

THE NEW TIMES

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 10

DECEMBER 2009

PNC RECOMMENDS REV. MCKENZIE

For 16 months, we have prayed; we have waited, (sometimes patiently). We have used the information from our large group Wednesday night gatherings and our mission statement as a guide of what we were looking for in our next pastor. We have reviewed scripture, studied 150 PIFs, discussed, interviewed 26 candidates, debated, listened to 10 candidates preach, prayed some more and now we are delighted to recommend The Reverend Dr. Joan McKenzie as our

next pastor at BPC.

Rev. McKenzie comes to BPC along with her husband, Ken, and 4 ½ year old daughter, Katie, with 21 years of experience in both large and small congregations as an ordained minister. She brings a Christ-centered heart, a calm, caring, compassionate personality and an enthusiasm for the challenges BPC presents.

Having served as a pastor, an associate pastor and an interim pastor, she will bring a wealth of experience in preach-

ing, teaching, pastoral care and leadership training to BPC as well as a warm, loving heart and a deep commitment to constant prayer and solid belief in the Bible and to the Lordship of Christ.

Pastor McKenzie's education includes a Bachelor of Arts, two master degrees and a doctoral degree. She has been on the faculty at the college level where she taught a variety of related courses. Her education pursuits have also taken her

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Celebrate Advent!*
- *Meet Rev. McKenzie, our PNC's recommendation for our next called pastor, on Dec. 6th.*
- *Congregational meeting to vote on the PNC's recommendation will be on Dec. 6th.*
- *Christmas Giveaway—December 13th*
- *Christmas Choral Concert is Sunday, December 20th.*
- *Adopt-a-family items due in church office on December 20th.*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Session is calling for a special meeting of the Congregation for the 6th of December, immediately after worship, for the purpose of voting on the recommendation of the Pastor Nominating Committee to call a new pastor, and set the pastor's terms of call. The candidate will preach at the regular worship that morning, after which the Congregation will conduct vote by written ballot.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MISSIONS	3
LOVE INC	4
YOUTH NEWS	6
POINSETTIAS	6
CHURCH FAMILY	7
ROTATIONS	8

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF!



HELP US BRING CHRISTMAS TO OUR ADOPTED FAMILY

Again this Christmas, our church family has the opportunity to share Christ's love by "adopting" a family in the area. The family this year is a mom with a 12-year old daughter, 5-year old son, and the grandmother who live in a very small 3-bedroom apartment. Mom is trained as a medical transcriptionist but has not been able to find a job in that field yet. She currently works delivering newspapers. The daughter has special needs and has many appointments that mom has to take her to. The son is in Headstart.

These are items the family needs or would enjoy: Mom needs pots and pans, enjoys reading mystery novels, and needs some "me time" (perhaps a massage). The daughter, age 12, needs clothes – T-shirts or sweat-shirts in women's size XL, pants/jeans in women's size 20-22; and she likes High School Musical, Hannah Montana, the Jonas Brothers and horses. The son, age 5, wears 5T, needs winter pajamas, art supplies, and he likes cars, Thomas the Tank Engine, and toy tools.

The family would also enjoy family games or gift certificates for things they could do as a family (community center, movie theater, bowling, etc.).

We are working with Wright County Human Services this year and the gifts will be delivered to the family Christmas week. Please have your donations to the church by Sunday, December 20th. Thank you for helping to share Christ's love this family at this special time.



DECEMBER
20TH WILL
BE THE
CHRISTMAS
CHORAL
SERVICE

PASTOR MCKENZIE FROM PAGE 1

to Greece and Turkey, Scotland, Africa and China.

Rev. McKenzie's skills and personal interests closely match those our congregation is seeking including strong preaching, leadership development, pastoral care, spiritual development, congregational communication, conflict

management and evangelism. She also expresses that mission is important to her as well fitting with our congregation's mission statement, which expresses our desire to be mission-focused. Participation in presbytery has also been important to her.

Rev. McKenzie and her family will be in

Buffalo on Sunday, December 6, 2009. She will preach during our regular worship service, and we will have the opportunity to get to know her and her family better during the fellowship hour following the congregational meeting to vote on her call.

LOVE INC Q&A

What is Love INC?

