

**AUDUBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
314 W. Graisbury Avenue  
P.O. Box, 148  
Audubon, NJ 08106  
December, 2003

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**AUDUBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Church Staff**

**Dr. Walter Jesuncosky III, Pastor**  
**Danielle Reich, Director of Evangelism**  
**Marilyn K. Radley, Director of Music**  
**Marge Watson, Organist**  
**Henry Ward, Pianist**  
**Dave Smeltzer, Treasurer**  
**Elina Matthews, Secretary**  
**Arsenette Reiter, Assistant Secretary**  
**John Bowdoin, Custodian**  
**Elizabeth Hoffman, Nursery**  
**Helen Orfe, Nursery**

**Church Office Hours**

**Monday - Friday**  
**9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Telephone Numbers**

**Church 547-6114**  
**Parsonage 547-0653**  
**Fax # 547-7319**



**Sunday Services**

**Church School 9:15 a.m.**  
**Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.**

**Evening Service 6:00 p.m.**  
**(September - May)**

**Jr./Sr. High Youth 7:00 p.m. .**

**Monday - Snack N Yak**

**After School 3 - 6 Grades**  
**(September - May)**

*The December Newsletter is sponsored by  
the Fidelis Class in loving memory of their departed members..*

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# DECEMBER 2003

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Counters

Scott Radley, Sr.  
Robert Fonash  
Anita Fonash  
Ethel Walker  
Peg Cheney

Chancel Choir

Marilyn Radley, Director

Cheney Bell Choir

Marilyn Radley, Director

Ushers

Tracy Schnyer  
Scott Radley, Jr.  
Christy Schnyer  
Nikole Zane

Greeters

Miriam Blaisdell  
Ethel Walker

God's Kids Choir

Jennifer Smith, Director

Communion Stewards

Gwen Evans  
Laurie Bouch  
Rachel Graham

Church Closing

Liturgist

Peg Cheney

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# JANUARY 2004

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Counters

Joan Windston  
Owen Windston  
Bill Simpson  
Anne Simpson

Chancel Choir

Marilyn Radley, Director

Cheney Bell Choir

Marilyn Radley Director

Ushers

William Rittmayer  
Ron Fennimore  
Robert Fonash  
Harry Watson

Greeters

Joan Windston  
Owen Windston

God' Kids Choir

Jennifer Smith, Director

Communion Stewards

Laurie Bouch  
Cindy Burrough  
Gwen Evans  
Rachel Graham

Church Closing

Marty Jacobsen

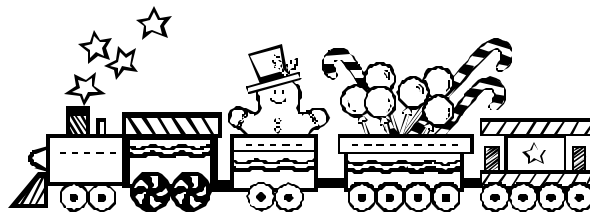
Liturgist

Carol Tait

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|    |                     |    |                   |
|----|---------------------|----|-------------------|
| 2  | Jeff Burrough       | 17 | Kevin Rumbol      |
| 2  | Joan Windston       | 18 | Connie Ruoff      |
| 3  | Bob Tait            | 18 | Kendra Ruoff      |
| 5  | Anthony Costello    | 20 | Kelsey Bowen      |
| 7  | Samantha Georgianna | 22 | Linda Kates       |
| 10 | Dan Arcaini         | 22 | Lara Murphy       |
| 12 | Jennifer Groves     | 26 | Sean Reiter       |
| 12 | Lois Reiter         | 27 | Jake Sturgis      |
| 13 | Sandy Albrecht      | 28 | Jack Radley       |
| 13 | Jim Toliver         | 29 | Carol Fennimore   |
| 15 | Bill Soilliard      | 29 | Joe Mannion       |
| 16 | Holly Fishwick      | 29 | Andrea Mrowcznski |
| 16 | John Pursglove      | 29 | Dot Pierce        |
| 16 | Bonnie Smeltzer     |    |                   |



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

|    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 8  | Connie & Al Ruoff    |
| 18 | Jen & Ed Smith       |
| 28 | Holly & Jim Fishwick |

We have been collecting all of our congregation's birthdays and anniversaries. This is an ongoing project, therefore, if you have not given your family's special days to the church office, please place the information in the folder, (the mail slot) marked Birthdays and Anniversaries.

