

# Conley's Connections

December 2008

## JESUS IS ALIVE THIS CHRISTMAS

As usual Christmas is fast approaching and our calendars get so full that we tend to forget the reason for the season. Jesus came and lived among us so that he might save us and give us everlasting life. This season help worship the King by coming to one or more church events. There is open house at the parsonage on **Dec. 7 at 12 noon – 4PM**. The Living Nativity is **Dec. 12-14 at 6:30PM – 8:30PM**. Anyone who would like The Christmas Program is **Dec. 20 at 4:30PM & 7PM**. Christmas Eve worship services are **Dec. 24 at 5PM, 7PM, 8:30PM & 11PM**. Candlelight and communion will be celebrated at all services.

## PRAYER EVENTS THIS CHRISITMAS

Surrounding the Christmas season is a need for a personal relationship with Jesus and there is no better way to get to know him by talking to him through prayer. There are several ways to get closer to him with the prayer events this Christmas. There is **48 hour prayer vigil** scheduled for **Dec. 8-10**. The purpose for this vigil is to prayer for those who attend church during this time who do not have a relationship with Christ. We also pray for the Living Nativity and the impact it can have on those in our community. The second opportunity for prayer is on **Dec. 12 & 13 at 10AM at the Living Nativity sight and Dec. 14 at 12noon**. The purpose of this prayer time is to pray for those involved in the Living Nativity and those that are coming to see this wonderful portrayal of our Savior's birth. The third opportunity for prayer is during the Living Nativity. The Church will be open and a prayer guide will be available from **5:30PM – 8:30PM on Dec. 12-14**. You can come and stay as long as you wish but are not obligated to stay for the whole time.

## LIVING NATIVITY DECEMBER 12, 13, 14, 2008 6:30 to 8:30 PM

In Matthew 5: 13 – 16, Jesus tells we are salt and light. By being active in God's kingdom, we help to season and light our world. We are reminded to sprinkle our salt liberally and not to hide our light under a basket but to put it on stand so it will shine for all. Our Living Nativity has been a powerful beacon in our community for 7 years. Help us keep the flame burning brightly as a "light unto the path" for a world in trouble. Help us present the timeless message of God's love for all. Become a part of the Living Nativity. We are still in need of actors and people to help man the generators which literally light our path through the town. Contact: Cheryl Wood, 945-9590 for more information or to volunteer.

## FROM THE PASTOR:

### From Hope to Joy: Advent, to Christmas, to Epiphany.

Christians confess and proclaim that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (*John 1:14*). This is the great message of the incarnation that Jesus Christ was born into human history in the fullness of time for the salvation of the world. This is what we seek to celebrate, to proclaim, and to manifest to all people during this particular season of the church calendar.

During Advent (*the 4 Sundays before Christmas*) we sing, “Come thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free.”

During the 12 days of Christmas (*Dec 25-Jan 5*) we join with the herald angels and sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Epiphany (*Jan 6*), is “the manifestation” or “the appearance” of Jesus. It encourages us to behold the light shining in darkness; the Root of Jesse; David’s Son to whom we sing, “O Morning Star, how fair and bright, You beam forth in truth and light!”

The story these calendar days can tell us is one of “good tidings and great joy”—for the Messiah has come. It is a time of wonder. It is a time to remember that “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (*John 3:16*). These days remind us that God loves us and wants to be present with us.

And so I encourage you, take time this “Holy-day Season” to examine and strengthen your faith commitment to Jesus.

I trust you will have a blessed December.

Much Love, Pastor Mike

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#### Lay Leaders

Debbie Marker . . . . . 945-6225  
John Dickson . . . . . 945-4998  
Lily Roadcap . . . . . 945-8529  
Cemetery - John Gladwell . . . . . 644-8939  
Choir Director - Charlie Marshall . . . .947-0527

Subscriptions to *Conley’s Connections* are free; to be added to the mailing list, please contact the church office. It is published to enhance fellowship and spiritual growth.

#### Conley’s Vision Statement

Conley’s United Methodist Church aspires to be a loving, caring, Christ-centered fellowship dedicated to reaching out and bringing others to the Lord Jesus. Led by the Holy Spirit we invite all to become disciples, transformed by Christ’s love. We will hold ourselves accountable to God and each other.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Membership Sunday will be January 11 at 1:30PM. Anyone interested in joining Conley’s United Methodist Church should attend a new members class on either Thurs., January 8 at 7PM or Sat., Jan 10<sup>th</sup> at 10AM

## GIRLS NIGHT OUT AUCTION

Calling all women to join us on **Friday, December 5** for our annual GNO Auction. The auction will be held at the Pot Nets Lakeside clubhouse. (The same place as last year) This will be an evening of fun, food and fellowship. **Time:** 6:30 – 8:30 PM, doors will open at 6:15 PM. **Food:** Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, coffee, tea and punch. **Cost:** \$10.00 per person. All proceeds go directly to benefit women and organizations that support women in our community.

If you are not on the GNO mailing list but would like to attend the auction, please contact any of the following: Pat Short, Dale Kehrer, Barb Moxey or Cheryl Wood.

**If you know a woman or an organization for women that would benefit from a financial donation, please let one of our officers know ASAP.**

## CONLEY'S FUNDRAISERS

There are two opportunities to support the new building fund for Conley's United Methodist Church this month. The first is on **Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at the Bluewater Grill** from 11:30AM – 9:00PM.

There will be a **lia Sophia** jewelry party on **Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7PM** at the **Fellowship Hall**. There will be games and prizes along with good food, fellowship and a time to shop for jewelry. Jewelry ordered will be here in time for Christmas.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Polar Bear Plunge** to benefit the Delaware Special Olympics is **February 1, 2009**. Please contact **Louise McGinnis** if you are interested in sponsoring her.

## When to Come to Church

### September Worship

Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.  
Sundays at 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
Radio show on Cat Country 105.9 FM  
Sundays at 7:30 a.m.  
Prayer & Praise - Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
Communion scheduled for December:  
Wednesday, December 24 at all services.

### Education

Sunday School  
9:00 a.m. - Adults  
10:20 a.m. - multiple classes for all ages  
Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Studies  
**Ellen Walker -- Resumes in January**  
Thursday 10:00 a.m. Disciple 1  
**Pastor Mike Hurley**

Conley's United Methodist Church  
22150 Robinsonville Road  
LEWES, DELAWARE 19958

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<b>Fellowship Groups</b>
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**Soup Kitchen** Each Wednesday 11:00 – 2:00

**Men's Group**—breakfast meetings at 8:00 a.m.  
on November 15.

**Golden Chicks** – Nov. 13, 1-3 p.m.

**UM Women** –Thursday, Nov. 20, 1:00 p.m.

**Girls' Night Out**— Friday, December 5.

<b>Community Groups Meeting at Conley's</b>
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Women's AIAnon – Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Back Bay Strummers – Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous—Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.

<b>Administration</b>
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AdCouncil - Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 7:00 pm

Trustees – Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 7:00 pm

NON-PROFIT