

## EPHIPANY 2009

The Gospel of Matthew 2: 1-12 reads as follows:

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

In the ancient Near East, people thought of the stars as supernatural beings. As such, the stars influenced the course of human history. Astrologers who could interpret the stars (and hence the future) had great power. Looking at the stars, watching for patterns or unusual occurrences was important work. Imagine the excitement, and perhaps the terror, in seeing the Star of Bethlehem. Whether a comet or a periodic, but unusual alignment of planets, or something entirely different, the appearance of the star recorded in Matthew must have drawn lots of attention.

While we don't know Matthew's reason for recording this piece of information for us, we can imagine that reverence and importance would have been added to Jesus birth if it was known that other "gods" acknowledged Jesus birth. Even the heavens bowed down to Jesus, and foreign gods worshipped him. We say, in our Nicene Creed, that through him all things were made whether supernatural, or entirely natural, it seems appropriate that all of creation recognized Jesus and came to him at the time of his birth. In what ways does nature still acknowledge Jesus birth? In the lengthening of days (coming of the light from the darkness, warming of the earth for those in the Northern Hemisphere.) The signs of welcome and rejoicing are many, if we but take the time to look.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Ricardo Ramos

LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

January 1

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 1:1-12

January 10

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29  
Act 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17

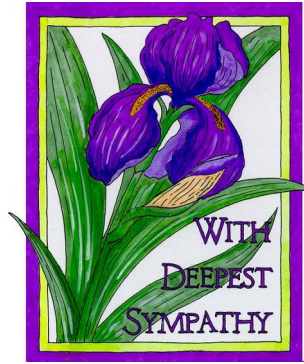
Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 24

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19  
I Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

January 31

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6  
I Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30-



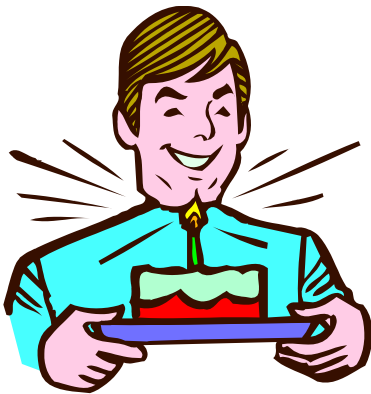
We extend our deepest sympathy to Rev. Frederick Boyle, and his wife, Rose DeLuca on the death of her nephew Tony Esposito, Jr. He died on Thursday, November 20, 2009 at age 20.

Tony was the son of Anthony L. Sr. and his wife Adrianne (DeLuca) and a lifelong resident of West Orange.

He graduated from Seton Hall Preparatory School in West Orange, and was currently a junior, majoring in biology at the University of Delaware.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his paternal grandfather, Anthony Esposito, his maternal grandparents, William and Viola DeLuca, and numerous loving aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Our thoughts and prayers are will his family and friends.



*HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:*

- |                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| <i>Joan Smith</i>          | 2  |
| <i>George M. Barnes</i>    | 3  |
| <i>MaryJean Barnes</i>     | 4  |
| <i>Brian Martinson</i>     | 5  |
| <i>Tara Stamer</i>         | 7  |
| <i>Ryan Woods</i>          | 8  |
| <i>Nereida Woodfield</i>   | 13 |
| <i>Julie Smith (Henel)</i> | 15 |
| <i>Tammy Cammarata</i>     | 17 |
| <i>Lauren Cammarata</i>    | 19 |
| <i>Claudette Harty</i>     | 19 |
| <i>Donna Mugavero</i>      | 26 |
| <i>Michael Curtin</i>      | 30 |

*,,,,,,and many, many more!!!!*

THE STARLITE CHORALE

If you missed the Starlite Chorale's Christmas performance on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Reformed Church, you really missed something special!! Rev. Dr. Tony Godlefski, directed a group of very talented singers as they presented "An Enchanted Christmas", with festive songs in Medieval style. If you are interested in being notified about future performances, please contact Rev. Godlefski for further information:

[pastortony@montgomeryumc.org](mailto:pastortony@montgomeryumc.org)

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**CHURCH HOLIDAY FAIR**

Another Fair is now behind us, and we can evaluate just how we did financially. We know that the cooperation was great and we are certainly appreciative to all our members who contributed in any way to the success of the day.