A: Founded in 1977, Love In the Name of Christ is a proven outreach model that helps churches help people in need. It is one of the most effective management, mobilization, and networking tools available to churches today. Using the Love INC model, local churches come together as a network. It's a cooperative effort that makes a lasting impact on individuals, families, and children in need.

Why do communities need Love INC?

A: Existing resources operating independently are not adequate to meet current and growing levels of need. In addition, one church alone cannot deal with all of the complex issues of poverty. It takes churches working together, across denominational lines, to meet these multifaceted needs. Love INC shows the love of Jesus Christ and brings help and hope to the poor and needy of our

communities.

Why do churches need Love INC?

A: Jesus gave us the great commission to love one another. Love INC helps churches turn that love into action. Many people never find an appropriate place to serve within their church. Love INC uses all the skills and talents a congregation has to offer. Time and again, Love INC volunteers tell how this type of service to others enriches and changes their life. Love INC helps generate untapped volunteer resources that already exist in local churches to meet needs both within and outside the church. It screens requests for help as to nature, extent, and legitimacy and helps prevent church duplication of existing services already available in the community. Love INC discovers if those requesting assistance are already receiving help from other churches or agencies to ensure legitimate needs are met. Through its Re-

lational Ministry program, Love INC provides long-term, self-help solutions for those who are chronically in need or have multiple needs.

Love INC enables churches to assist those outside of their own congregation and be stewards of church resources. It helps prevent churches from building dependency in those they assist by discovering and solving problems at the root level. It helps churches to "own" their ministry to those in need, since Love INC is a Clearinghouse to assist churches in reaching out. Love INC helps provide specific, manageable opportunities for churches to reach out with God's love to people in need. Love INC lessens the burden of any one church by increasing the use of volunteers to meet legitimate needs and rotating assistance among network churches and is very cost-effective. It offers a unified witness
Continued, page 5

LOVE INC HELPS GENERATE UNTAPPED VOLUNTEER RESOURCES THAT ALREADY EXIST IN LOCAL CHURCHES TO MEET NEEDS BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE CHURCH.

LOVE INC, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

of God's love to the community as Christian churches work together in the name of Christ.

Founded in 1977, Love INC offers a proven, replicable model that can be easily translated to new communities. Love INC has

an established track record in communities of all sizes.

Why does Love INC work?

A: There are unlimited resources in the Body of Christ that Love INC mobilizes on behalf of those in need. It gives Christians specific, man-

ageable opportunities to put their faith and love to work in the service of people in need with more than 30 years of experience mobilizing churches to meet the needs of its community. Finally, Scripture tells us love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8).

DECEMBER 13TH IS THE "LUCKY CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVEAWAY." ALL ARE WELCOME IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER SERVICES.

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Here are our Advent worship dates.

First Sunday of Advent Worship Service	Sunday, November 29
Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service	Sunday, December 6
Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service	Sunday, December 13
Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service and Christmas Choral Service	Sunday, December 20
Family Christmas Eve Service	December 24 5:30 p.m.
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	December 24 11:00 p.m.



AN ODE TO CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Bursting through December nights that could be long and cold, our Christmas lights bring warmth and joy with colors soft and bold.

Cascading from the rooftops, and from trees both small and tall, the Lights cry out, "We have good news!"

We want to shout to all.

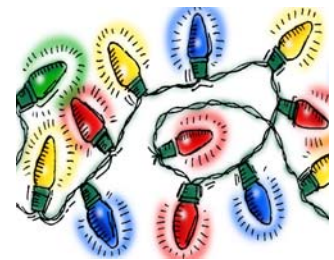
"You've seen the darkness earth can hold, the sorrow, war and fear; but God has sent His Son for all, to show His love is here.

"The darkness can't put out God's Light. Christ's with us day by

day, illuminating paths so we can follow in His way."

Light homes and street and candles. Make your world shine clear and bright. God's love surrounds and blesses us. Come, celebrate God's Light!

—Peggy Ferrell



YOUTH NEWS

Our November mission project was our pie-making and delivery. We extend a huge thanks to Jo Hatcher for spending an afternoon with our youth helping them make 7 scrumptious pies to share with members of our congregation. Thank you to the Deacons for helping with the delivery.



"HERE WE COME A-CAROLING!"

