

Welcome Guests:

It is our hope that you will encounter God's presence for your life as you worship with us, and find yourself blessed & challenged in your faith journey so you can be a blessing to others. You may make comments or requests next to your name & any information you wish to share in the attendance books. We hope to meet you after worship in the foyer during our informal fellowship time. Please join us for worship again!

(Contact an usher to use Sound Mate---Assisted Listening devices.)

9:00 am – **SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES – ADULT LESSON: “LIFE-CHANGING EVENTS”**
(LUKE 1:67-80)

The World Is About To Turn!

Advent Week 3

Take heart! God turns our barrenness into fruitfulness.

Prelude Dawn Meck

10:00 am – WORSHIP SERVICE

GATHERING

Congregational Singing of Christmas Carols Doug Fretz

Call to Worship Focus Reading John Eby

Call to Worship Jill Herr

Gathering & Offertory Prayer

Offering: Love Offering & Student Aid *(please pass attendance books)*

Offertory Dawn Meck

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Advent Visitor - Elizabeth & John the Baptist Fern & Sterling Beiler

Advent Candle Lighting Ritual Brittany Isaacs

Theme Song: 'My Soul Cries Out' Advent Ensemble

Old & New Testament Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon: "Rejoice! God's Justice Breaks Forth" Pastor Don Sharp

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Congregational Singing Doug Fretz

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: God of liberation, we love our comforts and securities
more than a just world in which all life is sacred

**People: We would rather drink from springs that don't satisfy
Than confront the powers of darkness in and around us.**

All: *Forgiveness our weaknesses and failures, grant us your mercy
and energize us to work toward and celebrate your jubilee.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we ask this. Amen.*

SENDING

Sending Song Doug Fretz

Benediction: *Words of Assurance* Pastor Don Sharp

Postlude Instrumental Ensemble

*Special Thanks to: Nancy Leaman for providing the advent table display
for each week; Fern Beiler for making the banner backdrop to the table & for
decorating the church (poinsettias, wreaths, window greens, etc) with Peggy High.*

CALENDAR:

WEDNESDAY

Dec. 19 - 4:30-7 pm – **JGA/Torchbearer Christmas Celebration** at church.
- 7 pm - **Financial Affairs Meeting** in conference room

NEXT SUNDAY

Dec 23 – 9:30 am - **Carry-in Breakfast:** Bring a hot or cold dish.
- 10:30-11:30 am – **Annual Christmas Worship (no Sunday School)**
Advent Series “THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO TURN” – 4th Sunday:
“Be Restored! O Weary Mortal, Your Salvation is Here!”
Offering: Building Fund & Congregational Ministries
* * *

December 27 - **5th Sunday Worship Rehearsal** in sanctuary.
January 3 - 4:15 pm - **Leadership Team Meeting** in conference room.
Jan 4-6, 2008 - **Jr. High Youth Retreat** at Camp Hebron (*date change*)
Jan. 7 – 7-8:30 pm - **Depression Support Group** in the conference room
Jan. 8 – 8:30-11:45am- **Sewing Circle** in church basement.
Jan. 9 – 7-8:30 pm - **Women's Night Out!** Plan to attend.
Jan. 11-13, 2008 - **Sr. High Youth Retreat** at Camp Hebron (*date change*)
Jan. 20 - **“Worshipful Work of Discernment”** (see insert)
Jan. 23 – 6:45 pm - **Sr High Youth & Parent meeting** in church basement.

Today's Childcare Staff:

2s & 3s class: Ashley Armer, Chris Hess & Melvin Felpel
Nursery (infants-Age2): Loretta Sharp, Pat Leaman / Myrna & Carrie Smucker

A big thank you to all the Christmas carolers who visited various retirement communities, the Friendship Community Shalom House & private homes on Dec. 12. Approximately 20 children & 50 adults spread cheer to over 32 Stumptown friends & others who gathered to listen & participate. ~Shelley Leaman & Karen Fretz, organizers

Needed: Prayer Partners for the Jr. High students participating in the Camp Hebron Retreat. Please see Barb Carper if you are interested.

Offering Reports for December 9:

Congregational Ministries	\$ 5,534.50	Student Aid	\$ 600.00
Open Door Youth Center	\$ 1,000.00	Cemetery Fund	\$ 496.00
Building Fund	\$10,040.00	EMM/Brislens	\$2,200.00
Youth Group	\$ 40.00	Sewing Circle	\$ 20.00
Benevolent Fund/Frank Monte	\$ 50.00	Herb/Rose Burkhart	\$ 100.00
Love Offering	\$ 75.00		

Sunday School Attendance: Church Attendance: 216

Bulletin items are accepted until **WEDNESDAY** noon to Glenda (291-1089 or ggroff@juno.com). Newsletter items are accepted through *December 23*.

Prayer & Praise:

- God's provision in a desert world
- Ken and Joan Steffen
- Those away in Christian service: Mike/Cindy/Jordan/Alia Brislen, Kenya; Herb/Rose/Jed Burkhart, Canada; Reggie/Renee (Groff) Dennis, Chester; Brent/Trina/Anneka/Abigail Siegrist, Kenya.

The December issue of *The Burkhartbeat*, Herb & Rose Burkhart's prayer letter, is posted on the Missionary Bulletin.

