



Growing in Christ, sharing God's love.

Community Connection

A Newsletter from **Church of the Redeemer Moravian Church**

January 2012

Rev. Jeff Van Orden, Pastor
www.redeemermoravian.org

Pastor's Corner:

Every so often – perhaps once a month or so – I hear or read a kernel of wisdom that sticks in my memory and then pokes its way, over and over again, into my conscious thought process. Sometimes it's a lyric from a song, sometimes it's a line from a movie and sometimes it's a saying or a paragraph from an article or book. Whatever the source, however, whenever this happens I can't shake the thought until I either tell someone about it or, in this case, put the idea and my reaction to it into words on a page.

Most recently, the persistent kernel was from a *Christian Century* magazine article by James Harnish entitled "A Lawyer's Journey to Church." It's a piece about an interaction between a pastor and an attorney who, at the outset of the conversation anyway, was drawn toward Jesus but not sure he was ready to be a part of a church. "Can I get to know Jesus without the church?" the article begins.

Why such a question? Well, Larry, the attorney who asked, was turned off by most of what he saw and heard from people who call themselves Christians. But he was searching for an expression of faith that made sense and had the potential to make a difference in his life.

When Larry discovered he had a life-threatening illness he turned to a colleague who he saw as a positive example of what it means to be a Christian. She "never flaunted her faith or waved a religious flag in his face," he said, "but was so real about her faith that if he ever thought about religion, he'd check out the one she practiced."

This woman, Harnish suggests, is an example of something described by the late British Methodist Church statesman and broadcaster Donald English: "***The world doesn't need more salespersons for the gospel,***" he said, "***just more free samples.***"

That last phrase is the one that I haven't been able to shake from my consciousness since I read it a month ago. The woman who introduced Larry to Christ did so without any off-putting speeches or in-your-face confrontations. She simply lived a life that demonstrated faith in a God who makes a difference. Every day.

The beginning of a New Year is, of course, a time when all of us – whether we list them on paper or not – make promises to ourselves to make positive changes in the way we live our lives. It's a natural part of January. Like turning over the calendar and remembering to write 2012 instead of 2011 when we sign and date things.

This year, let's be sure to make one of our resolutions a promise to offer everyone around us a "free sample" of what it means to be a follower of Christ.

Happy New Year, my friends.

Jeff Van Orden

Bible Study

Our adult Bible study group completed our study of the stories of Jesus' birth on December 21. We had great discussion and examined the accounts in Matthew and Luke from every conceivable angle. On Wednesday evening, January 25th, we will begin another four-week study, focused on the Apocalypse – the book of Revelation. This book, with its symbolic numbers, colors, animals and beings (both demonic and angelic) has, through the years, been considered from a wide variety of interpretive strategies. We will examine a number of them and, as always, seek to go where the Spirit leads us along the way. We invite you to participate. We will meet in our Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM.

Inquirers' Class

If you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation – or want to explore the possibility – an Inquirers' Class will be offered, following our morning worship service, on Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and Feb. 12. Please contact Pastor Van Orden if you are interested in participating. Our plan is to receive new members on the first Sunday in March.

Christian Unity Service, January 20

Each year, in mid-January, Christian churches from Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant traditions gather to celebrate a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Begun in 1908, these days have been set aside each year so that Christians the world over may share the prayer of Jesus: "that all may be one... that the world may believe" (John 17:21). The theme for this year's service is "We will all be changed by the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ," taken from 1 Corinthians chapter 15.

Mark your calendar and plan to participate in the special Unity Service on Friday, January 20, at St. Peter's Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road. There will be a Potluck Supper at 6:30 PM, followed by the service at 7:30. Pastor Van Orden will be preaching, and a special offering for the Smoky Row Food Pantry will be received.

From the Boards

Our Joint Board has been meeting over the past two months, and we will continue our regular meetings through January. Our task is exciting, on one hand, and daunting on the other. Like many other small churches, our congregation is at an important

Submissions for next month's newsletter
are due by the 25th of each month.
Please send to: redemerdublin@yahoo.com

inflection point. It's a cliché to say that the future is uncertain, but that doesn't make it any less true. Questions about pastoral leadership, program and mission have all been on the table. Please continue to support us in your prayers. We will be meeting with District President Bennett in early February and shortly thereafter we will provide you all with a progress report.

Dear Redeemer Friends: Kris and I would like to thank all of you who kindly and generously remembered us at Christmastime. We enjoyed our time away, visiting with family (particularly grandchildren) and old friends, and we are looking forward to continuing to work with all of you as 2012 gets underway.

Blessings,
Jeff

Piano Bench Exchange

This past summer, as you may remember, we participated in an annual Ohio Moravian tradition called a "pulpit exchange." We don't exchange pulpits, obviously, but each year, on a designated Sunday, the pastors of the Moravian congregations here in Ohio travel to another church and preach.

Well, thanks to an idea suggested by Richard Scranton, our gifted trumpeter, we have designated Sunday, January 28 as "Piano Bench Exchange Sunday." On that Sunday, our musical leaders, Susan Heeter, Richard and

perhaps a few members of our choir, will provide the music at The Promise and Bryce Bell and the worship team from The Promise will be here to lead us in song. Please plan to be present if you can.

Daily Texts

It's January, and there is still a good-sized pile of *Moravian Daily Text* books on the shelf in the Church Office. If you ordered one, please pick it up. If you forgot to order one and would like one, please see Vicki Minard.

Irish Arts for Children

Dear families of "Wee-Folk",

At Church of the Redeemer in Dublin we are getting ready for St. Patrick's Day. The Arts Program is offering a 6-week class on St. Patrick and his life in Ireland. Pastor Jeff Van Orden will share about the life of St. Patrick and the shamrock symbol that he used to explain our relationship with God. Your child will also experience music, dance, folktales, and art of the Emerald Isle. Robert Black, The Gaelic Piper, will share his heritage through playing the penny whistle and bagpipes. Deanna Graham of Graham Irish Dance, will share the traditional costumes of step dancing and teach jigs, reels, and ceili dancing. Rebecca Shorter, The Leprechaun Queen, will share stories of the legendary wee folk of Ireland. The children will create works of art throughout the entire 6-week class, from creating a leprechaun home to decorating shamrocks for our big party on March 10. This program is designed for preschool-5th grade students.

Children's Church And

Sermon Church

Our congregation has made a commitment to providing quality programming for children during the morning worship hour on Sunday. Teachers for the rest of the year are as follows: (CC = Children's Church, SC = Sermon Church)

January: CC Vicki Minard; SC Christife Merrick or Cheryl Minard

February: CC Elizabeth Albaugh; SC Andy Saunders

March: CC Joyce Garrett; SC Volunteer needed

April: CC Nancy Carpenter; SC Claire Yoder

May: CC Jill McLoughlin SC Jean Kopp

Women's Fellowship

All Redeemer Women are invited to attend the monthly Women's Bible Study on the first Tuesday of every month. The format has been changed and does not include any business. Hope to see you there!

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Moravian Church
Community Connection

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