



Circuit Rider

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
714 Herbertsville Road
Brick, NJ 08724

December 2005

The Chronicles of Narnia



On December 9th a new movie is opening nationwide, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. I do not believe I have ever mentioned or encouraged anyone to go see a particular movie, especially before previewing it myself. But I feel secure that this movie is one not to miss. There are very few activities in our society for families to do together. Going to see this movie is one I would highly recommend.

(The following was taken off the jacket of this book)

“Clive Staples (C.S.) Lewis, known as Jack to his friends, was born in 1898. Lewis and his good friend J.R. Tolkien, the author of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, were part of the Inklings, an informal writers’ club that met at a local pub to discuss story ideas. Lewis’ fascination with fairy tales, myths and ancient legends, coupled with inspiration drawn from his childhood, led him to write *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*, one of the best loved books of all time. Six further books followed to become the immensely popular *Chronicles of Narnia*. The final title in the series *The Last Battle*, was awarded the Carnegie Medal, one of the highest marks of excellence in children’s literature.”

Through Advent I will be making references to this allegory now a motion picture. My purpose is to engage us in thinking and conversing with family, friends and coworkers about spiritual themes that run throughout this movie. If it is something many will see, it is something many will be talking about. For that reason we need to be ready to engage in spiritual conversations with neighbors, coworkers, friends and family.

Some action points: read the book, see the movie as a family, discuss it with your children, discuss it in your small group or bible study, discuss it with an unsaved friend.

See you in Church.

Pastor John

P.S. Don’t forget to add “The Purpose Driven Life” to your Christmas list.



St. Paul's Chancel Choir Cantata and Christmas Concert Band

'It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year'! St. Paul's Music Ministry will present its Christmas offering on December 17th and 18th at 7:30PM.

Our Concert Band will present its annual "Sounds of the Season" with beautiful and exciting concert band music. Our band is made up of church and community instrumentalists, 7th grade through adult. We are very blessed to have so many talented woodwind, brass, and percussion members who love to play the beautiful music of the Christmas season. The Chancel Choir will join with the band on a song and there will be a time when the whole congregation will be invited to sing carols with us.


St. Paul's Chancel Choir will present its cantata, "From Heaven's Throne," *The Angelic Celebration of Christmas*, written by one of our favorite composer/arrangers, David Clydesdale. The Chancel Choir, as well as narrator, actors, soloists, pageantry, and an audience sing-a-long, will join in this glorious presentation for Christmas.

When you study the story of Jesus' birth you begin to notice something very interesting---the Angels. They were everywhere, sometimes "in person" and sometimes through "Holy dreams." Whether it was Mary or Joseph, the shepherds or the Wise Men, the list of angelic intervention goes on and on. The musical opens as the Host of Heaven join together in sending Jesus to "Go Change the World." The entire presentation takes place in Heaven. We see Mary and Joseph, and all the "cast of Christmas," but we see them as the power and armies of Heaven's throne surround them. Clydesdale, the composer, writes, "my goal was to make people think, feel, and see Christmas in a whole new light.

Then to realize—now it is their turn to "Go Change the World."

This is a glorious Christmas experience with exceptional music that the whole family will enjoy. And it does not end at Christmas—there is a wonderful sequel to this cantata, "Let All Heaven Rejoice", which the Chancel Choir will do at Easter time. We invite everyone—our church family, friends, and the community to join us for this exciting celebration of our Savior's birth. Both our Instrumental and Choral Ministries—children, youth, and adult—hope that you will celebrate with us on December 17th and 18th at 7:30 PM!

Pizza & Caroling



For All Church Family

Set aside **Tuesday, December 13, 2005** for an evening to bring special love to our nursing homes residents. We will meet at church at 6:30 PM for pizza. We will then go Christmas Caroling to several nursing homes and meet back at church for hot chocolate and donuts. All ages are invited and encouraged to join us for this special evening. It is a time to forget about the pressures of the holidays and bring the real meaning of Christmas to others. A sign-up chart is on the wall across from the offices. Please sign up even if you don't want pizza. There will be a \$2.00/person or \$5.00/family charge for the refreshments.

