

# Resurrection Lutheran Church

# THE MESSENGER

**DECEMBER  
2009**

THE SEASON  
OF ADVENT



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## PASTOR BARB WRITES

Grace and Peace to You!

I'm always curious about the background music played in the local stores as we approach the Christmas season. In some establishments we'll hear "Deck the Halls," "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," and even "Santa Got Run Over By a Reindeer." There's just music: "O Holy Night," "The Little Drummer Boy." And in a rare store, we'll openly sing with "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," or "O Little Town of Bethlehem." In all the stores, music is designed to put us in the holiday spirit.

The holiday spirit. Do you remember how, back in last September, stores were readying us for Halloween? Even before October 31<sup>st</sup>, Thanksgiving accessories filled the aisles. And commercials on TV started advertising toys to garner the attention and desire of our children way before the Christmas season.

Now, all of this isn't bad, in and of itself. But, I wonder about the message imposed on us by a culture that can't wait to seduce us into the newest, beguile us into the next high, taunt us into a perpetually frenetic state for three months. With all the hustle and bustle, it's exhausting.

That's why I'm so thankful for the season of Advent. Standing in a counter-cultural place, the church welcomes us into a period of quiet preparation. Advent is a period in which we can enter the wonderment of the promise of a child. If we allow ourselves, we can almost feel the very earth gather itself in to a state of peaceful expectation. A child will be born! God's promise is about to be fulfilled. The Savior is coming!

Let your hearts be open to Advent. Take some respite from the heyday of the world. Be at peace as you await the Christ-child.

Blessings!

RLC's Mission Statement:  
*To Know Christ and Make Him Known*

# Rock His House!

As I write this, we have had two sessions of Rock His House with great success! We have averaged 11 young people and up to 20 adults. It seems that Thursdays are a busy night for most school age children and young adults. Quite a few more want to participate, so Rock His House is moving to Sunday beginning on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Here is our schedule for the month of December. . . .

December 6<sup>th</sup> – Dinner at 5:30, Parent free zone until 6:45, then all youth will gather together with the Worship Group to assist in decorating the church for the holidays.

December 13<sup>th</sup> – Fun & Fellowship Cookie exchange at 4:30. Please plan to join us for dinner at 5:30, Grades 1-8 Birthday Party for Jesus complete with balloons, hats and cake! Grades 9 – 12 wacky gift exchange. More details to follow. We will spend some of our time rehearsing for the Christmas Eve pageant for those involved.

December 20<sup>th</sup> – Dinner at 5:30, Parent free zone until 7:30. We will spend some of our time rehearsing the Christmas Eve pageant for those involved, otherwise normal activities will occur.

December 27<sup>th</sup> – We are taking the night off!

Please remember, the entire congregation is invited to dinner at Rock His House. Dinner is at 5:30, catered by our very own Rebecca Bryan at cost of \$5.00. Simply fill out the insert in your Sunday bulletin or call the church by Wednesdays to RSVP. Pastor Barb holds an adult Bible study during the youth activity time.

Vivian Haren  
Youth Director



## Christmas Eve Pageant

We are looking for people to assist in our Youth Christmas Pageant. This year it will take place on Christmas Eve at the 7:00 service. We need help earlier in the month fitting already existing costumes to our youth and then getting the costumes ready for the pageant. The evening of, we are in need of a spotlight and operator as well as help getting the youth ready. If you are interested please let me know.

Vivian Haren  
Youth Director

## COMING DECEMBER 6, 2009

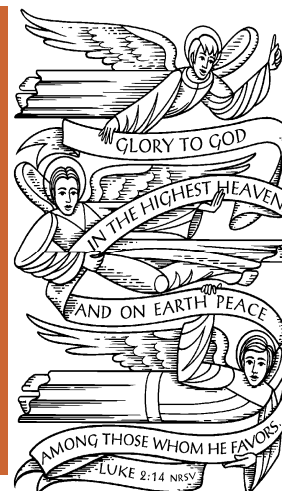
On Sunday, December 6 we will have a special Rock His House as we prepare His house for Christmas. We will gather at 5:30 p.m. for dinner (adults and children); at 6:00 p.m. the children will go with their adult leaders for their Bible study, the remaining adults will gather in the Nave. At 6:45 p.m. we will all come together in the Nave to decorate His house as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. All are welcome to participate in this annual activity; the more the merrier and many hands make light the work. If you plan to come for dinner, be sure to fill out a reservation form by Wednesday, 12/3. Prior payment (\$5.00) for dinner is appreciated, but may also be made at the door on 12/6.

