

# *Waterloo Parish News*

## *November 30, 2008*

**A Warm Welcome** is extended to all who are gathered to worship God and to celebrate life here at Waterloo UMC during our **Hanging of the Greens** service. Everyone is invited to the Parish House after worship, for fellowship and refreshments.

**Many Thanks to Everyone** who participated in our wonderful **Thanksgiving dinner** last Sunday. We certainly have a lot to be thankful for, in sharing our fellowship and cooking talents. The dinner committee and the servers are to be commended for a job well done!

Families were asked to **make ornaments for the church Christmas tree** and bring them to church **TODAY**, for our **Hanging of the Greens** service. We also have ornaments that you can write your name on and hang on the tree, for anyone who didn't bring one.

There will be **NO Sunday School TODAY**, so that the children can attend the **Hanging of the Greens** service.

Please complete and return the **Spiritual Gifts Survey** to Laura. The survey is due to Laura **TODAY**. If you did not receive a survey, please get one from the Narthex, as the Conference is asking all members of the congregation to complete one. Thanks!

**Christmas Gifts for CASA Children** - Members of the Waterloo congregation have traditionally provided a happy Christmas for children serviced by Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). As usual, all gift ideas were claimed on the first day the list was distributed. Please remember: **All gifts must be wrapped, marked with a number, and brought to church by November 30. Any gifts not brought to church by TODAY must be delivered to CASA at the Court House in Newton (973-579-0723) by December 5.** Inge is also collecting money for **gift cards for needy families in Byram Township.**

We will need **one family for each Sunday in Advent** to light the **advent wreath candles** and do the **reading. December 7 and 14** are still open. If you're interested, please sign up on the Worship Volunteer list in the Narthex.

During today's service, we plan to provide every family in the church with a **daily meditation booklet** that is designed to accompany the reader through each day of **Advent**, with reference to the Scripture readings for the day, and concluding with a reflection by Fr. Richard on those Scripture texts. The mature insights shared by Fr. Richard will inspire you toward deepening your openness to adult Christianity, "making your entire life, and the life of the church, one huge advent." These daily reflections offer the promise of transformation. More information is available at <http://cacradicalgrace.org/getconnected/eml/advent.html>.

Linda is coordinating a collection of items for **Christmas gift bags for mothers at Birth Haven and Sunrise House Halfway House.** Suggested items include toiletries, gloves, socks, stationery, stamps, hair products, small sealed boxes of cookies or candy. The **donation deadline is Sunday, December 14.** If you have any questions, please speak to Linda.

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** will be held on **December 21** during Worship. All interested children and youth will **rehearse on December 7 and 14 during Sunday School.**

**Choir practice** will be held after church today and December 7 to work on Christmas music. We will also rehearse at 9:30 a.m. on December 14.

**The Waterloo Bell Choir** will play during the **Family Christmas Eve** service. All ages are welcome. Rehearsals will take place on December 14 and 21 after church. We will also rehearse at 6 p.m. (an hour before the service) on December 24. If you'd like to participate in either choir, please speak to Johnelle.

**Offering envelopes** for 2009 will be available in the narthex beginning in mid-December. All families who currently use envelopes on a regular basis will receive a new box. If you currently do not use envelopes and would like to for 2009, please contact Judy or Richard. If you do not currently use envelopes but have made check

contributions and would like a receipt for tax purposes, the Finance Committee maintains a record of check contributions. Please contact Judy or Richard and they will provide a receipt in January. Everyone using offering envelopes will receive a year-end statement to use for tax purposes.

**Centenary College** continues its "**Midnight Run**" ministry to homeless people in New York City. To help with this outreach effort, Linda is collecting **new men's underwear** (briefs - still in the package), **used warm coats**, and **used jeans**. If you can donate any of these items, please put them in the collection bin in the Narthex, or speak to Linda.

**Outreach Ministry Clothing Collection** - The **only clothing items being collected** for the rest of the winter months will be **coats and winter jackets**. If you have any of these to donate, please leave them in the Parish House kitchen and contact Inge so that she knows they are there. Thanks!

