

Broad Street United Methodist Church

74 North Broad Street
Norwich, New York 13815
607-334-2895



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011

Rev. Jeff Hale, Pastor
Rev. Nancy Hale, Associate Pastor

Our Mission Statement:

**We are a community of faithful disciples
of Jesus Christ, growing in faith, love and service
to God and all of God's creation
in Norwich and throughout the world.**

FIND US ONLINE!

Pastor Jeff e-mail: jeffh2@frontiernet.net
Pastor Nancy e-mail: nhale@frontiernet.net
Church e-mail: bsumc8@frontiernet.net

Web Site: www.BroadStUMC.com



Find us on Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/broadstumc



Follow us on Twitter:
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

-- 1 Corinthians 1:3

These are words of Paul that I greeted you with almost 7 years ago and now that I leave you with. Even though I am leaving physically you will remain with me and I hope I will remain with you. During our time together we have done great works for God and Christ and I know you will continue in these works and many more. As I leave I am overjoyed to leave you in the hands of God and Pastor Nancy. My prayer will be for you all to grow in the love of God with each other. I ask you also to keep me in your prayers during my time of sabbatical and a new appointment.

It is always hard for me to leave a congregation, but I am so thankful for all the relationships that have been formed while being at Broad Street. No matter where we go in life, we are still brothers and sisters in Christ, and God calls us to servant hood and discipleship.

As I leave I think of the wonderful things that have happened here; worship, confirmation, youth group, Bible study, Sunday school, Christmas and Easter services, Soup and Sandwich, Haiti trips, the Church has Left the Building, food drives, Christmas boxes, one-on-one conversations, sharing your joys and concerns, being a part of baptisms, Holy Communion, weddings, funerals, and other special services like Sing Out and Celebrate and Passion/Palm Sunday, Christmas bazaars, rummage sales, and meetings after meetings, only to name a few.

You have truly blessed me with your love, grace, and forgiveness. For those who I may have hurt over the years, I ask your forgiveness. For all of you, I ask God to bless and keep you. Remember, there have been many more servants before and many will follow, but right now God needs us to carry out the work of mission and love to all we meet.

Peace, Pastor Jeff

THANK YOU TO PASTOR JEFF

On Sunday, December 18, we will celebrate Pastor Jeff's six and a half years of ministry with us at Broad Street United Methodist Church. As a way of saying thank you for all he has been and done for us, we would like to create a **Memory Jar**, which we will present to him during worship on that day.



We invite you to add your own note to the Memory Jar. Simply use the piece of colored paper included in this newsletter (or use your own piece of paper) and jot down a favorite (brief) memory of Jeff's ministry. It might be a time when you shared some laughter at a church event, or a special time of worship, or a time when Jeff helped you along in your faith journey. You may sign your name to your note, if you wish.

Please give your note to Pastor Nancy, or mail it or drop it off in the church office by Friday, December 16th. (No one will read these notes except Pastor Jeff.) Thank you!

Christmas Blessings

As your pastors, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. We are delighted to celebrate this wondrous time of year with you. May we all join together in faith and understanding of the birth of Christ as the reason for this special season. Our prayers are with everyone as we head into the year 2012.

God Bless,
Pastors Jeff and Nancy

WORSHIP MATTERS

Sunday, December 18

In both our worship services, we will celebrate Pastor Jeff's ministry with us over the past 6½ years, and offer our blessings for him, wherever God may lead him.

CHRISTMAS EVE, Saturday, December 24

7:00 P.M. Family Service & Pageant with Candle lighting

Everyone who comes to the service will be invited to participate in our pageant. We will join together to bring the story of Christmas to life! We will also light candles and sing "Silent Night." Following the service, we will celebrate Jesus' birthday with a cake.

11:00 P.M. Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

This service will include special music, carols, Holy Communion, and singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.

<p>PLEASE NOTE: We will have ONE worship service at 10:30 on both Christmas Day and New Year's Day</p>

CHRISTMAS DAY, Sunday, December 25

10:30 A.M. A Service of Lessons and Carols

This combined service will include favorite carols, including "Silent Night" by candlelight!