Senior Joy

Senior Joy's Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 8th at 12:30 PM. Lunch will be provided. Bonnie Leigh will entertain us with her Dulcimer. Please let me know if you will be attending.

Ruth Snyder 732-840-2182

Kids Alley

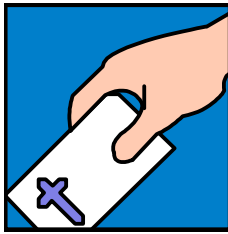
Kids Alley will once again be visiting us on Sunday December 4th to lead the worship. Communion that day will be for Kid's Alley. After 2nd service there will be a luncheon. If you would like to come to the luncheon, please signup on the sheet on the missions bulletin board, so we may have an accurate count.

We once again have a wonderful opportunity to be a blessing to the kids of Kids Alley. We will be collecting Christmas gifts for children ages birth through teen. Just as with Operation Christmas Child, please keep in mind the atmosphere these kids live in (for example no toys that promote violence). There will be a box to put your gifts in the Narthex. We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys until Sunday, December 11th. Your support for this wonderful ministry is so appreciated. Any questions please give me a call. Jenifer Burns 899-3268.



Christmas Eve Services
5:00 PM Family Service
7:30 PM Candlelight Service
11:00 PM Candlelight / Communion Service

Christmas Day
10 AM Christmas Day Celebration



St. Paul's Introduces New Stewardship Envelope Program

The year 2006 will see a new and improved St. Paul's stewardship envelope program. In the past, members picked up offering envelopes at church at the beginning of the year. In the new program, however, envelopes will be mailed each month directly to members' homes.

"Receiving our offering envelopes each month reminds us of our responsibility to support our church financially," said Finance Committee Chairman Bob Kyff. "Statistics show that mailing envelopes monthly can increase offerings between 10 and 20 percent. This new program constitutes just another way to help our congregation develop good stewardship habits."

Each mailing will consist of one envelope per Sunday plus special offering envelopes. Additionally, other items may be included in the mailing, such as pastoral letters or other *specialized* correspondence. Look for further information on St. Paul's new Offering envelope program at upcoming church services. It's just one more way of improving our congregation's Stewardship. We guarantee it!

"Use Candles With Care"

"Use candles with care" is this year's Fire Prevention theme. Kevin Batzel the local Fire Marshal has asked that we pass along the following fire safety tips for candle use.

1. Use sturdy, non-flammable candleholders that won't tip over easily.
2. Use a level, uncluttered surface to burn the candles on.
3. Keep candles at least one foot away from anything that can burn.
4. Keep candles away from spots where they could be easily knocked over.
5. Trim candlewicks to a quarter inch before lighting.
6. Don't place candles in windows or near doorways where there is a draft that could cause combustibles to make contact and ignite.
7. Keep candles and open flames away from flammable liquids.
8. Extinguish candles when they burn to within 2 inches of their holder. Be careful not to splatter the hot wax.
9. Votives and filled candles should be extinguished before the last ½ inch of wax starts to melt.
10. Never leave burning candles unattended.

Mission Trip to Mexico

It is that time of year again to be asking yourself if God is calling you to go to Mexico on a Mission Trip. The dates are January 7-14. You will stay in Del Rio, TX at night and go to Mexico during the day. ANYONE can help out!!! There are always many home improvements to be done and if you are not that handy there are cupboards to be cleaned and clothes to be sorted. It is a wonderful experience and Norris and Ruth Blair are a joy to spend a week with. The cost is typically around \$500 and there is scholarship money available to help out if needed.

Please take a serious look at yourself and see if this is something you are called to do! If you are interested please contact Don Blair at 732-295-9443 or Melissa Iasillo at 732-840-5843 as soon as possible. A final count is needed soon so that plane tickets may be bought and travel arrangements can be made.

Pack 33 News

On Nov. 19, 2005, Pack 33 collected food for "Scouting for Food" and had its first Turkey Fest. The boys, parents, and leaders made me proud. Pack and Troop 33, and Pack 47 collected the food for our pantry. Our neighborhood families were very compassionate this year in donating a lot of food. The boys learned the joy of serving others.