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH



S.A.L.T. (Sr. Adult Lutherans Together) will host a Christmas Brunch on Wednesday, December 9; all ages are welcome to join us. We will meet at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall and share good food, good fellowship, and good fun. Please bring your favorite brunch dish (sausage balls, pigs in the blanket, donuts, strudel, egg casserole) to share; coffee and tea will be provided. We will read the different accounts of the Christmas story as recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and then discuss

the differences in the accountings.



# Christmas Eve Worship Schedule



4:00 P.M.

A Service of Lessons and Carols  
with Holy Communion

7:00 P.M.

Family Oriented Worship  
with Holy Communion

11:00 P.M.

Traditional Candlelight Worship  
with Holy Communion



CHRISTMAS COOKIE  
EXCHANGE

Fun and Fellowship  
December 13, 2009  
4:30 P.M.



A Magical Main Street Christmas  
Annual Parade with Santa  
Downtown Newnan  
December 6, 2009  
3:00 P.M.



BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS  
DECEMBER 13, 2009

6:00 P.M.

Grades 1-8 will celebrate with balloons, hats and cake

Grades 9—12 wacky gift exchange



Resurrection's Angel Tree will be up following Thanksgiving. As always, thanks for the loving way in which you help others during the Christmas season.

Festival of Lights  
December 18 and 19  
Downtown Newnan  
Caroling, bake sale and a lights parade!

**Resurrection Lutheran  
Church**

1250 Lora Smith Road  
Newnan, GA 30265  
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*Rev. E. Barbara Gibson, Pastor*

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Look at our Website!  
[www.rlchurch.com](http://www.rlchurch.com)

***Address Service Requested***

Newsletter Mailed 11/20/09

## DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Rock His House Activities ~ December 6, 13 and 20 (Please see details inside this newsletter)

Madrigal Dinner ~ December 12 ~ 4:30 and 7:00 P.M. (Please see insert for details)

December 13 ~ Reception Honoring Yvonne Pleasant After 11:00 A.M. Worship

You are cordially invited to attend a reception in honor of Yvonne for her many years of service as our church administrator immediately following the 11:00 service on December 13<sup>th</sup>. It will be a wonderful opportunity to tell Yvonne personally, what her ministry has meant to you and the entire church, past and present. This is an historic event you will not want to miss. Refreshments are being provided so be sure to stop by to congratulate Yvonne on her upcoming retirement. You may even see folks you haven't seen for awhile as they return to share with Yvonne all she has meant to them. See you there!

December 13 ~ Christmas Cookie Exchange at 4:30 P.M. ~ Birthday Party for Jesus 6:00 P.M.

### Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

4:00 P.M. ~ A Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

7:00 P.M. ~ Family Oriented Worship with Holy Communion

## Youth Rooms Refurbishing

Our youth are VERY excited about reclaiming some of our space as their own! We could use your help on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> to clean out and move stuff. We will meet at the church at 12:00 pm and should not be there more than 2 hours.

If cleaning and moving is not your thing, please think about the following. We need two sofas in good condition, a chair or two, tables and lamps. All items donated for this purpose will either be used at Resurrection or donated to a local charity. We would like donations prior to Christmas Day. If you need us to pick up an item please let me know. We will be glad to do so.

And if painting is your thing, watch the bulletin for painting days! Thanks so much for your support of our youth.

