



# The Lamplighter

January,  
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The Newsletter of the Castle Rock United Methodist Church

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## From Our Pastor's Desk...

John 2:24-25

*"See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he promised us...even eternal life."*

Every year about this time I get the urge to make this new year really count. I resolve that this is the year I'm going to get back to basics and involve myself in the things that really matter over the long run.

This year is no exception but instead of cleaning out my closet, or re-organizing my kitchen, I've decided to "get back to basics" in my faith.

I've thought about it a bit and conclude that the following are the basics to faith as I see it:

**Prayer:** Even though I am a pastor and do my share of public praying, I have not been as faithful in private prayer as I would like. So...I am going to attempt to keep a prayer journal and emphasize intercessory prayer. I know where each of you sit in the pews and one technique I have used in the past, is to pray for you up and down the pews. (Also, Carole is going to emphasize prayer this year in our monthly Lamplighters. That will provide a great resource!)

**Bible reading:** The Monday morning Bible study, "Pearls of Wisdom" has decided to do a series of topical studies in scripture. For example, we may start with the traditional virtues of the Christian life, or the seven deadly sins, or the gifts of the Spirit, etc. As I plan for these studies, I am going to attempt a

section or two of memorization.

**Worship:** Paul admonishes us not to neglect worship or the sacraments. Sometimes, to be honest, worship for the worship leader is not as nourishing spiritually as we need or would like. This year I plan to use a prayer and worship guide for pastors which includes the elements of public worship: prayer, scripture, meditation and hymns.

**Giving materially:** The Old Testament law requires that we give one-tenth of all our income. Jesus' doesn't mention the tithe but he would have us give sacrificially, which for most of us is much more than a tenth of our material resources. The very least I think I should do would be to pray that God reveal a new organization or effort that I could faithfully support with my money.

**Service:** God calls us to invest time and energy in His service in the world. There are always opportunities for volunteering in some worthwhile venture, but I think what I neglect is witnessing to Christ verbally. Sharing with others in personal circumstances the help and hope I've found in Jesus Christ. Why is it difficult to mention the Lord's name in my interactions with those outside the church? Am I afraid of rejection or embarrassment? Some Christians do this easily but many of us hesitate because we feel religion is just too personal and we don't want to offend. I'm going to work this year on getting more comfortable speaking the name of Jesus in secular places. And certainly pray that God not only empowers me but that He help me learn to share my faith more comfortably.

Now, how about you? How about getting back to the basics of your Christian faith and make this year fuller and richer? Time is actually precious (as anyone over 50 well knows!). There isn't an endless supply of time on this earth. The promise is eternal life with Him.

See you in church, **Pastor Bonnie**

# News from the Pews

## Rest Stop Nets \$759.56

The weekend of December 20 was not the most convenient time to help on a rest stop. But we have been very blessed to have Julie May and Barbara Rutherford and their families take the lead and make sure it happened. Thank you so much for your time and effort during the last several months in carrying through with our two rest stops that had to be manned all weekend around the clock. Barbara is retiring from this job. Julie will be joined by Sheila Speck as rest area coordinators. for 2004-05. A big **thank you** to all who worked and all who gave cookies! (Mandy Durham baked over 20 dozen even delivering some at 3 a.m.)



Rodger made us pose! Karen, Dorothy and Sharon

## Charge Conference, December 7, 2003

This all church meeting is held each year sometime between October and December. The purpose of this meeting is to report to our District Superintendent, Michael Graef, what our church has accomplished during the previous year, to elect officers for the next year and to approve our budget. The meeting begins with the Pastor Parish Committee meeting with the District Superintendent. This was followed with dessert and then the meeting. We thank God that we were again able to pay our full apportionments to the greater church. This last year it amounted to \$10,558. We are also very grateful that we were able to pay the new assessment of \$5,400 for our pastor's health insurance. **THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING!!!**