After the food pick-up, Pack 33 headed to Allaire State Park. Each family had previously signed-up to bring food and supplies from a list and be responsible for certain activities. I could not show up until later. By the time I arrived, the preparations for the feast were well underway. The chickens were heating on the vertical spit. The box ovens were ready for the corn bread. The boys were being supervised in preparing apples to bake in foil on charcoal. Stuffing and cobbler were prepared for the dutch ovens.

As always, whole families were welcome. The children played football, made turkeys for a game and then played the game. Before we knew it, our feast was ready. We said a grace. We sat down to a good, hot family meal. It felt like family. Since each person brought all the supplies for cooking and serving the food for which they volunteered, each person took their own supplies home. This made easy clean-up and transportation of equipment. Most agreed that we should do this again next year.

UMM CHRISTMAS TREE SALES



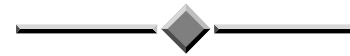
United Methodist Men are selling trees

From 5pm to 9pm Monday thru Friday

From 9am to 8pm Saturday

Closed on Sunday

Sign up chart to help sell trees will be up in the Narthex or in Eleanor Norcross Fellowship Hall



**MAMO's Village Church School
Program in Ethiopia.**

**You Can Help Educate a Child For Only
\$10 per Student per School Year --**

Mamo Dibaba has established village church schools in Southwest Ethiopia where 6-9 year olds—both boys and girls—are educated. He tasted the honey of learning 55 years ago in a similar Ethiopian missionary school. For the past 10 years, he has been sharing that honey with today's rural kids in Ethiopia. Education has made the difference in his life and he feels it will also make a difference for the little ones in his church schools.

Mamo has just completed his teachers' training program for the 2005-2006 school-year; eight more schools will be opening September 1st with an estimated 800 boys and girls attending 1st and 2nd grades. There are 13 village church schools in all.

The cost of educating one Ethiopian child for an entire year is only \$10. It costs a child nothing to attend Mamo's schools. It is FREE! No child is turned away. The Bible is *always* a part of the school curriculum. It is his plan for each church school to become self-sustaining within a few years.

Mamo would like to open additional schools in a different area, where there are no schools and a "crying" need for them. If you are interested in knowing more about Mamo's mission work and his Village Church School Program in Ethiopia and helping, please talk to Virginia Renahan (732-223-3548) or Jeff Sayre (732-961-0174).

Snowbirds

If you will be leaving New Jersey for warmer climates over the winter please let the office know. We will hold your Circuit Rider for your return. The post office does not forward the Circuit Riders and charges us \$0.37 to return to the church.

Name _____

Address

I will be leaving _____

returning _____

CHRISTMAS STORE



The Christmas Store will be held on Saturday Dec. 10. We need knitted or crocheted hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, ponchos or lap robes. If you can help out or need yarn please call Maureen Tracey @ 732-840-1932. Thank You and May God Bless You for all you do for Him.

Singles Bible Study

Are you a single adult who:

1. Is looking for a purpose to life?
2. Has been asking "Is this all there is?"
3. Wants to further your relationship with God, and other people in the Christian community?

Then come check out the new Bible Study "Beginning Life Together" starting on Friday December 2, 2005 at 7:00 pm. Any questions please contact Lisa Oliver at 732-458-5655.

Name _____

Phone
Number _____

Christmas at Lexington House

On Sunday, December 18th we will be celebrating our 8th Christmas at the Lexington Boarding House. As per usual, we are going to need a lot of help with baking (or buying) of "sweets". If you would like to help make this a very special day for some very lonely and needy people, please volunteer your services. We need a lot of food.

Also, we would like to give these people some warm gloves and a hat for the winter. We would like to ask each family to go to the Dollar store or any store of your choice, and buy a pair of gloves and a hat for one person. Socks are also needed by the residents and would make a wonderful gift of love from St. Paul's.

Lastly, if you receive extra calendars please save them for us so we can give them to the residents. For eight years the people of St. Paul's have made this mission a big success by helping us do God's work. Please continue to help us and may God Bless You All.

