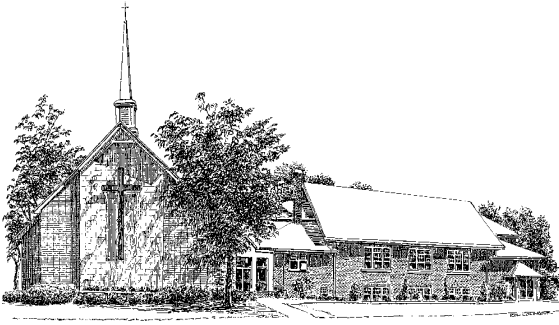


First Presbyterian Church of West Seneca

2085 Union Rd.
West Seneca, NY 14224
716-668-1115



The CELEBRATE December 2006/January 2007

*"We humbly yet boldly step into the future, following
in the footsteps of Jesus on our journey of faith."*

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

December 3rd ~ 10am

First Sunday of Advent – Hanging of the Greens - Communion

December 6th & 20th ~ 12pm

Young at Heart Luncheon

December 10th ~ 10am

Second Sunday of Advent

December 12th ~ 7pm

Session Meeting

December 17th

Third Sunday of Advent – Christmas Goodie Raffle, after worship
Christmas Play & Potluck Supper ~ **5pm**

December 24th

Fourth Sunday of Advent worship service ~ **10am**

Christmas Eve worship service ~ **7pm**

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

January 7th ~ 10am

Worship with Communion

January 9th ~ 6pm

Special Presbytery Meeting @ First Presbyterian Church West Seneca

January 16th ~ 7pm

Session Meeting

January 28th

Annual Meeting

PASTOR'S PLACE

Dear Friends:

It has been one of those autumns, at least for me! Some of this some of you already know, but it's worth repeating just to make a point.

You might remember that back in September I wrote that I had returned from some time off at the end of the summer not as relaxed or renewed as I had hoped I would be. Before I knew it, I had a pretty heavy load of pastoral care issues to attend to, along with two memorial services and preparation for two weddings. All in all, this wasn't too bad.

But before I knew it, I was out almost every night of the week with meetings of one kind or another. I had more day meetings than ever before. I took some more time off that was coming to me, but all I really managed to do was get further and further behind in my work. I had two health scares. I am grateful that they were only scares. Then there was the surprise weather event in October that shut the church down for nearly a week. I could go on and on, but I think you get the picture.

For being a less than fulltime pastor, I was way overextended here at the church and with the Presbytery. I remember sitting in my study one day, looking at my calendar and asking myself if I was really happy with WHAT I was doing and HOW MUCH I was doing. The answer to both questions was a resounding "No." So after some restless nights, prayerful reflection, and consultation with some of my colleagues, as well as with my family, I began the difficult process of extricating myself from certain obligations and the even more difficult process of learning to say "no." I used to joke that I knew how to speak four languages but had never learned how to say "no" in any of them!

I'm happy to report that I have made a fine beginning, though I still ended up with a cold for Thanksgiving. And what does all of this have to do with Advent and Christmas you might ask?

I guess you could say that you should learn from my mistakes and take the time to enjoy these seasons rather than race through them and arrive at the end of the year wondering just what you are doing. In both the secular world and the life of the church, this time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, what we call Advent, Christmas, and Christmastide in the church places some of the greatest demands on our time, our energy, and our resources. And yet, it is a time to enjoy our lives, our families, our life together here in the church, and our relationship with God.

I have had to learn how to carve out time each day to do some of the things that I not only enjoy, but also help to recharge my batteries. I nearly had to crash to learn this. My prayer for all of us in this season of Advent is that we are able to "enjoy" the waiting, the anticipating, the hope, and the peace that we are truly meant to experience. We miss out on so much when we are racing around. We wear ourselves down when we run and race. I have never believed that this is how God wants us to live our lives, but it is very easy to get caught up in it all. Slow down and enjoy! Take it from me! It's a better life!

May you have a peaceful and joyful Advent, a very Merry Christmas, and an extraordinary New Year!

Blessings,

Pastor Web

FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

December 2006

<i>December 3rd</i>	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36	<i>December 24th Morning worship</i>	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:47-55 Psalm 80:1-7 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
<i>December 10th</i>	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	<i>December 24th Christmas Eve</i>	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
<i>December 17th</i>	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	<i>December 31st</i>	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52

January 2007

<i>January 7th</i>	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	<i>January 21st</i>	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21
<i>January 14th</i>	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	<i>January 28th</i>	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Please come and join us on December 3rd for the Hanging of the Greens, during the morning worship service.