One thing we had not planned on was a Thanksgiving dinner planned for the Senior Citizens at the John T. Gregorio Center at the same time as our Fair was going on. We always have great support from many seniors, but on that day they were all enjoying a special dinner at the Gregorio Center and their afternoon ended just as our Fair ended for the day. We missed seeing many of them and will make sure that we don't have a conflict next year.

This year, our church reserved some of the tables for our church and rented out 5 of them to crafters. The break-down and profit for our church is as follows:

New & Christmas Items	\$113.10
Homemade Baked Goods	391.95
White Elephant in the Gym	188.80
Kitchen (Plus money donations)	760.00
Table Rentals	<u>115.00</u>

Total Profit 1,568.85

We thank all who helped in preparing for the Fair and the day of the event. The fellowship we enjoy is always a great part of the success and we are thankful for all those we can always count on. You are all very important to our church.

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ON THIS PAGE ARE SOME OF THE PICTURES TAKEN THE DAY OF THE FAIR. ON THE NEXT PAGE YOU WILL FIND ADDITIONAL PICTURES.

WE THANK LOURDES KOZAR FOR TAKING THESE PICTURES, AND ALL THE OTHERS THAT WE HAVE BEEN SHOWING ON OUR WEB SITE (UMCLinden.org.) AND THE ONES SHOWN IN OUR MESSENGER.



MORE PICTURES FROM THE FAIR



THESE PICTURES SHOW PART OF OUR KITCHEN CREW, THE WORKERS IN THE WHITE ELEPHANT ROOM AND YOUTH

VISITING SANTA CLAUS. PEOPLE SHOPPING AND RUTH SCHULTE COLLECTING MONEY AFTER PEOPLE FINISHED EATING LUNCH.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – 2009

We dedicate the Christmas poinsettias to the “Glory of God” in Honor or Memory of our loved ones. Thank you for allowing us to enjoy them. You may pick up your plants after the Christmas Eve services

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

- Loved Ones by Doris Stamer (white poinsettia)
- Ralph M Horsch, by the Horsch Family
- Loved Ones, by Ruth Schulte
- Mary Carhart, by Robert & Lorraine Carhart
- Gert Blasi, by Lorraine & Robert Carhart
- Gregg Carhart, by Robert & Lorraine Carhart
- Grandparents Carhart & Schneider by Bob & Lorraine Carhart
- Lorraine’s parents, Fred & June Messinger by Bob & Lorraine Carhart
- Ruth & Roy Wheeler, by Lois & William Lindlar
- Loved Ones by Lois & Ed Burns
- Dee Dalziel, by his wife, Mary Dalziel
- Albert Henel, by his wife, Doris Henel
- Fred Gmitter, by his wife, Kathryn Gmitter
- Randy & Cheryl Gmitter by Kathryn Gmitter
- James & Ellen Hall by Kathryn Gmitter
- Loved Ones, by Gertrude Baldwin
- Loved Ones, by Mary Barnes
- Loved Ones, by Mildred Ebert
- Loved Ones, by MaryJane Koslosky & Kathy Curtin
- My Parents & Estelle Cadarida by Ida Peralta
- Betty Lamont, by husband, Charles Lamont & daughter, Jayne Cocco
- Gertrude Lamont, by her son, Charles Lamont
- Loved Ones, by Leona Parker
- All our Families, by Gertrude & Mickey Kiely
- Geoffrey Lashley, by his wife, Suzanne Lashley & daughter Jamilla Lashley
- Harold Deare by Suzanne & Jamilla Lashley
- Chris Jo Hanns, by Wayne & Roni Hanns
- Betty Hanns, by Wayne & Roni Hanns
- Carl Branch, by Wayne Hanns and Daughters
- Kenny Norman Hanns, by Chris and Wayne Hanns
- Alice Abbott, by Linda Wiley & Kerry Abbott
- Thomas Abbott, by Linda & Kerry Abbott
- Crystal Rose Rabatin, by Mike E. Rabatin
- Otto Franz, by his wife, Carolyn Franz
- Our Mothers and Fathers, by Norman & Joyce Carhart