(Our budgeted monthly needs are about \$ 6900 per month)  
 November \$5916.99  
 December \$5653.98  
 Christmas Eve \$293 (to benefit the Nicodemus Fund)  
**Thank You!**

## Month of January

### Each Week at the Church:

Mondays 9:30 a.m. Bible Study at the church led by Pastor Bonnie  
 7 p.m. Choir practice  
 Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. Quilting

### Each Sunday:

9:15 a.m. Opening of Sunday School  
 9:30 a.m. Nursery through Adult Sunday School  
 10:25 a.m. Focus time  
 10:30 a.m. Worship Services (nursery care)

3 11:40 a.m. Coffee Hour  
 4 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Hattie's  
 5 10:30 a.m. Communion, food bank  
 7 10:25 a.m. UMW Board meets  
 8 12 p.m. United Methodist Women  
 8 7 p.m. Evangelism Committee meets  
 10 11 a.m. Memorial Service for Marge Macpherson  
 14 1 p.m. Women's Circles meet:  
 14 7 p.m. Administrative Board meets  
 15 2:30 p.m. Friendly Callers meet  
 7 p.m. Education Committee meets

# News from the Pews

- ♥ Thank you, **Ginny Johnson**, for providing the gift books for the Preschool-3rd graders and for the other educational-activity books you have given us.
- ♥ Thank you, **Julia Dana Circle**, for inviting me to your Christmas party and thank you, **Gladys Howard Circle**, for the “little something” to spend at the Quilt Nest. I appreciate all of you very much! c.h.
- ♥ Our **Christmas Eve Service** was as always a blessed time. It is so sweet to look around the circle in the darkened room and see precious faces illuminated by each candle light. We do so appreciate those who shared their musical gifts with us: organist, **Lila Hyde**, pianist, **Cathy Behm**, and vocalist, **Mert Durham**.
- ♥ **Julie Bean** was recently sworn in as our new Castle Rock City Counsel member. Julie ran for public office because she wants to help make a difference in our community. She would appreciate your prayers as she begins this new “job”.
- ♥ **Attention those who completed the Bible Readings for 2003!** There will be a special event in honor of God’s Holy Word and your accomplishment. Since I don’t know who you are and need to know who is able to attend, please call and tell me. Carole, 274-4586
- ♥ The re-ordered cook books are here. They will be available at the UMW meeting on Wednesday, January 7 and after worship on Sunday. There are about 100 that have not been spoken for. The cost is \$11.
- ♥ At the Community Christmas dinner sponsored by the Community People of Faith, **Linda and Jenny Bauska** had set up a Christmas shop where children who attended the dinner could shop for their parents using “Hattie” bucks. Nice gifts for men and women were gathered from various sources: from individuals, local businesses or purchased at garage sales. As Cheryl Pohahau, one of the many volunteer shopping helpers said, “Those children’s eyes were just shining after they had picked out gifts and wrapped them in the backroom of Hattie’s.” Thank you, all you volunteers, for putting the light in over 60 children’s eyes!
- ♥ **There will be a memorial service for Marjorie Macpherson** this Saturday, January 10 at 11 a.m. in our sanctuary. A luncheon will follow downstairs.



Choir member, Sheila Speck, greets Arnold Zerkel at the Choir’s Carol Sing at Hatties Restaurant on December 17.



A Christmas “angel” visits with Wendell

## Birthday Party for Jesus

On December 21, we gathered in the fellowship hall for worship. The worship service was well attended and full of “treats”: Meagan Albright and Becca Woeller each shared a musical piece, Sheila Speck shared “The Legend of the Candy Cane”, Charlene Kettwig blessed us with “He Started the Whole World Singing”, Carole Hubbard told the Christmas story according to Luke, Lila Hyde beautifully sang “Tiny Baby, Holy Baby”, the Choir sang “Mary’s Little Boy Child”, “Everybody is Talking ‘bout the Baby Boy” and the Choir read the “Real 12 Days of Christmas”, and finally “Christmas Memories” was led by Bill Todd. A finger food potluck followed the service with a birthday cake for Jesus.