Stumptown Mennonite Church

Leadership Team:

LEAD PASTOR:	DONALD D. SHARP -	560-6352
ASSOC. PASTOR & MINISTER OF EVANGELISM:	JOHN LEAMAN -	656-6612
MINISTER OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS:	JANSEN HERR -	951-3525
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:	DEB HIGH -	284-3184
DEACON:	ANDREW DIENER -	656-8341
MINISTER OF COMMUNITY LIFE:		
ASSISTANTS IN COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRIES:	SHELLEY LEAMAN -	399-7675
	RANDY ZOOK -	393-8528
MINISTER OF EDUCATION:	HAROLD LEAMAN -	656-2429
EDUCATION MINISTRIES ASSISTANT:	JOHN MILLER -	798-3663
PRIMARY EDUCATION COORDINATORS:	JEAN DIENER -	656-8341
	LISA MECK -	672-1174
MINISTER OF WORSHIP:		
WORSHIP PLANNING TEAM:	DON SHARP, KAREN FRETZ, PAM RUTT, JOSEPH LEAMAN	
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:	KAREN FRETZ -	394-6544
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:	GLENDA GROFF -	291-1089

New Address: Craig & Willow Felpel & family – 1145 North Old Steese Road
Fairbanks Alaska 99712

* Also congratulations on the birth of Caleb Douglas Leeland Felpel born to Craig & Willow on Dec. 8. He weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. Congratulations, also, to the rest of the Felpel family on this special addition to their family.

Lost & Found Items and coats/items left on the coat racks will be removed & given to charity by the end of the year. Please make sure your items are taken home.

The book, Raising Sons Without Fathers by Leif Terdal & Patricia Kennedy, has been left in the library. If you know who it belongs to, please contact those in the library.

NOTICE: The Parent & Preschool Center at Mellinger Mennonite Church has an immediate opening for a paid childcare provider on Tues. mornings in the nursery. The Center provides babysitting for children of those attending the mother's *Connections* meetings from 9-11 am. Contact Chris Hess or call Dorothy Livengood (397-5717).

Corner of Hope is in need of men's winter coats & boys clothes. Additional items they gratefully accept are listed on the sheet posted on the bulletin board.

Leola Homes of Hope is in need of double beds, single beds, dressers, crib, changing table, and a used bike for 13 year old. Call Tina Frey at 278-2688.

"Rejoice! God's Justice Breaks Forth"

Message by: Pastor Don Sharp

Date: December 16, 2007

Feel free to take notes, draw pictures/diagram of the sermon, etc.

CLOSE TO HOME pamphlets (*Pornography, Spouse Abuse & Eating Disorders*) are located on a small table close to the grandfather clock in the foyer. They are for anyone's use---to provide encouragement, healing & growth. Over the next few years, ~30 areas of life (*alcohol addiction, depression, marital discord, etc*) will be addressed. ~Deacon & Counseling Ministries

Community Notes:

TODAY – LMS High School Concert in the Fine Arts Center (3 pm).

Dec. 18 - Locust Grove Mennonite School Handbell Choir will play at Landis Homes, West Bethany Chapel at 10 am. John Leaman will have a Christmas meditation. *All are welcome.*

Dec. 20 – Lancaster Mennonite Middle Schools at Kraybill, Lancaster & Locust Grove will hold a joint concert in the Fine Arts Center (7 pm).

from the **Financial Affairs Committee**

Church Treasury Need:

A total of \$21,334 is needed for the Congregational Ministries Fund by the end of December 2007 in order to catch up & to meet our budget. The budget for Congregational Ministries this year was \$6,000 per offering. So far we have averaged \$5,877 per offering.

There are three offerings scheduled for December:

-Goal for Congregational Ministries Offering 12/09/07	\$7,112
	(<i>\$5,534.50 rec'd</i>)
-Goal for Congregational Ministries Offering 12/23/07	\$7,112
-Goal for Congregational Ministries Offering 12/30/07	\$7,112

Please prayerfully consider what your response will be to this need.

Mission Statement:

Stumptown Mennonite Church is a welcoming congregation of followers of Jesus Christ who seek to:

- **Worship**, love and serve the triune God
- **Nurture** by preaching and teaching the whole Word of God
- **Grow** in our relationships with Christ and each other
- **Reach** out in love, service and witness to all people.

Worshipful Work of Discernment

January 20, 2008

9 AM - Opening Worship

Singing
Dwelling in the Word & Prayer
Instructions for Forums

9:20 AM – Forums for Worship, Outreach & Education Ministries

(individuals choose one as the congregation is divided
into three groups--this will include our guests also)

10:00 AM - Gather to Worship

Singing
Offering
Dwelling in the Word & Prayer
Instructions for Forums

10:40 AM - Forums for Worship, Outreach & Education Ministries

(individuals choose one as the congregation is divided
into three groups--this will include our guests also)

11:30 AM - Gather in Fellowship Hall for Prayer & Fellowship Meal

Plan to Participate!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Introducing the 2008 Youth Ministry Team

Activities/Retreats/Mission Projects/Youth Assembly:	Greg & Amy Troyer, sponsors Ryan Ebersole, assistant Youth Leadership Team
High School Youth Leadership Team:	To Be Announced
Fundraising Team:	Roger Rutt & Other Parents
Sunday School:	John Miller, Ministry of Education
Mid-Week Bible Study Coordination:	Don Sharp (Pastoral Resource) & the Youth Leadership Team

Attention Parents & High School Youth:

Plan to attend a prayer meeting to organize & share information
on Wed, 1/23/08, at 6:45 pm in the basement gathering area of the church!