There will be two services on Sunday, December 24th. Please join us for the 10am worship service when we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent. Our Christmas Eve Service will be at 7pm, with a children's message and the lighting of the candles.

On New Year's Eve please come and hear a message from Dick Fischer. It will be his first time in the pulpit so please come and give him your support. Hope to see you then.

Edie Fischer Chair of Worship

DeCeMBER

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2 10am Rehearsal for Hanging of the Greens
3 10am Worship w/ Communion Hanging of the Greens 11am Fellowship 11:15am Play Practice <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	4 Adult Forum & Discussion 7pm	5	6 Young at Heart Lunch 12pm	7	8	9
10 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 11:15am Play Practice <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	11 Adult Forum & Discussion 7pm	12 Session Meeting 7pm	13 West Seneca Community of Churches Mtg. 11:30am Worship Mtg. 7pm	14	15	16
17 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 11:15am Play Practice Christmas Goodie Raffle 5pm Christmas Play & Potluck <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	18 Adult Forum & Discussion 7pm	19	20 Young at Heart Lunch 12pm	21	22	23
24 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service <i>4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> <i>Church office closed</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31 10am Worship Dick Fischer, preaching 11am Fellowship						

January

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 <i>Happy New Year</i> <i>Church office Closed</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7 10am Worship w/ Communion 11am Fellowship ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE	8 Adult Forum & Discussion 7pm	9 Special Presbytery Meeting here 6pm	10 Worship & Music meeting 7pm	11	12	13
14 10am Worship 11am Fellowship CELEBRATE ARTICELES ARE DUE	15 Adult Forum & Discussion 7pm	16 Session Meeting 7pm	17 Young at Heart Lunch 12pm	18	19	20
21 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	22 Adult Forum & Discussion 7pm	23 Presbytery Meeting @ Wayside Presbyterian 1:30pm	24	25	26	27
28 10am Worship Annual Meeting 11am Fellowship	29 Adult Forum & Discussion 7pm	30	31			



LAYREADERS, USHERS, AND COUNTERS ARE BADLY NEEDED

If YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP PLEASE CONTACT

George Shaffer for Counters

Edie Fischer for Layreaders

Tim Miller for Ushers

YOUNG AT HEART

Jingle bells, jingle bells...it's that time of the year again. In December we will meet on December 6th and on December 20th. We will once again invite the people from St. Johns to our Christmas lunch, which will be held on December 20th. We will only meet for one luncheon in January, which will be on January 17th. We all had a wonderful time at our Thanksgiving luncheon. 32 people attended the lunch from our church and St. Johns. Be sure to mark your calendars for December & January to come out and have a wonderful time.

YOUR HAPPY COOKS: DICK & EDIE

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Please come and join the West Seneca Community of Churches for a community caroling event. This year the caroling will take place at the Southgate Plaza. We will meet at the

Medical Center (the old Brand Names), at 7:30pm. Please bring a flashlight and we will walk and carol down to the Evans National Bank, where we will share fellowship, hot chocolate and cookies. Be sure to join us!



FAITH EDUCATION

Come and spend an evening with family and friends remembering what Christmas is all about. The children of our church will share "The Christmas Story" with you on December 17th at 5pm. There will be a potluck supper in Fellowship Hall after the play. So drop off your favorite dish to pass in the hall and then join us upstairs in the sanctuary for a very memorable children's play. The children have been working very hard so please come out and support them.



CHURCH & SOCIETY

Christmas Goodie Raffle

Instead of a bake sale, we will be raffling a few baskets of homemade items. Kathy Doll will make her famous Christmas cookie tree. Diane Molnar will bake two plates of Christmas Cookies and Gail Hartman will make a candy basket with her traditional Holiday mix! Tickets will be 3 for \$1.00 and the raffle will take place on December 17th following the worship service. All the proceeds from the raffle will go to AIDS Family Services. Be sure to join us.

