

## JANUARY

# SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY VALLEY NEWSLETTER

### Happy New Year! ...submitted by Diane Lewis

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

POEM BY KEVIN COPE	2
OLD NEWS/ DECK THE HALLS/ REBECCA CIRCLE	3
YOUTH NEWS/ CHOIR NEWS	4
SOCIAL CONCERNS NEWS EPIPHANY CELEBRATION	5
LEADERSHIP RETREAT CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING	6
EASTER BREAKFAST EVANGELISM & OUTREACH SUNDAY SCHOOL	7
JANUARY CALENDAR	8
PASTOR'S MESSAGE	9
BIRTHDAY/ ANNIVERSARY	10

As I write this it seems hard to realize that 2008 is upon us! We all know that this has been a year of many emotions, losses, good times, sad times, challenging times, fun times and transitions. In all that has happened we have learned to work together in ways we didn't anticipate, create new opportunities for fellowship, leadership and involvement. We are going forward with the property development, call committee and have chosen to sign a contract with Kairos to develop our exciting Capital Campaign Appeal. This opportunity will help educate us in new ways to be connected to our gifts and help us build the excitement of our dream of building our new sanctuary and remodel our existing building.

We have also had the addition of new members and our attendance has grown

through this year in spite of so many unexpected transitions.

Truthfully, it makes my head spin when I think back on this last year. What is incredible is that it is clear that God is working through us in so many positive ways and He is helping guide us in planning an exciting new year for our congregation.

There are many people to thank for all that has been accomplished this year. I couldn't begin to start making a list! Maybe this is a time that we each thank God that we have so many people to thank and remember that each gift is precious in His sight and is very appreciated within our congregation!

May each of you experience the blessings of God's light in your life in the coming year.



*There are many people to thank for all that has been accomplished this year.*

As we say goodbye to this year and go into the light of Epiphany in this New Year 2008, let us each remember to pray for the life and people of our church and try to remember, Thy will be done...In His time!

## RADIANT IMAGO

JANUARY 4, 2007

BY KEVIN COPE

through the long night, aftershocks subside  
noise of the life resumes on rain-slicked streets

I drive in pre-dawn dark and cling to salvation  
echoes of candles and tears fresh, yet fading

my lonely bus years for chatter and laughter  
she's designed for daily miracles and promise

I long for the courts of the Lord, as well  
hungering from a distance, Zion beyond chasms

we approach our first stop: high-school students  
preparing young selves for rites of growth, love, death

barely aware, but daring to take on rigors and chaos  
these children bless me daily with shivering courage

precisely what I most need now.

flashing lights and noisy brakes, then my open door  
the process of transport always a tender ritual

now the sting of loss yields to warmth of youth  
and one smile ignites a dozen more, smiles of the shore

akin to the beauty of my brother's smile, reflecting  
the very smile of the savior as he opened his door  
and offered us breakfast and morning cheer  
a door is a miracle

a miracle is a door

adolescent joy shines through acne, stress, and braces,  
multi-colored hair, strange make-up, torn jeans and  
boots

teenage wasteland but a myth from my own distant  
youth  
trials and agonies about, yet ideals and longings endure

the radiant imago on each child's face stuns me afresh  
with mercy and comfort, fills my bus with mobilized  
glory

O my Christ, cast your charms of warmth upon this ve-  
hicle  
upon each precious young life which shares a blessed  
ride

I no longer desire to see my neighbor according to flesh  
but only through your lens of resurrection

the essence of each child of yours illumined by loss,  
By grief, by hope, by faith, by exposure to raw beauty

I beg you to open Kingdom doors wherever I drive  
whenever the snarling world beats me down

and beam your gospel-marvels upon the weary road  
ahead.

## SOV WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER...SUBMITTED BY ANN SMITH



The SOV women met  
for the Christmas  
gathering at Elmers  
Pancake House. Thirty-  
six ladies all decked out  
in Christmas finery  
turned out for this  
festive annual event.

There was a lot of chatter,  
and after the meal, we sang  
a few seasonal carols. Gifts  
in beautiful red bags with  
white feathers were passed  
out to everyone. A few  
lucky ladies also received  
door prizes. Helen Jean

Tegner had received a  
phone call from Joyce  
Allison who wanted to  
pass along season  
greetings to all the  
ladies.

## THESE TRAVELING LADIES...SUBMITTED BY ANN SMITH

Helen Jean Tegner spent a few days with her oldest son at Lake Tahoe and then travelled on to Concord, CA for Thanksgiving with family. The highlight of her trip was going to her great-grandson's high school football game. He gave her his football jersey and then they had a tough time keeping Helen Jean off the field. She just wanted to help.