A **Christmas Ham Dinner** will follow the service for anyone who might not have other dinner plans. (More information about the dinner can be found in this newsletter.)

NEW YEAR'S DAY, Sunday, January 1, 2012

10:30 A.M. An Epiphany Service of Holy Communion

On Sunday, January 8, 2012, Pastor Nancy will be away, so some of our church members will lead **John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service** at both worship services. This is an historic and special service! Don't miss it!

SING OUT AND CELEBRATE!

Our annual community Christmas Concert will be Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in our sanctuary. Join us as we celebrate the reason for the season with anthems performed by church choirs from the area, handbell music, traditional Christmas Carols, and of course, the Hallelujah Chorus! Please bring a canned or dry food item for the local food pantries. A free-will offering for the local food pantries will also be collected.

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

Following the worship service on Christmas Day, we will have a Christmas Ham Dinner, with all the trimmings, for anyone who may not be spending the day with family. You don't need to bring a dish to pass – this meal will be a time for us to relax and enjoy the fellowship of our church family on a very special day.

If you would like to come to the dinner, **please call the church office by December 15th**. Let us know how many people you will bring and if you can help set up, serve, prepare beverages, wash dishes or clean up.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GAME NIGHT!

Join us on Saturday, December 31, from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. for a time of games, food, and fellowship! We will meet in Fellowship Hall, where we will have a ping pong table, various board games, and light refreshments available. Bring your own favorite games, a snack or a beverage, and join in the fun!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The **UMW Meeting and Christmas Party** will be on Sunday, December 11 at 12 noon. Bring a dish to share, your Secret Sister Gift, and money to fill Children's Home stockings. We

will also collect UMW pledges. Dessert and place settings will be provided.

WANTED: COATS, HATS, MITTENS

We need your donations of clean, gently used winter coats, and new hats, mittens, and gloves, in men's, women's or children's sizes. The demand is greatest for infant's and toddler's size hats and mittens, and men's gloves. The mittens and hats will decorate our tree in the sanctuary. We make all these items available for people who come to pick up their Christmas Food Boxes, so please bring them in before December 20th. We will also appreciate donations of men's, women's and children's socks and underwear. Help keep our neighbors warm this winter!

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Grace View Manor (formally United Methodist Homes on Calvary Drive) is looking for volunteers who would be willing to drive their residents to things such as doctor visits and shopping trips. If you'd like to help, your name will be put on a list that will be available to residents. Please call the office or talk to Pastor Nancy if you're interested.

MAKING YOUR GIVING AT CHRISTMAS EASIER

We are including an envelope for your Christmas Offering in this newsletter. If you will not be able to attend our Christmas Services, you can mail it to the church. We thank you for your Christmas Gift and other gifts through the year. It is through your generous giving that we are able to provide programs, help the needy, and offer the building for many community activities. God Bless!

NEW PICTURE DIRECTORY

It's been ten years since our last picture directory, and it's time for a new one! Because we have new membership software on our office computer, and because we have people who are willing to share their technological skills, we have decided to produce this new directory ourselves.

On several Sunday mornings over the course of several weeks, we will be taking pictures. Lori Ericksen, our photographer, will have an area set up so she can take a couple of pictures of you and your family. You'll be able to see the pictures immediately so you can choose which one you want in the directory.

We need to take individual photos of every church member and friend so we can upload them to our software, which will greatly help our pastors keep track of everyone. But we also need to take photos of couples and families for the directory.

Our photo sessions for this month will be on two Sundays, December 11 and 18. Lori will be available to take pictures after the 8:30 service, and before and after the 10:30 service. We will also have a photographer available to take pictures at our dinner on Christmas Day. More photo sessions will be planned for January.