# Our Faith: Adventures in Prayer



*Linda Bauska took this picture of me so for those of you who don't know me this is me (the one with the glasses)*

*Carole*

*The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him sincerely. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cries for help and rescues them."*

Psalm 145:18-19 New Living translation

This year, 2004, we will be going on a journey to learn more about prayer and hopefully to practice it more fully in our lives. Each month there will be scripture about prayer and testimony about prayer, a table grace and a prayer from various sources and some ideas for praying more effectively. When I went to the internet and typed in some phrases about prayer I quickly learned that deciding what to include is an overwhelming task and certainly not one I feel qualified to do. So this page will be an exercise in prayer for me as I seek wisdom in what to include. I am hoping that one of my sources will be some of you...sharing a personal experience with prayer, a prayer you wrote or one that is particularly meaningful to you.

When I went on the internet I was looking for a story about answered prayer. I found lots of other information but not what I was looking for. I was talking to my friend, Janie Cochran, about some answers to prayers that we had received and wanted to write about and she reminded me of several others in my own life. So the following is a truly amazing answer that Jim and I received in 2001.

Jim's feet had been hurting him for several years. By January of 2001, the pain was very intense. He really felt in another year he would not be able to walk. He tried several over the counter

pain relievers and had decided that it must be arthritis. I had been praying for answer to his pain and I believe the following is our answer.

We went to see Dr. Nakashima, a specialist, in Longview in April. He took one look at Jim feet and asked if he had broken his ankles. Jim said he had not. The doctor said the way his ankle were sitting they looked like they had been broken. He said he had been to a seminar two weeks prior to our visit and heard Dr. Ted Hansen at Harborview Hospital speak about how people with flat feet most often develop arthritis because eventually the ankle can't be supported. He said he would like to make an appointment for Jim to see this doctor.

We were unable to see Dr. Hansen until August 26, 2001. When he examined Jim and looked at his x-rays he said they could help him but unfortunately he was booked up until the following March. When we made the appointment for the surgery Jim told the nurse that if there were any cancellations, we could be there in a day. We went away happy that there was hope but sorry to have to wait 6 more months.

The next Wednesday at our weekly Bible study, my friends prayed that he would be able to get in sooner. Thirty minutes later as we were doing our lesson, the phone rang. It was Dr. Hansen's nurse. She said she had an appointment open for September 7 could Jim be there? Of course I said "YES".

She went on to say that she had about 30 people ahead of us waiting for cancellations and she had called 18 names with no success and then she thought about the guy who said he could be there in a day. We were all elated! The next week Jim had extensive surgery on his foot and toes on his right foot and preventative surgery on his left. The day after his surgery he was in less pain than he had been when he arrived at Harborview. (He took only one pain pill after surgery.) We found out that Dr. Hansen is a world renown specialist and has students intern with him from all over the world.

Resources on prayer: on the internet: The Lord's Prayer [explorefaith.org](http://explorefaith.org) Double click on the Lord's prayer This is a series of 8 sermons on the Lord's Prayer, Talking to God; exploring the wisdom, purpose and meaning of The Lord's Prayer Presented at Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis, TN





## Happy January Birthday!

*You are a gift from God!*

- 2 Sara Pursley
- 12 Corrie Fadness
- 14 Leatha Dougherty
- 15 Shannon Selby
- 21 Sharon Traub
- 19 Cherie Woeller
- 23 Sally Blake
- 26 Mercedes Cano
- 30 Anna Buker

## Please Remember in Prayer

Ken Macpherson in the loss of Marjorie  
 Bob and Vi Dyer  
 Brian Dahl and family  
 Our country's leaders  
 Our service men and women  
 Law and order will come to Iraq  
Spiritual growth for each of us

*"Praise the Lord! Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.*

*Psalm 106:1*

*"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for his answers." Phil. 4:6*

*"If you do this you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:6-7*

## The Lamplighter

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## Happy New Year!