

January Birthdays



01/01	Jill Alwine Curtis Hurley Caleigh Resler
01/02	Amy Carroll
01/03	Harriett Payne
01/04	Adam Joraanstad
01/05	Zella Davis
01/06	Forest Lemon
01/08	Paul Hazel IV
01/09	Rose Marie Gill Frances Trueblood Jacob Webb
01/15	Becky Alano
01/16	Carlie Joraanstad Spencer Thompson
01/19	Paul Shriver
01/20	Anna May Head Scott Joraanstad
01/21	Crissinda Walden Debbie Sibbett
01/23	Virginia Cox Nancy Stockwell
01/24	Tom Bolyard
01/25	Loren Page Jason Caswell
01/27	Ria Collee Gretchen Clearwater
01/28	Larry Newton
01/29	Robin Wampler

Shut Ins

Redbud- Anna May Head
Garden Villa- Pauline Archer,
Elizabeth Fraser, Phillip Hedrick
Bell Trace- Kathryn Davidson,
Maude Dunbar, Clifford Thrasher
McCormick's Creek Res. - Mary Harper

At home:
Olive Carter
Barbara Gifford Ruth Lavender
Joan Goen Muriel Pennington
Olive Sylvester Martha & Gene Taber
Ed Hudson

“Women to Women”

An event sponsored by United Methodist Women
of First United Methodist Church

This event will provide an opportunity to come
together and share our thoughts on
Radical Justice and Equality

Dessert Buffet
Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009
First UMC
219 E. 4th Street
Bloomington
The Great Hall

Our invited guests include women from Methodist
Churches in the Bloomington area, as well as members
from the African American Churches in the area.

Fairview Express



During the upcoming winter
months we encourage you
to take advantage of the
Fairview Express. Please
contact the office if you
are in need of vouchers.

Presenters

Rev. Patricia Efiom, Pastor Bethel AME
-The history and current relationship of the AME
Denomination to our UM Denomination
Rev. Sharon White, Indiana Conf. UMC
Director of Advocacy Ministries
-The role and impact of Spirituals in the history of
the church
Ms. Beverly Calendar-Anderson, member of
local UMW
-Moderator

Please RSVP to First UMC office 332-6396 by
Jan.16th



Attention All Youth!

**Fairview-Arlington-St.Mark's UMYF
Lock In**

Fri.Jan.3-Sat.Jan.4

Doors open 6-9 p.m.

The doors will be locked at 9 p.m.

*Anyone who must arrive after 9 p.m. should make arrangements beforehand.

Bring things you like to do:

board games, video games, movies, crafts, musical instruments.

January Recipe of the month

Country Cabbage Soup



Ingredients:

2 pounds ground beef
2 (28 ounce) cans stewed tomatoes
1 medium head cabbage, shredded
2 large onions, chopped
6 celery ribs, chopped
salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

In a large saucepan or Dutch oven, cook beef over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Add the tomatoes, cabbage, onions and celery; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 25 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add salt and pepper.

*for a more interesting, heartier soup add rice or pasta and mix in vegetables

A Christmas Greeting

Merry Christmas and Blessings to All! Although I cannot attend services regularly, I do remember the many great sermons and wonderful music of the choir & guests. I have fond memories of many and especially appreciated the friendliness of the congregation. Love and Peace in the New Year.

Sincerely, Kathryn Davidson

Dear Fairview Church Family –

Thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent to Walter's funeral. It meant a lot to us.

Love Janet & Gary Kusiak

A note from our gifts and talents day:

I was very happy to share my LEGO model of the Lucas Oil Stadium at Fairview and honored by your response. Several people told me they wished they had pictures of the stadium to share. I have a few pictures at:

<http://www.brickshelf.com/cgi-bin/gallery.cgi?f=331619> and
<http://www.brickshelf.com/cgi-bin/gallery.cgi?f=333292>.