## Youth Group Happenings

Saturday, 12/06 Help prepare, serve, and clean-up the Spaghetti Dinner.

Sunday, 12/07 No meeting

Saturday, 12/13 Hang Out at New Covenant Church 7:30-10:00 P.M.

Sunday, 12/14 No meeting

Sunday, 12/21 Regular meeting 7:00-8:30 P.M.

Sunday, 12/28 No meeting

Check with Smith's and Kucharski's for details about a bowling night during the week between Christmas and New Year's.

Sunday, 1/04 Regular meeting 7:00-8:30 P.M.

January 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Midwinter Advance at Keswick

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Dear Members and friends of AUMC,

We surely enjoyed our time with you the end of September. We hope the Lord worked in many of your lives.

We want to thank you for the most generous love offering. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We like to give back the tithe from the offerings we receive, so enclosed is a check to help out in any way it is needed.

We pray your church will grow spiritually as each one does his or her part for the Lord.

Lovingly,  
Wil and Donnabelle Hoffman

Norman & Gail Lore and family would like to thank the congregation for all their thoughts, prayers, cards, etc. during Norm's recuperation.

# Christmas Came Early Christmas Came Early

Christmas is early for our various children's programs. Many thanks to the United Methodist Women for contributions to the Church School & Vacation Bible School. Also, praise and thanksgiving to the anonymous donor who has given over \$800 to the Children's Ministry.

Anne Simpson

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## Success! Success!

### Our Flea Market was a success!

Many thanks to everyone who donated items from their home to be included in our sale—*We raised over \$1,000 for the "Ring the Bell" project.* Thank you from the bottom of my heart to my many hard workers who gave up several hours of their weekend to make the dream a reality.

Anne Simpson

P.S.

Start saving items for our Spring Flea Market—April 17<sup>th</sup>!

The proceeds for this sale will benefit our Elevator Fund.

## Jeffery Bowen Memorial Scholarship

As many of you know, a scholarship was established in memory of Jeffery Bowen after his untimely death a few years ago. Jeff was a very friendly member of our church. Many of you may remember his red suspenders as he ushered each year in December. Education was very important to Jeff so his family (including his church family) established a \$1,000 scholarship to help a deserving graduate of Audubon High School each year in his memory. We will take an offering to help find the 2004 scholarship on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Please prayerfully consider giving to this worthy cause.

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## **New Member Classes**

**WHY**

**NOT**

### **JOIN THE CHURCH?**

Membership class starts on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am in the Pastor's Study and will conclude Palm Sunday. See Anne Simpson or Pastor Walt to sign up today!

## Available Altar Flower Dates for 2004

Contact Elina at the Church Office (547-6114) if you are interested in any of these dates. Sponsorship of Flowers is \$24.

February 1<sup>st</sup>

October 31<sup>st</sup>

On these dates only one arrangement (\$12) is available.

August 29<sup>th</sup>

December 19<sup>th</sup>

Dear Members and Friends of Audubon UMC,  
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the surprise "Pastor Appreciation Reception." Your cards, gifts, and your kind words have meant so much to my family and to me. I feel truly blessed to be the pastor of this congregation. Thank you so much!

Pastor Walt



January  
Newsletter  
Deadline is  
Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>

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Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

Christmas House Tour  
1-4 pm

Christmas Bazaar  
2-4 pm

Spaghetti Dinner  
4-6:30 pm

(Tickets for Tour and Dinner on Sale Now)

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The United Methodist Women  
Christmas House Tour  
Saturday, December 6, 2003  
Cost \$4.00

Homes are open from 1 PM to 4 PM

We would like to thank the following for opening their homes for the tour:

Rich and Mary Begley 27 Chadwick Av. Bellmawr

Pat and Sarah Gibbons 317 E. Washington Av. Magnolia

Shawn and Jean Whiteley 421 W. Kings Hwy Audubon

As an extra bonus the Parsonage will hold their Open House at the same times

Pastor Walt and Carol Jesuncosky

220 Wyoming Av. Audubon

Thank you!

I would like to thank all of those who took crafts on Sunday, November 2, 2003. It will be a great help to me and also give us many crafts for the Bazaar. If you have any new white elephant items for the Bazaar they will be needed, also if you have any other craft items. The more we have for sale the better it will be.

### Baked Goods

We will also need homemade baked goods for the baked goods table and for the Tea Table. Cakes, Breads, Pies and Cookies would be appreciated. Jams and Jellies are also a big seller.