*Is Helen Jean somewhere in this huddle?*

## OLD NEWS FROM 1999

In reading through some old newsletters from 1999, Kathleen Juskowiak was doing a lot of writing. She told about Marilyn Bayru, who ran off to Iowa to marry her true love Curt Benson. She was worried about being the homemaker like the local German ladies. She took home some dish towels to wash and when she returned them to the kitchen drawer in the church noticed that all the other towels were ironed. She took them back home and ironed them before anyone noticed her cardinal sin. *Do any of you remember this story?*

## DECK THE HALLS.....SUBMITTED BY ANN SMITH

As I walked into the church on Wednesday morning, Nov. 28th, I noticed that all was changed—the Christmas trees were up, the garland around the room and the wreaths hung on the doors. Patricia was

practicing the Christmas program on the piano. All we needed was the spicy smell of the Wassell and I would think it was Christmas already. What a change these decorations made in church. Thanks

to each one of you who helped; Carol Husk, Connie McFall, Larry Gilbertson, Diane Lewis, Dave Rasmussen, Tammy McDonald, Rudy Wagenmann and Clara Mashek.



A MESSAGE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS: George & Evelyn Selzer, Marion Locke and Stan & Gladis LeBon GREETINGS

28:15..... "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."

*Hurry back...we miss you.*

## REBECCA CIRCLE NEWS...SUBMITTED BY ANN SMITH

Rebecca Circle met on Dec. 6th for the holiday brown bag lunch. Beth surprised us with a holiday dessert. We are studying the beatitudes. Beatitude studied on Dec. 6th was "Blessed are the Meek" which covered the story of Moses. Present were Helen Jean Tegner, Patricia Nelson,

Dolores Austin, Beth Kight, Marlene Loftus, Ann Smith, Charlotte Harris, Verna Wik, Corrine Gilbertson and Pastor Michelle.

Rebecca Circle ladies were treated to a Christmas concert at the Portland Christian Church. Christmas carols were sung by the 250 member choir. The chil-

dren's choir had about 100 members. They also had bell ringers and an orchestra. What an evening! Eric & Diane, Linda and Peggy were the hosts for the evening. We had a beautiful time.

THANK YOU!

## YOUTH NEWS....GREASERS HIT CENTURY HIGH IN FEBRUARY!

SUBMITTED BY SHAYNE JOHNSON

Hey, SOV members, do you still have your bobby socks? Are you ready to rock? Come join Halie Tracewell (Cha-Cha) and Shayne Johnson (Vince Fontaine) as they rock n' roll at Rydell High in the play "Grease".

**Tickets go on sale at 9AM on January 7!**

Price: \$10.00 all seats

All tickets are reserved--Contact the school @ 503 848-6500 push 5#, then 4110# to reserve the date and # of seats you want. No tickets will be sold at the door--just pay for your reserved seats (cash or check only) when you come to the performance.

For more information contact: Shayne Johnson or Halie Tracewell.

Performances do sell out early--don't wait to get your tickets!



**Dates: February 7-9th and 14-16th**

**Time: 7:30 pm**

**Matinees: Feb. 9th and 16th**

**Time: 1:30 pm**



## CHOIR AND JUNIOR CHOIR NEWS AND EVENTS

Peggy Vermaas and Staff Breed worked on adding safety rails to the choir loft. Nothing like safe singers. Thank you both for the time and effort spent on that project.

All of these jobs that are being done show the care and concern our members have for each other.

The Junior Choir has performed on Sunday at church. The choir, whose participants are:

Carmen and Mallory Hoffbeck, Amber and Julia Kotvis, Emily

Vignolo, Katrina Tabor, Sabrina Heizenrader and Audry Darus is sounding good.

Thanks girls! We loved your performance.

Cookies and Carols....

Candles, mirrors and snowflakes changed the church into a winter wonderland thanks to Tammy and Tabitha McDonald. What a tradition to build for our kids. They tricked those Lutherans by tying off the last two rows of chairs so ..for a first..we had the front rows filled. Diane led

the singing and kept those bells ringing. Pat did a fine job playing the piano for us.

Rita shared her memories about Christmas Eve in Germany. George and Valsala told us about their childhood memories of Christmas in India.

All in all...after consuming cookies and hot apple cider we called it an evening.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED OUT IN THE CHURCH THIS YEAR...SO MANY FOLKS VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND TALENTS THROUGHOUT NOT ONLY 2007, BUT FOR MANY, MANY YEARS



## SOCIAL CONCERNS NEWS AND THANKS...SUBMITTED BY MERT WARNEKING

### OUTREACH FOR NOVEMBER

We spent 310 hrs. and 1,550 miles. Includes what was spent on Thanksgiving baskets—192 hrs. and 300 miles. Clothing, furniture, etc. given us is valued at \$600. We gave 8 food baskets which we spent \$117 and were given \$220 in donated food. \$293 was spent on refugees. We spent \$1,149 which was given to us by Lutheran Community Service on our sponsored refugees. If you put a value on everything spent on Outreach it would equal 43% of our offerings.