Vivian Haren  
Youth Director

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS by Jill Dance, Council Secretary

*Congregation Council meets second Tuesday of the month to discuss business and hear ministry reports.*

- In late October, Council approved the budget to be presented at the annual meeting on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>
- Council will provide coffee and breakfast snacks between Sunday services for the rest of the year – available in the narthex – come and enjoy!
- A number of tablecloths have been purchased and are available for use for ministry functions – sign them out and return washed and ready for the next event!
- Nominations have been made for upcoming council vacancies.
- Education/Learning ministry is in need of a new chairperson and volunteers - please contact any council member for information if you are interested in helping out with this very important ministry.
- Flashing around a window on the doghouse is being repaired due to a new leak which developed during the recent heavy rains.

The Council meeting agenda will be posted by the first Tuesday of each month. Input is welcome through the first Friday if you would like Council to add to the agenda.

### 2010 Congregation Council

Kathleen Ade	Peter Anderson
Rebecca Bryan	Jill Dance
Bill Gay	Paul Haren
Nick Pierce	Glen Thompson

### In Memoriam

Rev. Paul M. Ruff  
May 25, 1918—November 6, 2009

Please add to Your Church Directory:  
James and Elizabeth "Liz" Finnesgard (Joseph, Jamie)  
315 Lora Smith Road  
Newnan, GA 30265 770.251.4413

The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a Blanket Drive  
Deadline to bring a new blanket is December 13.

## Income and Expense ~ October 2009

<u>Income</u>	
Offerings	\$ 17,701.00
<u>Expense</u>	
Administration	397.98
Designated Expense	165.00
Fun and Fellowship	21.58
Learning	76.57
Payroll	8,329.11
Payroll Expense	31.20
Property and Grounds (Includes Mortgage)	6,062.40
Staff Benefits	4,804.86
Support	200.00
Systems	507.17
Uncategorized Expenses	322.00
Witness	1,023.21
Worship	210.95
<i>Total Expense</i>	22,152.03
<i>Net Income</i>	— 4,451.03

### A SPECIAL INVITATION

Mrs. Eunice Nichols and her family extends a special invitation to each of you to attend the 11 A.M. Worship Service on November 29, 2009 in thanksgiving and dedication of the new stained glass windows, above the doors in the sanctuary, that will be presented in remembrance of Ray Nichols.

Following the service there will be a potluck luncheon with the Nichols family providing the meat and dessert. Everyone is invited to bring a favorite dish and fellowship together!

*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.  
Philippians 1:3*

### THANK YOU

Dear People of Resurrection Lutheran Church:

Thank you so much for your kindness to us at this special time. We appreciate the cards, food, thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,  
Jim and Margaret  
and the family of Paul M. Ruff

### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection, we offer condolences to the following people:

Rob and Felicia Davis Williams in the loss of Rob's mother, Mrs. Nancy Williams, of Luthersville, GA on October 27, 2009. Cards of condolence may be sent to Rob and Felicia at 140 Halo Trace, Sharpsburg, GA 30277.

To Margaret and Jim Aldredge in the loss of Margaret's father, Rev. Paul M. Ruff, who resided in the Lafayette Nursing Home and Rehab Center in Fayetteville, GA on November 6, 2009. Cards of condolence may be sent to Jim and Margaret at 184 Valleyview Drive, Fairburn, GA 30213. Also, our sympathy to Pastor Ruff's granddaughter, Rachel Bartolomei, and her family, and Rachel's family address is 222 Thompson Road, Tyrone, GA 30290.

To Mary Lou and Earl Tucker in the loss of Mary Lou's brother, Nick Fahrenkopf, in Nassau, New York on November 6, 2009. Cards of condolence may be sent to Mary Lou and Earl at 40 Riverside Drive, Sharpsburg, GA 30277.

To Victoria and David Reece, Aidan and Owen, and Victoria's mother, Mrs. Vera Flower, in the loss of Victoria's step-father, Jack Fowler, on November 15, 2009. Mr. Flower resided at the Reece home. Cards of condolence may be sent to this family at 267 Joe Cox Road, Sharpsburg, GA 30277.

## COMMUNITY NEWS