### Setting up time

We will be setting up the tables for the Bazaar on Friday, December 5, 2003 in the Fellowship Hall at 1 PM. If you can help we would be glad to have your help.

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### *Memorial Poinsettias 2003*



ORDER YOUR  
POINSETTIAS

*If you would like to order Poinsettias through the church to present during the Christmas Season In Memory of Your Loved Ones or In Honor of Your Loved Ones, please fill out the form below and return it with your payment of \$6.50\* per plant to our church secretaries.*

*\* The price of poinsettias has increased in order to maintain a quality selection of flowers.*

*ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>.*

*If you have any questions, please contact Elina or Elsie at 547-6114.*

*You may pick up your poinsettia after the second Christmas Eve Service or after service Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to attend either service, we would appreciate it if you would make arrangements for someone to pick up your flower(s). Poinsettias left after December 28<sup>th</sup> will be given away. If you are available to help deliver flowers, contact Luis Matthews. Thanks!*

*Memorial Poinsettias 2003*

*\*NEW PRICE!*

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ plant(s) at \$6.50 each. My payment is included.

- 1. Presented by \_\_\_\_\_  
in loving MEMORY of \_\_\_\_\_  
in HONOR of \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Presented by \_\_\_\_\_  
in loving MEMORY of \_\_\_\_\_  
in HONOR of \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Presented by \_\_\_\_\_  
in loving MEMORY of \_\_\_\_\_  
in HONOR of \_\_\_\_\_

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**Special Christmas Events**

- Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 6pm  
Christian Artist Singers
- Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm  
Live Nativity
- Sunday, December 21st 9:15am  
Christmas Carol Hymn-Sing & Narration of the Christmas  
Story  
(All Ages Welcome!)
- Sunday, December 21st 10:30am  
Christmas Cantata
- Wednesday, December 24th 7pm  
Family Christmas Eve Service
- Wednesday, December 24th 10pm  
Traditional Service of  
Carols & Candles

## From the Pastor...Christmas 2003

I recently saw a cartoon in the newspaper that truly captured the spirit of the "holiday season." It featured a witch-like Santa Clause in a sleigh being pulled by a turkey with the caption "Merry Thanksgivoween." This may give you pause to chuckle since it seems like we now have one long, mixed holiday season that begins after Labor Day and ends with New Year. This year I actually saw Christmas decorations for sale in a department store in August! It almost seems like the holidays have become so mixed and commercialized they have lost much of their meaning. Today, there are far too many people who do not even understand what each of these special events represent. How can a society that seems determined to erase any remnants of our Judeo Christian tradition from public life hear the message of Christmas? That's where the Church comes in.

Our Lord has given the task of proclaiming His message to the world. We are His body, the Church. We are the hands and feet, the ears, eyes, and mouths Christ uses to tell the world what He has done for us. The world can celebrate a Merry Thanksgivoween...it can offer people Seasons Greetings or Happy Holidays. We offer Jesus Christ, the Son of God whose birthday we celebrate. How do we make this a Christ-filled Christmas? Here are some practical suggestions.

1. Use a special Advent devotional and/or advent calendar to help you (and your family) focus on the real meaning of the season. How about lighting candles in a home advent wreath?
2. Attend church regularly during Advent. Make this a priority. Shopping, baking, visiting, and gift-wrapping can wait.
3. Send "Christian" Christmas cards to your friends and relatives and purchase the "religious" Christmas postage stamps. Trees, reindeer, Kris Kringle, and holly are all very nice, but honestly, the world will offer plenty of these beloved secular symbols. You offer Christ.
4. Give a Christmas gift to Jesus. Whose birthday is it anyway? Why not give a gift to Christ? When the collection plate or Christmas offering envelope comes by, give a special gift to Him.
5. Say "Merry Christmas." Avoid using the innocuous "season's greetings" or "happy holidays." Don't be afraid to name the Name! And by the way, it's "Christmas break" not "winter recess!"

6. Tell someone about the Christ of Christmas. You will never have a better time of year to witness to your personal faith in the Savior than the season that is named for His birth.

This is the third Christmas my family and I have spent with our Church family in Audubon. We so appreciate the many prayers and kindnesses show to us during our time here. We are so pleased to be part of such a loving, caring faith community. Our prayer for you is that Christmas will be the most blessed, Christ-filled season yet. We wish you God's best and thank you for the privilege of sharing in Christ's ministry with you. On behalf of my family and myself, I wish you a "Merry **Christmas**" and blessed New Year.

See you in Church!

Pastor Walt, Carol, Walter IV and  
Miles