About 150 people attended the Thanksgiving dinner. We spent \$321 and had about \$212 in food donated. We gave out 52 Thanksgiving baskets. We spent \$1,211 and had \$965 in donated food.

We are not giving Christmas baskets this year. Instead, we are concentrating on presents for our two refugee families. We are also giving baskets to four families who we know are in need.

On December 10th, both Prosper and Regina (Desire's wife) started working at the Multiwall Bag Co. on Merlo Drive.

There is a church group from Boring that has members who have been to Burundi as missionaries and also have members there right now. They have taken an interest in our families and are planning on taking both families to see the zoo lights either Christmas or New Year's weekend.

Another youth group has knitted scarves and hats and delivered them to Desire's family.

The manager where Prosper's family lives donated a Christmas tree and stand to both Prosper's family and Desire's family. Diane and Eric Lewis donated decorations. The families were excited about getting them. You should have seen Desire's boys carrying the tree upstairs.

Is there anyone who would be interested in working with the two refugee families on their English? Mark Branes is already working with them, but it would help to have someone else also.



*On a recent Saturday, 5 ladies made the trip to a "New to You" store in McMinnville. A load of clothes which was donated by SOV members was taken to the store. Slowly but surely, we are keeping the money coming in for our projects.*



### Epiphany Celebration ...submitted by Kari Pinc

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 6TH**

**5:00-7:00 pm**

Remember the year passed and celebrate the year to come with The Star"lighting our way."

Please join us for an evening service, dinner, and craft fun for all ages. You don't need to bring anything to come.

**TO ALL SOV  
MEMBERS WHO  
GAVE GIFTS FOR  
OUR CHRISTMAS  
FAMILIES THIS  
YEAR—THANK YOU  
VERY MUCH!**



### **SOV Leadership Retreat February 2, 2008..submitted by Diane Lewis**

The SOV Council is holding a leadership retreat on Saturday, February 2, from 10 AM to 2 PM at the church. A continental breakfast will be served at 9:30 AM. The cost of lunch will be \$5.00.

This is an opportunity for anyone in leadership or is interested in leadership to meet with the council to work through new descriptions for our committee structure, gain more insight to the workings of our council and help develop new ideas as we go forward into a new year.

For more information please contact Diane Lewis, Peggy Vermaas, Pastor Michelle or any council member.

Please email the church of your interest to attend this leadership retreat by January 31. Nancy's email is: [secretarysov@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysov@gmail.com)



### **CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING....JANUARY 27, 2008**

**Please mark your new 2008 calendars now!....submitted by Diane Lewis**

The annual congregational budget meeting will be held at Noon after late service on January 27, 2008. We will have the opportunity to discuss the annual operating budget while we share a meal. A free will offering will be taken to cover the costs of the meal and we will have child care provided during the business meeting.

We are looking at ways that we can have a well balanced

operating budget and give the congregation opportunities through out the year to give to special offerings for projects that are close to their hearts with out including every special project in our budget.

All confirmed members are encouraged to look at the budget before our meeting and feel free to offer input. We hope to have the budget ready for review by Sunday, January 20.

Please feel free to offer any ideas pertaining to our new 2008 budget to any council member before the next Executive council meeting on January 14.

Please plan now to attend this important meeting for our church's financial focus for the New Year.

### **Easter Breakfast Opportunity!...**submitted by Diane Lewis

With Easter falling on March 23, which is at the beginning of Spring Break this year, we are looking at putting together a group of people that would like to help organize the Easter breakfast. We want to keep the youth involved in this tradition for our congregation and continue the opportunity to use this great fellowship time on Easter morning to help fund our youth's activities and share time together.

If you are interested in helping with this event please contact Peggy Vermaas or Mindy Ott. This is an opportunity to help with a fun project and commit to limited investment of your time. What a fun way to be involved in the life of SOV!

### **Evangelism and Outreach...**submitted by Diane Lewis

The need for transportation to church and other appointments has increased within our congregation. We will be working to develop a list of volunteers that would be willing to help with transportation on Sunday and during the week. This can be an "on call" list and we would try to schedule any transportation needs ahead of time. If this is an areas of service that you would interest you, please contact James Graham at 503 9169492 or email Nancy at [secretarysov@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysov@gmail.com) .

### **Sunday School News**

By Linda Rasmussen


December was a joyous month for Sunday School! We practiced our Christmas songs and parts for our Christmas program, Gifts for the King. Everyone had a part to play from our youngest preschoolers, to our 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Even our new Burundi family members joined in with a gift of song and the names of stable animals in Kirundi. Our program was presented during the second service on December 16<sup>th</sup>. It was our traditional nativity story with a twist. Three wise women gave the baby Jesus gifts he later shared with the world as an adult. They were the gift of bread, the gift of storytelling and the gift of love.