Suzanne Smoot



Winter Retreat

Mark your calendars now for the Delanco Camp Winter Retreat which will take place February 24-26, 2006 at Pocono Manor. This retreat is for the whole family from young children to senior citizens. The speaker for the weekend will be Dr. Roy Lauter, our speaker from the Revival. The theme for the weekend is "Going Deeper With God". Meals, room and speakers are included in the cost of only - Married Couple \$360 (early), \$385 (late), To encourage the family, there is no cost for children under 12, youth 12-18 will be \$30 per night. Rooms are available for singles \$220 (early) \$240 (late). Double \$190 (early) \$205 (late), triples or quads \$160 (early) \$180 (late). Brochures are available with reservation forms. See Pastor D for more information.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS



United Methodist Men are now taking orders for Christmas Poinsettias. If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia, please fill out the form below and return with your payment. The form and money can be placed in the collection plate, sent to the Church or given directly to the office.

The cost of each plant is \$7.00.

Checks payable to St. Paul's U.M.M.

PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 11, 2005

ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

In Loving Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

POINSETTIA QTY _____
TOTAL \$ ENC. _____

I want to take my plant home _____

Please deliver to a shut-in

Youth Group News!!!

“Praise the LORD! O give thanks to the LORD our God for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!” (Psalm 106:1) Greetings friends! I pray that all is well today with you and yours! I’m writing you on a chilly (and very rainy) fall afternoon (Do you think I should have been a weatherman? I’m always talking about the weather). But even though it’s cold and damp outside, I can think about the love of my Lord Jesus Christ, and about how He bled and died on the Cross to save my soul...and I can experience the warmth and comfort of God’s love in my heart. Praise God! I pray that you also feel the warmth of God’s love in your heart today. This much I can say without reservation...God loves you, and He loves you forever! Is that awesome or what?

Well, we have some good youth stuff coming up soon. To begin with, we have our “Family Christmas caroling outing” on December 13th (Tuesday at 6 PM), along with our Angels (2nd –5th Graders) Christmas caroling and Party outing on December 17th (Saturday), and our Junior-High Christmas caroling and Party on December 20th (Tuesday).

We will “kick-off” the New Year with a “Progressive Dinner” for the Angels youth on January 7th and for the Junior-High youth on January 10th (Progressive Dinner is a wonderful event revolving around the three “Fs”...fun, fellowship, and best of all, FOOD!) We also have our Youth Group Ski Retreat to Spruce Lake planned for February 10th-12th (Weekend) and our 30-Hour Famine planned for February 24th-25th (Friday-Saturday).

Just a reminder to anyone that’s interested, we have our Junior-High Dinner and Bible study every Wednesday evening at 5:15 PM at the Elliott parsonage (Pastor James and Lisa Oliver lead the study). All of our Junior-High youth are welcome to attend. Please just try to call me (Pastor James) at (732) 458-7037 and let me know that you’re coming so we can plan for the meal.

Also, please see the forms for our Youth Fundraiser Christmas wreaths and cookies in this Circuit Rider. Everyone can use a little extra Christmas colors around the house (and a few extra Christmas pounds around the waist!) Come on! Get into the Christmas spirit! Thanks for your support.

Well that’s all for now. I wish all of you a very blessed and happy Thanksgiving. We all have so much to be thankful for...I pray that God will help us to be truly thankful, and to show our thanks to Him by living lives that give Him glory. Please keep all of our youth and youth leaders in your daily prayers as we strive to walk in faith and love.