In The Life of The Church

DECEMBER & JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

December	1 st	Richard Jones	January	2 nd	Amanda Bohin
		Tim Miller			Heather Malyszka
	3 rd	Nancy Galley		4 th	Ashley Bohin
		Marion Labby			Russel Molnar
	5 th	Amber Wurl		9 th	Bruce Barrows
	8 th	Mary Kate George		11 th	Ellyn Reed
		Pearl Weber			Foster Young
	9 th	Barb Kissel		13 th	Deb Wright
		John Lindak		14 th	Vincent Pagliaccio
	11 th	Bob Barnhart			Chris Saeli
		Carol Vaughan		15 th	Marge Christmann
	12 th	Donna Cieslinski		19 th	Justin Wurl
	13 th	Paul Rasp		22 nd	Sam Corless
	22 nd	Ethan Rowe		24 th	Mary Gutowski
		Tom Wilczak		26 th	Thom George
		James Wojcik		27 th	Lill Kieffer
	24 th	Kristen Wright		28 th	David Bohin
	25 th	Jason Perillo			
	26 th	Deanna Pagliaccio			

NOTES OF THANKS

Thank you very much for the Memorial Service for my husband on October 7th. Pastor Deb's meditation, the music and the reception in Lischer Hall were a great comfort to me and my family and I appreciate you all.
Helen Sommer

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for the beautiful mum plant that Marge and John delivered for your wonderful giving people. It sets on my kitchen table and brings me such happiness. Hope to see you at the next luncheon.

Thanks again, Sally D.

FISCAL FACTS

November 1, 2006			
Church Assets as of January 1		\$86,926.67	
Church Assets as of this month		\$89,801.66	
Operating Budget	Year to Date	Budgeted to Date	Difference
Pledges	\$77,493.50	\$80,596.67	-\$3,103.17
Loose Offering	\$4,015.03	\$3,750.00	\$265.03
Initial Offering	\$127.00	\$200.00	-\$73.00
Per Capita Offering	\$1,329.00	\$1,000.00	\$329.00
Miscellaneous	\$4,444.66	\$4,166.67	\$277.99
Roll over from previous year	\$2,786.35	\$2,786.35	\$0.00
Total Income	\$90,195.54	\$92,499.68	-\$2,304.14
Presbytery Related Mission	\$5,388.68	\$5,360.73	
Per Capita Apportionment	\$4,253.30	\$4,253.33	
Salaries & Session Misc.	\$30,543.20	\$29,456.25	
Pastor Related	\$30,916.30	\$31,777.48	
Faith Education	\$373.57	\$225.00	
Young at Heart	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Worship & Music	\$351.34	\$491.67	
Church & Society	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Membership & Evangelism	\$0.00	\$124.00	
Stewardship Expenses	\$181.70	\$216.67	
Office Expenses	\$3,841.91	\$3,620.83	
Building Costs	\$13,931.03	\$16,433.33	
Total Expenses	\$89,781.03	\$91,835.29	
Difference	\$414.51		
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX		
Non Budgeted Items	Year to Date		
Income	\$10,803.30		
Memorials	\$633.95		
Missions	\$1,820.32		
Faith Ed. Offering Expenses	\$0.00		
Youth Fellowships	\$118.98		
Miscellaneous	\$2,447.70		
Total Expenses	\$5,020.95		
Difference	\$5,782.35		
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX		
Yearly Savings Gain or Loss	\$3,598.33		
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX		
Capital Fund Drive Income	\$241.48		
Capital Fund Drive Expenses	\$777.00		
Capital Fund Drive Balance	\$3,480.96	Per Capita	\$35.00

This year the last day for the recording secretary to accept pledges and Per Capita is December 31st. If you want credit for your tax returns please submit by this date. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank You.
 Edie Fischer,
 Recording Secretary

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bill Baco (Sandy Pakenham) ♦ Andrew Derrick (BJ Rustic) ♦ Michelle Campbell (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Clara Cieslinski ♦ Kathy Miler Colmerauer (Jane Lankes) ♦ Dan & Judy Cravotta (Janice Jones) ♦ Steve Dalin (Karen Cieslinski Dalin) ♦ Pauline Deletti (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Linda Dories (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Mary Flemming (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Jessica Grazen (The Fischers) ♦ James Groves (Nancy Lesakowski) ♦ Dorothy Gutowski (Ed Gutowski) ♦ Harold Hanna ♦ Nancy Hay ♦ Janet H. (Nancy Galley) ♦ Esther Hiller (Sandy Pakenham) ♦ Jill Miller-Kisker (Jane Lankes) ♦ Ben Klinshaw (Rita Hanna) ♦ Marguerite Kobel (Dennis Fiegl) ♦ Dee Dee Labby (Marion Labby) ♦ Sibby Mielcarek (Marge Christmann) ♦ Josh Miszko (Sue Piersa) ♦ BJ Rustic ♦ Bill Seifert ♦ Paul Sipos (Sue Maciejewski) ♦ Joan Shockey (Dennis Fiegl's sister) ♦ The Weez (Dennis Fiegl) ♦ Aaron Miechurski (The Halligan's) ♦ Kyle James Smyntek (The Fiegl's) ♦ Nancy Weber ♦ Partick Weir (Sandy Pakehnam))

OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

Chris Kalinowski ☼ Matthew Jones ☼ Bill Cenknor Jr. ☼ Patrick Baskerville ☼ Sammy Russo ☼ Kimberly Trudeau ☼ Steve Odebralski ☼ Jason Zimmerman ☼ Andrew Zalikowski ☼ Nick Turvey ☼ Kristen Pelc ☼ Ben Schauss ☼ Phillip Schott ☼ Josh Winkler ☼ Russell Molnar ☼ Pat McCullough ☼ Ryan M. Ratigan ☼ Larry Lloyd ☼ Joshua Feldman

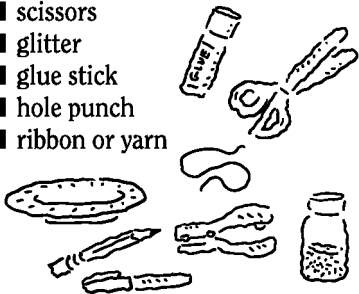


Fancy Flakes

Make a snowflake as unique and as special as you are in God's eyes.

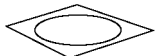
What you need:

- paper (plain white or glittery wrapping paper)
- round plate or saucer (about the size you want your snowflake)
- pencil, crayon or marker
- scissors
- glitter
- glue stick
- hole punch
- ribbon or yarn



What you need to do:

1. Draw a circle on a piece of paper by tracing around the plate or saucer.
2. Cut out the circle.
3. Fold the paper in half three times. (If the paper is thick, fold it just twice.)
4. Use your scissors to carefully cut out shapes from the folded paper.
5. Unfold your paper.
6. On one side, write some things that are special about you.
7. Decorate the other side using the glue stick and glitter.
8. When the glitter is dry, punch a hole in the snowflake.
9. Put ribbon or yarn through the hole, and tie it to make a hanger.



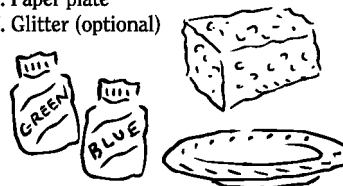
"Peace on Earth" Ornament



Make this Earth ornament as a reminder to pray for the peace Jesus will bring when he returns.

What you will need:

1. Clear glass ornament
2. Blue and green acrylic craft paint
3. Sponge
4. Scissors
5. Black permanent marker (Sharpie) or black puffy craft paint
6. Paper plate
7. Glitter (optional)



What you need to do:

1. Cut the sponge into 2 rectangles, about the size of your tallest finger.
2. Pour a little paint onto a plate. (Add glitter if you want your ornament to sparkle.)
3. Use one sponge for blue and one for green.
4. Dab the paint onto your glass ornament one color at a time. Use green for land and blue for ocean to make the ornament look like our planet Earth.
5. When the paint is dry, use the marker or puffy paint to write PEACE on the ornament.
6. Use your ornament as a Christmas decoration or give it as a present.



Just for KIDS

Unique Creations

It is the New Year and in many places it is cold enough to snow. God created snowflakes that are so unique that no two are alike! It is the same way with people – we are all one-of-a-kind. If God cares so much about how each snowflake is made, imagine how much God cares about you!

Directions: Draw lines to match the two halves of the snowflakes. Write the letters on the numbered blanks to form the words and to complete the verse.

1			7		
2			8		
3			9		
4			10		
5			11		
6			12		

“I _____ I _____
 1 2 3 4 5
 _____ ; _____
 6 7 8 9 10
 _____”
 11 12

Psalm 139:14, NIV

Answer: “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful....”

The Celebrate
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Rev. Debra Wright.....Pastor
George Shaffer.....Clerk of Session
Donna Cieslinski.....Church Treasurer
Edie Fischer.....Financial Secretary
Bob Barnhart.....Property Manager
Corinne Northem.....Secretary
Sue Maciejewski.....Organist/Choir Director
Pam Miszko.....Custodian

Elders		
Class of 2007 Edythe Fischer Richard Fischer Cheryl Wilczak	Class of 2008 Bob Barnhart Karen Malyszka Kathy Saeli	Class of 2009 Tom Kalinowski Shaun Wilson Wendy Warren
Deacons		
Class of 2007 Judy Costa Leona Wojcik	Class of 2008 Sandra Fiegl Lisa Shriver	Class of 2009 Craig Wright Bruce Barrows