

# THE NEW TIMES

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2010

## *1 IN EACH CAR, 1 FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY*

The Mission and Outreach Team, with the permission of the Session, designed and ordered reusable grocery/tote bags to serve as both a fundraiser and evangelism tool. The bags are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$12.00. We hope that members and friends of the

church will buy them and



use them or give them away;. If we purchase the first 80 + bags, all the bags will be paid for (that's the fundraiser part). And, every time we use them, someone sees the church name; it expands our presence in Buffalo. Any unpurchased bags will be used for future evangelism and outreach projects.

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Youth Mission project  
January 9th
- Confirmation class to worship at Kwanzaa on  
Jan 17th
- Happy New Year!

## *CONGREGATION APPROVES PASTOR MCKENZIE'S CALL*

Sunday, December 6, 2009, The Rev. Dr. Joan McKenzie preached before the congregation. Following the worship service, the congregation voted overwhelmingly to approve her as the next called pastor of Buffalo Presbyterian

Church.

She and her family will be moving to Buffalo from Illinois, in mid-January. She will begin her ministry at BPC on Monday, February 1, 2010 and will lead our February 7th worship service.

Please plan to join us as we begin this new time in the life of our church and as we move forward with our mission and ministry. Watch the bulletin for various "Get-to-know-you" events which are being planned for later in February.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| PASTOR'S DESK | 2 |
| CHURCH FAMILY | 3 |
| YOUTH NEWS    | 3 |
| NEW YEAR      | 3 |
| ROTATIONS     | 4 |



As 2010 begins we have many opportunities for prayer. Please pray for our congregation as we face new challenges. Pray, also, for our new elders and deacons as they accept the challenges of church leadership.



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

I write to you on December 21st; it is the first day of winter and the day when we have the fewest hours of daylight. It is also known as The Longest Night. More and more churches are using this day to recognize feelings of grief and loss

among members by holding an appropriate service. The All-Christmas radio stations are forcing happiness upon us; they sing for 24/7 about the "most wonderful time of the year." It is true that the gift of The Christ is a source of deep joy and it is also true that the celebration of Christmas in our churches and homes brings good company, good gifts, and good food. But, it is equally true that Christmas can be a most lonely time of year after the death of spouse or parents; it can be a difficult reminder of our economic times. Like all aspects of the Christian life, this season encompasses all of life, a spectrum of feelings

from happiness to sadness.

This has been very apparent to me this Advent as we happily welcomed Joan McKenzie on December 6th and held the congregational meeting to call her to Buffalo Presbyterian. That was followed by a Christmas Gift Giveaway on December 13th and a really wonderful worship lead by the choir and our Sunday Schoolers on December 20th. And there are many other blessed things in the works! We've had the kind of fun the retailers want to package and sell. But, each week in our worship, as we share our joys and concerns, we are also aware of family and friends who are sick or dying, and of stressful times for ourselves and loved ones.

I love to be in the midst of the great new life and energy that is enveloping this church; it has been so apparent in these past weeks and is a blessing to all. At the same moment, even from

this blessed state, I am also aware that my last day on staff is January 15, 2010; our last Sunday together will be January 10th, and, in that awareness, I lament the loss of you. This is the sharp, two-edged sword of living out the gospel. Jesus Christ brings a fullness of life, not just happiness or merely sadness, but a deep fullness that allows for an abundant life whether through gain or loss. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

I have been blessed to be your pastor in this interim. God has lead us on a wonderful journey but from here, we will take separate paths. This makes me very happy and also sad but, in Christ, it is a reminder of God's abundant faithfulness, for surely God has been faithful to us in this place. And may "the Lord watch between you and me, when we are absent one from another."

Julia

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### Birthdays

January 3<sup>rd</sup> Pat Jenson

January 6<sup>th</sup> Heather Olsen

January 9<sup>th</sup> Joe Steiskal

Kristen Steiskal

Dylan Wellnitz

Lori Johansen

January 13<sup>th</sup> Don Olsen

January 16<sup>th</sup> Liz Klaassen

January 17<sup>th</sup> Gordon Burkland

January 18<sup>th</sup> Rick Anderson

January 29<sup>th</sup> Jaclyn Schermer

### Anniversaries

Jan 11<sup>th</sup> Henry & Gertrude Kieft



## BPC YOUTH HAPPENINGS

The BPC youth are starting the year with plans to help in the community! Our January mission project will be on Saturday, January 9, 2010, helping at the Community Health Fair from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. We have been asked to help in the room where kids can hang out, play games and do activities while their parents enjoy the health fair.

The deadline for Snow Camp at Clearwater Forest for both the middle school and high schoolers is fast approaching. This annual retreat is an exciting and fun weekend January 22-24, 2010. We must confirm our numbers to the camp, so the deadline for signing up is Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Youth groups, Bible study and Sunday morning Sr. High

Drop-in Fellowship time all resume meeting this first week of the New Year. Plans are being finalized for a youth/parent meeting in mid-January to discuss summer plans, our April Applebee's pancake breakfast and opportunities to welcome Rev. McKenzie to BPC.

## CONFIRMATION TRIP TO KWANZAA

Our confirmation class will worship at Kwanzaa on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> as part of their confirmation experience. All youth and any interested adults are invited to join them.

For more details, please talk with Scott Dobovsky or Mike Quady.

## A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Eternal God, thank you for bringing us once again to the threshold of a new year. Help us dedicate each day of 2010 to

following Your will for our lives. Guide us, Lord, in all our decisions and actions day by day and hour by hour. Help us to ac-

complish all that you desire us to do, until our mission on earth is finished. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



**BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**507 County Road 134  
Buffalo, Minnesota 55313**

**Phone: 763-682-2773**

**www.buffalopchurch.org  
buffalopresbyterian@bwig.net**

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**THE NEW TIMES IS A MONTHLY  
PUBLICATION OF BUFFALO  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**

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**B**uffalo Presbyterian Church is a congregation in which the Word, the Spirit, and the Love of God enrich and strengthen us as individuals and families in Christ.

The purpose of this church is to fully equip us to become disciples of Jesus Christ, obeying His commandments to love and worship God, love and care for our neighbors, and make new disciples in our community and the world.

**THE NEW TIMES**

**January 2010**

Newsletter submissions are due by Friday, January 15th for the February issue.

**Julia Carlson,**  
Interim Pastor

**Scott Dobovsky,**  
Youth Director

**Marcy Bodin,**  
Office Manager

**Holly Minke,**  
Newsletter Editor,  
Youth Administrator

**JANUARY ROTATIONS**

**Lay Leader**

Jan 3 Steve Grittmann  
Jan 10 Lavina Pattee  
Jan 17 Stanley Johnson  
Jan 24 Dolores Pensky  
Jan 31 Mike Quady

**Greeters**

Jan 3 Justin & Pam VanderSluis  
Jan 10 Charlie & Bette Wilkens  
Jan 17 Jerry & Marlene Aldrich  
Jan 24 Joel & Tammy Aldrich  
Jan 31 Kurt & Deanne Anderson

**Resident Pick-up**

Jan 3 Dick Jenson  
Jan 10 Marlene Aldrich  
Jan 17 Dick Jenson  
Jan 24 Marlene Aldrich  
Jan 31 Dick Jenson

**Fellowship**

Jan 3 Kristi Minkoff  
Jan 10 K. Quady & L. Klaassen  
Jan 17 Jill Gatzke  
Jan 24 Jo Hatcher  
Jan 31 Michele Lawlor