

# This Week at Union Church

<b>Sun. Dec. 27</b>	No CE today 10:30 am ..... Morning Worship
<b>Mon. Dec. 28</b>	Office closed 7:00 pm ..... AA Bottom Line Big Book Study, Dialog Center
<b>Weds. Dec. 30</b>	<b>No Wednesday Nite Live tonight — see you next week &amp; next YEAR!</b>
<b>Fri. Jan. 1</b>	Office closed—Happy New Year!
<b>Sat. Jan. 2</b>	10:30 am ..... Memorial Service for Dorothy Crandall
<b>Sun. Jan. 3</b>	9:30 am ..... Christian Education for all ages 10:30 am ..... Morning Worship

## *Especially in our prayers ...*

Each week we join millions of Christians who pray for one another through the ecumenical prayer cycle and, locally, the Berea Ministerial Association's prayer cycle. Please keep the people **Egypt, Israel and the Occupied Territories including Jerusalem, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria** and our brothers and sisters at the **Farristown Baptist Church**, in your hearts, and pray for them. Please also hold these concerns in your prayers today and throughout the week. (Prayer concerns can be submitted to the church office via phone or email).

- ◆ All who are serving or living in harm's way across the world, especially those suffering in the violence in the Middle East. We pray for the day when war shall be no more.
- ◆ **Les Kovacs** and his family as his dementia worsens
- ◆ **Dorie Hubbard's mother**, undergoing treatment for cancer
- ◆ **John Courter**, beginning treatment
- ◆ **Nancy Jones**, recovering at home
- ◆ **Shirley Dean**, who is on the mend at home

## *Assisting in Worship*

Worship leader this morning is Tom Hubbard. Next week: Carla Gilbert

## Announcements

**About Our Advent Art:** Each Sunday in Advent we lit a new candle and hung an additional banner in preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. The color of the liturgical season also changed from green to dark blue, representing the nights of longing and waiting, and the night sky in which Christ's star appeared. The hand-wrought Advent Wreath and stand was made by member and local artisan Bob Montgomery. The Advent Banners were designed by Rev. Kent in 2006 who made them as full size paper cuts. In 2007 they were translated into fabric by Rita Barlow, Joyce Fields, Ramona Culp & Debbonnaire Kovacs.

**The Banner Series** complements a decades-old tapestry from the church's collection made by fabric artist Mildred Strickler. That banner, (hung for Christmas Eve and the weeks following) in blue, yellow, and red accents, depicts a Star of Bethlehem that dwarfs the small city under it with both its size and dynamism, unable to be contained by the borders of the banner. The four Advent banners have images drawn from the traditional advent texts that are also larger than the waiting world over which they appear.

**Special Welcome to Christmas Country Dance School Visitors.** Each year we are honored to receive visitors and guests from around the world who attend Berea College's Christmas Country Dance School. Rev. Kent and many Union Church members are regular CCDS participants and we are so pleased for the opportunity to worship together.

**Many Thanks!** to all those who worked to make Christmas services such a blessing to all of us who came. Special thanks to those who decorated the Community Room!

**Happy New Year!** The office will be closed January 1 and 4. We hope everyone will have a joyous new year's celebration.

**New Class to begin in January! SWF: ISO a more meaningful bond** with church family members, a **deeper relationship** with God, and a **better understanding** of the Bible. Seeking a few others who have similar goals and may experience similar difficulty in meeting these goals because of the busy-ness of their lives or just because they don't know where to start. Male or female, youngish or oldish, married or single, blessed and overwhelmed by small children or child-free, Sunday school class member from way back or unfamiliar with church traditions — all are welcome.

We will be studying the Bible with help from a book by Bob Darden called Reluctant Prophets and Clueless Disciples: Introducing the Bible By Telling Its Stories. If interested in participating in and helping create a stress-free, user-friendly, enriching adult Sunday School experience, please meet me, Alvera Perman, in Union Church's room 204 by the church office at 9:30 on Sunday mornings beginning January 10, 2010.