IN HONOR OF

- June Carolina Lucas, by Lourdes Kozar
- Mary Dalziel, by her daughters, MaryJane & Kathy
- The healing five, Elizabeth, Rachel, Miriam Hanns by the Hanns Family
- Wayne Hanns, for all his love, by his wife, Roni Hanns
- Sanjita & Jim Kiernan, by Mike E. Rabatin

15 members of El Redentor UMC have ordered plants and they are listed in their Sunday bulletin.

**CHECK OUR WEB PAGE FOR MESSENGER AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - UMCLinden.org**

BECAUSE YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED IT

Each Christmas we include a list of those people who purchased poinsettias in memory or honor of loved ones, for the sanctuary altar. We always enclose it in the Sunday Christmas bulletin. Since that was the day of the very heavy snowfall, church was canceled along with most other churches in Linden. Although it was also enclosed in the Christmas Eve bulletin, we are sure that many members did not feel safe walking about on that evening. For that reason we are listing the information in the opposite column on this page.

PRAYER LIST OVER THE PAST MONTH

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Janet Pavlinic | Anne Ogier       |
| Miriam Hanns   | Howard Martinson |
| Mary Barnes    | Mary Dalziel     |
| Leona Parker   | Eleanor Porambo  |
| Mycroft Laryea | Steve Lutz       |
| Susan Fibik    | John Markus      |
| Eric Forcey    | Robert Moore     |
| Richard LeDuc  | Debbie Chavan    |
| Ed Burns       | Eleanor Butler   |
| Joan Smith     | Vivienne Merrill |

**Please continue to pray for all those listed.**

REMEMBER THE DATE!!!

WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN!

On Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, following our worship service at 11:00 a.m. please plan to stay for a short time to help take down our Christmas decorations. We have enjoyed them, and the beauty of our sanctuary, but now it is time to put them away for another year.

Our special thanks to Gertrude Baldwin, who has been overseeing the hanging and packing away of our decorations for many years.

This year she made new Christmas flowers for our pew candles and also some new items for the sanctuary windows. We appreciate her commitment, dedication, and the sharing of her talents with all of us.

*“FEELING GRATITUDE AND NOT EXPRESSING IT IS LIKE WRAPPING A PRESENT AND NOT GIVING IT”.*

JANUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 8:30-Choir Rehearsal 10 – Worship Service	4 7-Board of Trustees D.Beyer, T.Henel, W.Hanns, J. Stamer, J.Valdez, B.Harty C.Ettel	5 4:30-9:30-Fenc. Sch. 11 am & 6 pm Bible Study 12 noon – United Methodist Women :	6 4:30-9:30- Fenc. Sch.	7 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch	1 <hr/> 8	2 9:30-1:30 - Fencing School <hr/> 9 9:30-Fenc.Sch.
10 8:30 AM-Choir Rehear. 10 – Worship Serv.  11 AM – Remain after church to take down the Christmas decorations.	11 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch.	12 11 am & 6 pm Bible Study  4:30-9:30- Fencing School	13  4:30-9:30 Fencing School	14  4:30-9:30- Fencing School	15	16  9:30-1:30 – Fencing School
17  8:30-Choir 10-Worship	18  4:30-9:30- Fencing School	19 11 AM & 6 PM BIBLE STUDY BOOK OF PSALMS 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	20  4:30-9:30- Fencing School	21  4:30-9:30- Fencing School	22	23  9:30-1:30- Fencing School
24  8:30-Choir 10:00-Worship	25  4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	26 11 AM & 6 PM BIBLE STUDY BOOK OF PSALMS 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	27  4:30-9:30 Fencing School	28  4:30-9:30 Fencing School	29	30  9:30-1:30 Fencing School
31 8:30-Choir 10-Worship Service						