In December, we invite the congregation to join us for some good, old-fashioned Christmas caroling on Saturday, December 12th. We will visit our shut-in members and bring them some holiday joy with Christmas carols and songs. Weather permitting, we will then go to the neighborhood near the church. Please watch the bulletin for the time to meet at church.

It's also time for the youth to think ahead to Snow Camp at Clearwater Forest up north January 22-24. This annual retreat at Clearwater Forest for both middle school and high school youth from around Minnesota is a relaxing time to enjoy broomball on Clearwater Lake, sledding in back of Eagle Lodge and spending time with new and old friends. In addition to the outdoor activities there are small group discussions, hanging out by one of the fireplaces and enjoying the wonderful Clearwater food.

By paying half the \$75.00 fee for the weekend (Friday night - Sunday afternoon), BPC makes this retreat affordable at just \$37.00 per person. This retreat is the

most popular retreat Clearwater does and it fills up fast every year. Our church is already registered, but we must let them know our final numbers two weeks ahead of time. Those who are interested in joining us must let us know by January 8. This is a firm commitment since we are billed based on our numbers as of January 8. Our youth won't want to miss this fantastic weekend!

The Middle School youth group will meet on Wednesday, December 16th and then take a break for Christmas. They will begin meeting again on Wednesday, January 6, 2010. The High School Sunday drop-in fellowship time will take a break on December 27th. Merry Christmas!



ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS BY DECEMBER 16TH

Poinsettias will again be an integral part of our church Christmas decorations. You may

be a part of this BPC tradition and purchase a plant for \$15.00. The plant can

be taken after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Order forms are in the Narthex.

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE EVERGREEN TREE

It's difficult to pinpoint when evergreen trees became a symbol of Christmas. Many cultures have their own traditions.

Regardless, these

trees, which keep their green leaves year-round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God's everlasting love. In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the "cedars of

Lebanon," suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos 2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith. We are glad to have the reminder of these wonderful gifts.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Birthdays

December 2 Ryan Grittman
 December 14 Andrea Klaassen
 Tom Minke
 Bette Wilkens
 December 16 Tim Heisel
 Steve Grittman
 December 20 Guy Dean
 December 22 Cynthia Grittman
 December 30 Elaine Thole
 Abbey Klaassen
 Carter Olsen

Anniversaries

December 21 Ron & Marquetta Shupe
 December 27 Fred & Mary Patch
 Dick & Pat Jenson



THIS MONTH PLEASE INCLUDE OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN YOUR PRAYERS. AS WE ENTER THE ADVENT, LET US NOT FORGET WHO WE ARE PREPARING TO CELEBRATE.

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY Jordan Mae, daughter of Justin and Pam VanderSluis. Jordan was born on October 2, 2009.

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY ARE WITH THE FAMILY OF Todd Little, who passed away on September 30, 2009. Todd is the sister of Robin Little and the nephew of Walt and Kay Spike and the cousin of Kevin Spike.

WE EXTEND SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS TO Scott Dobovsky in the death of his cousin, Doug Dobovsky who died in Illinois on November 14, 2009.





**BUFFALO
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

507 County Road 134
Buffalo, Minnesota 55313

Phone: 763-682-2773

buffalopresbyterian@bwig.net
www.buffalopchurch.org

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

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

December 2009

Newsletter submissions are due by Friday, December 18th for the January issue.

Julia Carlson,
Interim Pastor

Scott Dobovsky,
Youth Director

Marcy Bodin,
Office Manager

Holly Minke,
Newsletter Editor, Youth
Administrator

DECMEBER ROTATIONS

Lay Leader

December 6 Nancy Grittman
December 13 Joel Aldrich
December 20 Jerry Aldrich
December 27 Jo Hatcher

Resident Pick-up

December 6 Dick Jenson
December 13 Marlene Aldrich
December 20 Dick Jenson
December 27 Marlene Aldrich

Greeters

Dec 6 Barb Stone
Dec 13 Joel & Tammy Aldrich
Dec 20 George & Elaine Thole
Dec 27 Dave & Kelly Van Ruler

Fellowship

Dec 6 Cynthia & Steve Grittman
Dec 13 Delores Pensky
Dec 20 Jean Johnson
Dec 27 Mary Markve-Patch