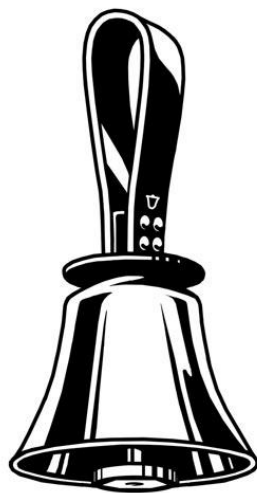
If you are unavailable to have your photo taken, please feel free to send us a good-quality, clear photos of each individual in your family, and of your family together.

We hope that everyone will want to participate in this project. Having photos of everyone will go a long way to help all of us learn more about each other and to become a strong community of faith and love!

CARING FOR OUR HANDBELLS

Our beautiful 3-octave set of Schulmerich handbells were donated to our church over 20 years ago. Since then, the bells have provided wonderful music, especially at Christmas, and many people have enjoyed the challenge and fun of ringing bells.

Our bells are showing their age. Normally, handbells should be professionally reconditioned every 5-7 years, depending on how often they're used. Our bells have never been reconditioned. Recently, we had one bell break, and several others are not ringing properly. We've reached the point where it is absolutely necessary to have the bells serviced so they will continue to enhance our music ministry for many more years to come.



A professional refurbishment, done at the Schulmerich factory where the bells were manufactured, will cost between \$3,600 and \$4,000. With this service, Schulmerich will essentially rebuild each bell, replacing handles and the entire interior assembly – that is, we will have like-new bells with all new parts on the original bell castings. (For comparison: a brand new 3-octave set of bells would cost \$11,000.) In addition, we will receive a full guarantee on all replaced parts.

If you would like to help us care for our handbells, you may contribute to the **Handbell Refurbishing Fund**. Place your donation in an envelope marked Handbell Fund (checks payable to BSUMC, “Handbell Fund” in the memo line) and place in it the offering plate or drop it off in the church office.

From all present, past, and future bell ringers: **thank you!**

THANK YOU FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone who has supported our church, ministries and budget during 2011. Your generous gifts of time, donations, and financial support have helped us reach out to many people in our church, our community, and the world this year. The 2012 budget will be presented at Church Conference on November 29. After this date, you may request a copy of the budget from the church office.

As our stewardship campaign for 2012 pledges comes to an end, we hope to hear from every church family. This will help us confidently plan and move ahead with our ministries and outreach programs, which are dependent both on God's grace and the generosity of God's people. If you are still thinking about how to respond, we ask that you try to finalize prayers and thoughts this week. If you have already returned your **Estimate of Giving Card**, we thank you. Your generosity makes a lasting difference that is, in many ways, eternal. When you give, it sets off a chain reaction of thankfulness and ignites ministries in our church that enable others to experience God.

If you feel you cannot estimate your giving because of your situation, please don't let that keep you from worshiping and enjoying fellowship with our loving congregation. God always knows you and cares for you, and in Christ, we have great hope for the future. Consider returning a signed card without specifying an amount, in order to express your support of the church and your intent to keep the church in your prayers. You may place your card in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to the church. When your situation changes, you can follow through with your faithful gifts for ministry at that time.

Feel free to contact Pastor Jeff or Pastor Nancy Hale if they can be of assistance to you in any way. And please continue to pray for our church in the days ahead as we strive to follow God's path.

Sincerely, The Finance Committee

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP CHANGES

As many of you already know, on January 1, we will experience a change in pastoral leadership. We would like to summarize the announcements that have been made over the last couple of months:

In September, Pastor Jeff announced that he will begin a 6-month sabbatical leave on January 1, and will ask to be appointed to another church as of July 1, 2012. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) began discussions with our District Superintendent, Rev. Jan Rowell about the senior pastor position. We then announced that Pastor Nancy will become senior pastor beginning on January 1. The SPPRC is now working with Rev. Rowell to identify a candidate for the quarter-time position. We will keep the congregation informed as we are able. Please keep the SPPRC and Rev. Rowell in your prayers as they continue to work to find the best candidate to join our staff.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

