



Coffee Hour Hosts

Special thanks to all the Coffee Hour Hosts who served and/or provided refreshments during the month of December. Hosts are needed every Sunday. Signup sheet is located on the Lauren Hall bulletin board.

Dec 4th – Members of MYLO

Dec 11th – Members of the Church Board

Dec 18th – Children of the Sunday School

Dec 25th – Cookie Sharing (everyone bring cookies)



Message from Financial Secy

Changes were not made to remove electronic givers from receiving the 1st quarter envelopes in the mail. You will not receive envelopes after that if you asked to have them stopped.

For those members that get envelopes, boxes of envelopes will be distributed by February at the church. It is no longer cost effective to mail out envelopes quarterly as many members have changed to electronic giving. Please see Margie Petroff if you have any questions.



Annual Reports Past Due

There are still some annual reports that have not been turned in to the church office. Please keep in mind that it is the responsibility of each committee and organization chair to submit their report. As a time saver for Shirley, it would be greatly appreciate if you could email your reports to secretary@millburnchurch.org.



Annual Meeting

The 170th Annual Meeting of Millburn Congregational United Church of Christ is called for on **Sunday, January 8, 2012** immediately following the 10 a.m. Worship Service, to elect officers and to act on other business to come before the congregation. Nursery care will be provided and a movie will be shown for all other children in the 3rd/4th grade classroom. This will allow parents to participate in the meeting.



Annual Chili Cook-Off

On **Sunday, January 29th** at 11 a.m. Chili Chefs from Millburn Church will participate in our Annual Chili Cook-off. Everyone will be invited to partake of these culinary offerings and will vote for their favorite chili. The winning chef will be crowned by last year's winners and take home the coveted trophy. If you are interested in being a chili chef please use the sign-up in Lauren Hall or call Mary Lester, 847-336-3925.



Miscellaneous Announcements

January 1, 2012 Worship Service – there will be only 1 service with Holy Communion on New Year's Day at 10 a.m. There will be no church school or nursery care.

2012 Flower Chart- The 2012 flower chart is now posted on the bulletin board in Lauren Hall. Please consider signing up to provide a floral bouquet to brighten the sanctuary.

"These Days"- "These Days" books for January, February and March are now available.

Building & Grounds Repair Requests- Help make sure our church is safe. When you see a problem that needs fixing inside or outside the church building, please write it down on the Building & Grounds Repair Form posted on the bulletin board in Lauren Hall. Please include your name and date. Our Building & Grounds crew will take care of it.



Cookie Walk Recap

Our 5th Annual Cookie Walk was a huge success thanks to the 37 talented bakers. A total of \$1,857.00 was made. We also donated cookies for the PADS dinner and had some left for the coffee hour on Dec. 11th.

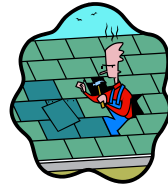
Thanks to our cookie helpers: Barb & Pat Coon, Kris Franks, Holly & Tom Ellis, Nanette Thorson, Karen Benson, Sue Watson, Mary Lester, Lynette Bratzke, Maureen Slade, Ruth Young and Donna Geary. We also want to mention the donor of our sign and its updates – Gary Doolittle. Cookie containers and gloves: Jack and Donna Geary.

See you next year!! Donna and Holly

Super Bowl Sub Sale

The Senior High will have a Super Bowl sub sale again this year. A variety of subs will be available. Sign up will start on January 8th. Pickup date is February 5th.





2012 Adult Mission Trip

In the first week of March, we will be once again joining with Ivanhoe UCC and the United Protestant Church of Grayslake on an adult mission trip. Our destination is Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi.

This year was my first mission trip (to Cedar Rapids, IA) in May. I have to tell you that here in December, more than 7 months later, the memories and emotions of that experience have not faded. Besides better knowing members from our church, I've also become friends with people from the other churches. It's funny, I went to enrich someone else's life, and maybe I did, but in return, my life has been enriched.

So, I provoke you to join us in March. You don't have to know how to do construction; there are many ways that you can give of yourself. A signup sheet is located on the bulletin board in Lauren Hall. It will take 2 days to get there, 5 days there, and 2 days to return home.

Just sign up with a willing heart to know that whatever you do, you can change lives....maybe your own.

Nanette Thorson

Stewardship Message

Too Good To Be True Giving

"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn will break upon us."