If any one would like to share some of the pictures they took, they can send them to me at balano@iupui.edu. I will post those at:

<http://www.brickshelf.com/cgi-bin/gallery.cgi?f=357296> as I receive them.

God bless, Brian Alano

**Esther Circle will meet Jan. 6
at 1:30 in the Wesley Rm.**

A Deacon's Reflection on Christmas Tradition

by Diane Pence

Our family Christmas is filled of tradition. About three weeks before Christmas, we decorate the house, and takes special care with the tree. Decorating always includes arranging a nativity set, somewhat old and worn, that we received from Ed's grandmother's estate. A week or two before Christmas, Ed, assisted by one, two, or three of our boys, makes dozens of cookies from recipes also passed down from his grandmother to his mother to him and now to our children. On Christmas Eve, our oldest son, Brandt, makes cinnamon rolls for Christmas morning. That evening, after last-minute gift wrapping, we all go to Christmas Eve candlelight service together. When we arrive home from worship, there are always new PJ pants for the boys and Ed under the tree, to be worn that night. On Christmas morning, when Brandt, Chris, and Rob wake earlier than Ed and I, an interesting book is propped against each of their bedroom doors so that they have something to do until it is a more reasonable hour. Then, before we dig into the cinnamon rolls, everyone empties out his or her Christmas stocking which always has, among many more fun and chocolaty things, a toothbrush and chapstick. After we get our breakfast, we gather around the tree to open gifts. Opening gifts is a tradition in itself in the Pence household. We don't rush in or take turns. The youngest chooses a gift for someone else. That person reads the clue on the back of the tag and takes an honest guess at what might be inside. The clues, as the boys have gotten older, have become more and more obtuse (this has also become a tradition). After a sincere guess or two, the person opens the gift and we all enjoy the reveal. Then, that person chooses a present for someone else from under the tree and the tradition of guessing, opening, enjoying and choosing continues. After opening gifts, we always travel to celebrate with family, play games or watch movies received, explore something unusual or fun we were given, take a nap, enjoy Christmas dinner with the family, and just spend time together for the rest of the day.

We've tried to change some of these traditions through the years, but have not succeeded. The guys, when they were little, and even sometimes now (in their twenties), often ask to open "just one" present on Christmas Eve. We always decide, in the end, not to do so. I've tried to talk the guys into something besides PJ pants on Christmas Eve, and even threatened not to get any

more until they wear out the ones from the two previous years, but I always give in. And now that they like to sleep late, they no longer need books to keep them busy until sunrise; we are not ready to give up that tradition either.

These traditions are important in our family. Traditions remind us of who we are and connect us with others who share the tradition with us. Ed and I purposefully carried on and created new traditions at Christmas and other times because we knew they would strengthen us as a family. I imagine that when our children have their own children, they will pass many of these traditions on, adding some of their own new traditions, as well.

In the church, Christmas is a rich time of tradition for Christians. Advent and Christmas hymns, the Hanging of the Greens, special Christmas wishes and greetings, Crismon trees, Advent wreaths, Children's pageants and plays, Christmas Eve worship services, the Messiah, the reading and hearing the Christmas story from Luke, Christmas caroling, Christmas donations to charity, Nativity scenes, and Christmas Cantatas all remind us of who we are and enrich our connections with one another and with God. Christmas traditions in the church are passed down to us from those who have gone before us, connect us with one another and with God as we experience them, and help us to pass the important message of Christ's birth to the generations who will come. Christian Christmas traditions, unlike secular Christmas traditions, point toward Christ and the message of Jesus' birth in order that we might do so, with our lives.

This month, I pray, and invite you to pray with me, that the Christmas traditions each of us experiences will strengthen us in such a way that we know and demonstrate, in every season, who we are, as Christians.

New Flower sign up for 2009

The new sign up list is on the bulletin board in Aldersgate Hall.

Please look at the list and make sure there are no Sundays without flowers on the altar.

This is a nice way to recognize someone special.