Sun. Dec. 11	7:00 p.m.	Help with Sing out and Celebrate
Sun. Dec. 18	5:00 to 6:30 p.m.	Youth Group Christmas Party
Sat. Dec. 31	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve Game Night



Maggi; The family & friends of Mable Dilworth; The family & friends of Bert Hawthorne; The family and friends of Bruce Cramer; Ted Cadwell and family; The family and friends of Evelyn Rothdiener; Connie Coleman; Dorothy Wilson; Patricia Sunday;

Peggy Banta; Ellen Eccleston; Gladys Trythall; Harley Hall; Ruth Wright; Charles Frayer; Alice Van Wagner; Amy Brillinger Pole; Corinna & Brian Fleming's son Sean; Ginny Clarke; Justin Nariott; Paul & Lana Roske; Matt Nelson; Pete Casadonte; Leslie; Kathleen; Lawrence Mittchell; Ginny Hall; Jon; Appollonia; Amanda; Alice Dreyer; Mike Lapenta; Edwin Dunn; Joe Hurlburt & Family; Seia Ceiahoben; Claire Elizabeth Hanson; Marion Barnes; Catherine Hodgson; Tracy Brown; The Beasock Family; Myrna DuMond, Robert Casadonte; Beverly Ray; Earl Barnes; Mary Ward; Sue Carter; Caregivers; our shut-ins; world leaders; peace in Uganda; People of Iraq, People of Haiti.

Military Personnel: Joseph Harrison; Eric McNeisch; Jeremy McNeil; Chris Curnalia; Ricky Kozlowski; Cody Christophersen; Brian Bosworth..

Please look over the prayer list. If you listed a name that now can be taken off, please call the church office at 334-2895 to let us know.

DEAF and HARD-OF-HEARING SOCIAL

The December Deaf Social will be a Christmas Party on Friday, December 16th at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you have a friend or family member who uses American Sign Language, please let them know about this wonderful opportunity to connect with other ASL users!

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

If you would like to provide flowers for worship, please check the Flower Chart outside the church office to see what dates are available for the coming months. Or, you may call the church office (334-2895) to ask if a specific date is available. When you call to reserve the date(s) you want, please provide the names of those you wish to honor or remember.

We also ask that you arrange with a local florist for the flowers to be delivered to the church on Saturday (the day before your reserved date). Or, you are invited to bring flowers yourself, preferably early on Sunday morning. (Please note: the church does not arrange for flower delivery.)

December flowers are given by....

4	OPEN
11	(Poinsettias)
18	(Poinsettias)
25	OPEN

January flowers are given by....

1	OPEN
8	OPEN
15	OPEN
22	Pastor Nancy
29	OPEN

February flowers given by....

5	OPEN
12	OPEN
19	OPEN
26	OPEN

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Dee Thorne, Thomas Whitney
- 03 Lynn Wysor
- 04 Steve Bliss, Marilyn Kochersperger, Debbie Wheeler
- 05 Greg Huzinec, Larry Becker
- 07 David Symonds
- 08 Margie Casey, Pauline Kline
- 09 Della Ericksen, Jared Kirkland
- 10 Alexander Williams
- 12 Louisa Roth
- 13 Donna Moren, Sharon Fleming
- 15 Kristene Campbell
- 16 Thomas Morris, Ethan Urie
- 17 William Kirkland
- 18 Emily Rifanburg
- 19 Lois McAveigh
- 20 Allie Lo Presti
- 21 Vincent Cappiello
- 24 John Bornhoest
- 27 Greg Hall, Ted Post
- 28 Peggy Phillips
- 29 James Crugnale
- 30 Jim Wysor

Please call the office (334-2895) if you wish to add your birthday to the list!

Regular weekly events at the church

AA - Mon - Sat at 7 a.m. and Wednesday s at 8 p.m.

NA - Saturday at 7 p.m.

TLC Nursery School - Mon - Fri, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Children's Home & Family Support Mon - Fri 2:30 - 7:30 p.m.