Luke 1:78

These words come from the amazing poem known as the Benedictus, the blessing of Zechariah on his surprising gift-son, John (the Baptist). Zechariah is one of those minor characters in the birth narratives of Jesus, often lost in the shuffle of shepherds and magi that populate our Christmas pageants. Yet Zechariah gives us a great gift for Advent: the gift of the skeptic. When an angel told Zechariah that his middle-aged wife Elizabeth would have a baby, he didn't believe it. All his life this man had been faithfully serving God; clearly he was a sincere believer. He held onto his faith through the years of their infertility and who knows how many other problems in their lives. But when an angel promises something "too good to be true," the skeptic in Zechariah comes out and he rejects the God he has relied on when things have been truly bad.

This Christmas let us be about giving to the world in ways that are too good to be true. Let the skeptics see that love is more powerful than anyone expects it to be. Let us, in the image of God, give of ourselves in life-transforming ways beyond presents under the tree, just like Zechariah and Elizabeth and John. Nothing about God is ever too good to be true!

Merry Christmas!

Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.

December 2011 God is still speaking,

This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

November Church Board Mtg Notes

The Church Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday evening, November 14th. Since 3 members were absent, the major budgetary talks were put off until our next meeting, December 5th. We thanked Gary Garland for his work on the Stewardship letter that was sent out to all members and friends of Millburn Church. Although it is too early to access the results of the letter and survey, we may have the information for you in the next Messenger.

The approval of the Preschool Budget was put off until the December meeting although an increase in tuition rates of 3% was approved. The Preschool also requested several items be purchased for use by the Preschool, but that was also tabled until December meeting. Christian Education also had asked for a bathroom changing station for the nursery area and a new Pack n' Play for the nursery. These items have not been approved at this time due to lack of available funds and will be brought up at the next meeting.

A long discussion was held regarding the Committee structure for 2012. Board members are now tweaking the new By Laws and will be explaining them to church members before the January meeting.

We received a notice from Illinois UCC office that our recommended contribution for this year to Our Church's Wider Mission is \$14,933. This is quite a staggering amount for us at this time so we tabled this request until the December meeting.

The Church Board ended the evening with a debate: "How does the constant fundraising from various groups within Millburn Church affect the giving to the church's General Operating Fund?" This may be a topic for an upcoming sermon or a discussion group. We could not reach an agreement on the subject but it is raising some concern and needs to be discussed. I would ask each of you to think this question over and give some feedback to any Church Board member.

December Church Board Mtg Notes

The December Church Board meeting was dedicated to discussion of budget and By Laws, which managed to take up 3 hours. It was agreed by all that the By Laws would be made available to the full congregation beginning on December 11th. This availability would continue on Sunday, December 18, as well as December 25 and January 1st, 2012. I hope that all members and friends will take a copy home with you and review it before the Annual Millburn Church meeting, which will be held after service on January 8, 2012.

Regarding the budget talks, we were unable to reach agreement on the budget due to the absence of accurate figures caused by the date of the meeting. Many of you former Board members will remember that it was not possible for the Treasurer to have all of the necessary calculations on the first Monday of the month, which was why we changed the monthly meeting to the second Monday. Therefore, the Church Board will meet in special session on Monday, December 19.

The December calendar has made it difficult to communicate essential information to the congregation on a timely basis. Regardless, we should all mark our 2012 calendars on the following dates: Sunday, January 8, 2012 for the Annual meeting and Sunday, January 22, Rally Sunday, the date for signing up for the new committees.

Jack Geary, Church Board President



Chili Cook-Off

**Millburn Church
Sunday January 29, 2012
11:15 a.m.**



**Chili Makers Wanted!
(at least 10 participants needed)
See or Call Mary Lester
847.336.3925
Prizes Awarded!**

Chili
Grilled Cheese
Crackers and Fritos
Desserts
Drinks



Kids Page

Kids Bible Wordsearch

ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE?

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Puzzle # 2



ANTELOPE
APE
BADGER
CALF
CHAMELEON
CROCODILE
DEER
FOX
FROG



HEDGEHOG
HEIFER
MULE
PORCUPINE
RAM
SCORPION
STAG
WHALE



<http://biblewordgames.com>

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Words in Words

How many words (4 letters minimum) can you make out of the words -

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Hint: 165 possible words



never put a period
where *God has put a comma*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- *ANNUAL MEETING JAN. 8TH
- *2012 ADULT MISSION TRIP
- *SUPER BOWL SUB SALE
- *CHILI COOK-OFF



Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God as a spiritually alive church,
welcoming all and reaching out with love as Christ's disciples.