In January, we begin a new unit on the Ten Commandments called A New Covenant. We will be learning about Moses and what rules God gave him to help guide the people in their lives on their journey to the promised land. January is toilet paper month for the Shepherd's Storehouse. We are still dedicating our weekly offering the ELCA's global barnyard. Sunday School is also continuing to collect SOCKS for Care to Share. We will be collecting these through Lent. We are looking forward to a new year full of love and faithfulness as we share Christ's love with one another and our neighbors throughout our community and the larger world.

*SUNDAY SCHOOL IS  
ALSO CONTINUING  
TO COLLECT SOCKS  
for Care to Share*



## JANUARY 2008 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>EPIPHANY CELEBRATION</b>  <b>SUNDAY, JAN. 6TH</b>  <b>5:00 TO 7:00 PM</b>		<b>1</b> Happy New Year!  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  No Jr. Choir	<b>2</b>  No Choir	<b>3</b> 11:15 a  Rebecca Circle Meets at church	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship  9:45a—S.School & Confirmation  10:00a—Adult Class	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:15a—Coffee @ Tanasbourne Starbucks  9:00a—KOK Chapel  6:30p—Jr. Choir	<b>9</b>  5:30p—Worship Comm. Mtg.  7:00p—Choir Practice	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 8:30 & 11:00 Worship <b>9:45a—S.School &amp; Confirmation</b> <b>10:00a—Adult Class</b>	<b>14</b>  Noon—Prayer Ministry  6:00p—SOV Exec. Meets	<b>15</b> 7:15a—Coffee @ Tanasbourne Starbucks  9:00a—KOK Chapel  6:30p—SOV Women's Dinner  6:30p—Jr. Choir	<b>16</b>  7:00p—Choir Practice	<b>17</b> 7:00p—Church Council	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship  9:45a—S.School & Confirmation  10:00a—Adult Class	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:15a—Coffee @ Tanasbourne Starbucks  9:00a—KOK Chapel  6:30p—Jr. Choir	<b>23</b>  7:00p—Choir Practice	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship 9:45a—S.School & Confirmation 10:00a—Adult Class  Noon—Budget Mtg.	<b>28</b>  Noon—Prayer Ministry	<b>29</b> 7:15a—Coffee @ Tanasbourne Starbucks  9:00a—KOK Chapel  6:30p—Jr. Choir	<b>30</b>  7:00p—Choir Practice	<b>31</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING....JANUARY 27, 2008</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>At noon—after church</u></b></p> </div>		



## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MICHELLE

January 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's been another whirlwind month here at Shepherd of the Valley. It seems we barely had time to recover from our turkey dinners before Advent and all its accompanying activities arrived! I want to thank all of you for making Advent and Christmas a meaningful and joyful season of preparing for our Lord's birth. I thoroughly enjoyed the Wednesday evening suppers and worship services. The "cookies and carols" event was also a lot of fun. And nothing could top the Sunday School Christmas program, "Gifts for the King," which came off well—in spite of a few impromptu "gifts" from the kids! J As I write this, it's just a few days until the Nativity of Our Lord, and I anticipate our Christmas Eve services with great joy. Nancy has done a yeoman's job of constructing all the different bulletins for Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>; be sure to thank her for all her hard work and patience! Each service promises to be very special.

I don't know about you, but my spirit rejoices as I experience the new energy here. Sunday worship attendance the past two months has been amazing—well above the two-year average of 123. In addition, attendance at other events has been good; this congregation definitely has the gift of hospitality! In keeping with the theme of enjoyment, teaching the adult class on "Reclaiming the 'L'-Word" was a lot of fun, and my impression is that the message of the book was well received.

As we cross the threshold into 2008, exciting things are on the horizon here at Shepherd of the Valley! At our council retreat we will work on calendaring all the upcoming events, and we will focus on clarifying committee structures and responsibilities. The Call Committee is moving along quickly with the task of assembling the congregational profile, and so we can look forward to having a chance to peruse the document and give feedback to the committee in the new year. Once the committee members have assimilated your feedback into the profile, it will be submitted to the bishop's office. The bishop and his assistant will then select several candidates whom they believe to be a good match for the ministry here at SOV. If all goes according to plan, the Call Committee could be interviewing pastoral candidates in late winter/early spring. Stay tuned for updates! Kudos to the committee for all their hard work!

The new year will also bring an opportunity to work toward realization of the dream of building a new sanctuary and remodeling SOV's existing building. It's exciting to think about the upcoming capital campaign, with its added bonus of leadership training. In addition, I will be doing some visiting with prospective members early in the new year. It will be exciting to have more members joining the SOV church family!

*God's Blessings to you in this New Year!*

*Pastor Michelle Manicke*