In Christ’s Love, Pastor James
“Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9)



December Birthdays

12/02 David Jordan
12/02 Einar Magnusson
12/02 Kristin Estelle
12/02 Kristjan Danielsson
12/03 Amy VanBenschoten
12/03 Gloria Boehmler
12/03 Kathleen Baumgartner
12/05 Jack Smithouser
12/04 Melany Weissinger
12/05 David D Nase
12/06 Jonathan Jackson
12/06 Nicholas Kortenhaus
12/07 Christina Morris
12/07 Nicholas Doubt
12/08 Gary Gebele
12/08 Homer Pearce
12/09 Ryan Connor
12/09 Samantha Moss
12/09 Steven Baum
12/10 Dawn Kellert
12/10 Gunther Ulbrich
12/10 Jamie O'Connor
12/10 Lauren Tucker
12/11 James Alderson

12/11 Ryan Malloy
12/12 Carly Hartdorn
12/12 Connor Mannion
12/12 Martin VanArsdale
12/12 Susan Nordyk
12/12 Terry Penrod
12/14 Denise Palazzolo
12/14 Emily Hager
12/14 Heidi Berger
12/15 Christina Konopka
12/15 Jaime Hawkins
12/16 Joshua Bickert
12/16 Matthew Shaw
12/16 Richard Berger
12/16 T. J. Bickert
12/16 Tiffany Gaestel
12/17 Charissa Contouris
12/17 Lorraine Hulse
12/18 Clement Miller
12/18 Erica Preston
12/18 Gloria Hasher
12/18 Janice Raynor
12/18 Lilly Levine
12/19 Danielle Daber
12/19 Nicole Trevena
12/19 Wesley Buckley
12/20 Robert Kelly Jr.
12/21 Kathy Pino
12/22 Claire Worman
12/22 Ralph Chesney
12/23 Anna Wymbs
12/23 Steven Kosch

12/24 Daniel Lahey
12/24 David Cavanaugh
12/24 John Longstreet
12/24 Kolby Kyff
12/26 William Carter
12/27 Barbara LaMonica
12/28 Lynn VanBenschoten
12/29 Allison Kosch
12/29 David Hartdorn
12/30 Ashley Davis
12/30 Robert Searles



December Anniversaries

12/02 Tom & Jill White
12/11 Bob & Sandy Campbell
12/16 Alex & Ilse Ogasanu
12/19 Steve & Donna
Ferguson
12/21 David & Nancy Roberts
12/29 Bill & Leigh Shaffer
12/30 Charles & Delores
Runyon

Christmas Wreath Sales Form!

Hi everyone! Guess what? It's that (most wonderful) time of year again! And with Christmas coming quickly (and the goose getting fatter by the second), the youth are once again selling our Christmas wreaths (Can't ya just smell the pine needles?). Prices for our wreaths are as follows: **12-inch wreaths are \$13 decorated and \$9 undecorated; 20-inch wreaths are \$17 decorated and \$13 undecorated.** All proceeds will go to our youth ministry program and to the ministries we support. Thank you for your love and support of our youth.

Yours in Christ,
James Elliott



(Detach here and submit form; Please submit no later than December 11th, 2005)

Christmas Wreath Order Form

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Type of Wreath:	9-inch Decorated \$13	12-inch Decorated \$17
	9-inch Undecorated \$9	12-inch Undecorated \$13

Name of Youth "Sale Rep": _____

(Please circle one or more of the above)



ATTENTION EATERS OF ALL THINGS YUMMY!!!

Hey! What rhymes with "wookie" and tastes incredibly yummy? That's right, the Youth Group Christmas Cookies! We will have an assortment (2 dozen total) of incredibly yummy (homemade) cookies including chocolate chip, frosted Xmas cut-outs, gingerbread cookies, snickerdoodles, and more...all in a festive holiday cookie tin. The cost is \$10 and they are available now on a pre-sale basis (or bring your own tin and pay only \$8). The cookies will be delivered on either the 11th or the 18th of December (in Norcross following our first service). If you would like to sign-up for your very own tin of incredibly yummy Christmas cookies, please fill out the form below and turn it into one of our very special youth, or me (Pastor James), or Lisa Oliver (our "flourless baker", I mean "fearless leader"). Thank you kindly for your support and may God's grace and peace be yours this Christmas season and always.

Yours in Christ,
James Elliott

Xmas Cookie Order Form

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Number of tins (2 dz. Cookies per tin): _____

Do you have your own cookie? _____

When would you like delivery? Dec. 11th Dec. 18th

(Please bring in your cookie tin by December 4th if you are using your own)