John C. and Pastor Anthony have been working to improve the **church's web site**, and it looks beautiful! Be sure to visit it at **[www.waterloochurch.com](http://www.waterloochurch.com)**. Many thanks to John for all of the time and effort he devotes to our web site.

**Please sign up to help with worship on future Sundays, on the clipboard in the Narthex.**

Please help yourself to a copy of **The Upper Room** magazine in the Narthex. This devotional publication is small enough to carry in a purse or large pocket. You can also access this spiritual resource at **[www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org)**.

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

September-June - Worship and Sunday School begin at 10 a.m.

1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY of the MONTH - Communion and free will collection for Byram Food Pantry

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAYS of the MONTH - Youth Group class meets immediately after worship

TODAY - CASA gifts due to Inge, wrapped and marked with number  
TODAY - Spiritual Gifts Surveys due to Laura Murphy  
TODAY - "Hanging of the Greens" service; No Sunday school  
TODAY - Adult choir practice immediately after church  
Sun., Dec. 7 - Rehearsal of children and youth for Christmas Pageant, during Sunday School  
Sun., Dec. 7 - Adult choir practice immediately after church  
Sun., Dec. 14 - Adult choir run through - 9:30 a.m.; Adult choir anthem - *Just One Star*  
Sun., Dec. 14 - Rehearsal of children and youth for Christmas Pageant, during Sunday School  
Sun., Dec. 14 - Donation deadline for gift bag items for Birth Haven and Sunrise House Halfway House  
Sun., Dec. 14 - Bell choir rehearsal after church  
Sun., Dec. 21 - Annual Christmas Pageant during Worship  
Sun., Dec. 21 - Bell choir rehearsal after church  
Wed., Dec. 24 - Bell choir warm-up/rehearsal - 6 p.m.  
Wed., Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve service - 7 p.m. - Family Service, Hand Bell Choir and Children's Choir  
Wed., Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve service - 11 p.m. - Candlelight Service, with Communion  
Sun., Jan. 11 - 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Brunch - Meeting House

#### **Pastors' Schedule for November-December**

Nov. 30 - Pastor Tim/ Hanging of the Greens

Dec. 14 - Pastor Anthony

Dec. 21 - Pastor Tim

Christmas Eve - 7 pm - Pastor Tim and Pastor Anthony

Dec. 7 - Pastor Joe

Dec. 28 - Pastor Joe

Christmas Eve - 11 pm - Pastor Joe

#### **To Contact the Pastors:**

***If there is ever a need, day or NIGHT, please call your pastors at any time.***

***Sunday thru Thursday afternoon*** - Contact Pastor Joe McCarthy - 908-763-2057 or **[jmccarthy@catchthespirit.org](mailto:jmccarthy@catchthespirit.org)**

***Thursday evening, Friday, or Saturday*** - Contact either Pastor Tim Nicinski - 862-219-9129 or **[tnicinski@gmrtd.com](mailto:tnicinski@gmrtd.com)** or Pastor Anthony Pami - 732-735-2707 or **[anthony\\_pami@adp.com](mailto:anthony_pami@adp.com)**

**Announcements & Mailing List:** Please give **announcements** and **Prayer Concerns**, by Wednesday of each week, to [BJen@ptd.net](mailto:BJen@ptd.net). **Everyone who attends Waterloo Church is invited** to join our **mailing list** and/or **e-mail list**. Please contact Jen to be placed on either list.

**Waterloo Village Gate Procedure:** After opening the gate, please spin the lock so the combination numbers are not showing, and leave the lock hanging on the hasp. Also, if you are the last "church person" to leave Waterloo on a Sunday, please use the following procedure when exiting the village: If you don't see any other vehicles, lock the gate behind you, and then call 973-398-7010 (Hopatcong State Park) and leave a message that all church people have left the village and the gate is locked. If you see any vehicles of non-church people, please close the gate but leave it unlocked, and then call 973-398-7010 (Hopatcong State Park) and leave a message that all church people have left the village and the gate is unlocked due to other vehicles in the village. NOTE: If you get voicemail at Hopatcong State Park, just leave a message -- there is no need to call any other number.

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