

# Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

Heralding the Good News to our neighbors

Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M. November/December 2018

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http://www.eastbloomfieldcongregationalchurch.org

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A note from the editor...

Let us begin the season of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas by remembering all that God has provided for us! Go with thankful hearts as we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord and savior, Jesus.

During the latter part of October, you will receive your letter from the Trustees along with your pledge card for 2019. As you give thought to what you will give, count your blessings, for they are many.

This church, which is just a small part of *The Church*, strives to help our neighbors. We strive to reach out to broader missions. We offer a place to come together to meet with friends and worship our God. How blessed we are! Please give what you can from your heart. Bring your pledge card to church on November 4<sup>th</sup> and place it in the offering plate praying that God will use your gift to further His work and word in the world.

There are "hands-on" ways to be stewards too. Get involved in the fundraising events throughout the year. Any money brought in from the sales adds to the church's budget for the year with 10 % going to our outreach programs.

In November we will again participate in the Holiday Fair at the Elementary School. See the article on page 7 to know how to help!

With thankfulness for all you do, Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! Phyllis

#### **PASTORS' COLUMN**

#### From the pen of Rev. Sandy Porrey



The holiday season will soon be upon us. That thought means something different to each one of us. For some people the holidays represent а time of blessing and special times shared

with family and loved ones. They love all the excitement, anticipation and preparation that accompany the season.

So many of us have much to be grateful for, we have been blessed with good health or our loved ones are healthy. We have other blessings like financial security or the security that our families and homes provide.

Unfortunately for some people the holidays can be a time of sadness and despair. Perhaps they are grieving the loss of a loved one. Maybe they are battling an illness or disease or have a family member who is. Maybe they are under employed or cannot find work. Maybe they don't have a home. Maybe they are battling mental illness or addiction. Or maybe worst of all, they have never learned about God's promises in the New Testament.

That's where you and I come in! I can't think of a better gift we can give someone by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with them. It won't cost us anything but the reward we will receive will be immeasurable.

If this sounds like a daunting task and you are asking yourself, "Where would I begin", why not start with sharing Luke 1:26-2:20. You can print out a copy of Gabriel's Horn and put it in your purse or in the car just in case you don't have a bible available should an opportunity present itself.

Another thought is invite somene to join us for our annual Hanging of the Greens and Potluck lunch, or any of our worship services including Christmas Eve. It's just a thought. ©

May God continue to bless you and yours during the Christmas season and may we all give thanks to God for the birth of our Savior.

God's peace, Sandy

## <u>Luke 1:26-2:20 New Revised Standard</u> <u>Version (NRSV)</u>

#### The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son: and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant

of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

#### Mary Visits Elizabeth

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

## Mary's Song of Praise

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his

mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." 56 And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

#### The Birth of John the Baptist

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. 60 But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." 61 They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." 62 Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. 63 He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. 66 All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

## Zechariah's Prophecy

67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: 68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. 69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, 73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us 74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. 78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." 80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

#### The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she

gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### The Shepherds and the Angels

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them".

#### From the pen of Pastor Andy Schaefer



I am by no means a scholar of the book of Job. However, this one verse jumped out at me. It seems to be the entire book in a nutshell:

Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?

No, but he would give heed to me.

Job 23:6

I invite you, first of all, to let that verse play around in your head for a while, see where it takes you. Take a few moments...or days...l'll wait!

The book of Job does not teach that tragedy figures into God's larger scheme of things. Nor does it support any other theory that explains suffering. The book of Job is a book of conversations; and these conversations do not end the way we would like them to.

But it is not the conclusion of conversation matters. the that but conversations themselves: more specifically, our human need to be heard. I have found Job's conversation with God to be frustrating. It is poetic and beautiful, but in regards to making sense out of suffering mmmmmm, not so much. Yet, it reveals that God has been *listening* all along: listening as Job's friends offered rationales for his fate: listening as Job responds to their words: listening as Job has pleaded his innocence; listening as Job demanded God answer for all Job's suffering.

Despite the "happy ending" of Job, in which he receives back twice what he lost (which some scholars argue was tacked on later by a different writer) the real lesson may be that God is, indeed, listening. Even when we seem separated from God by a wall of suffering, God is listening. Even when well-intentioned people say hurtful things, God is listening. Even when we rail against God, God is listening.

Perhaps that could be our reminder for Advent: When the world was dark, God was listening, and responded with a savior who answered in ways that we did not imagine. In a world that is still dark, God is still listening, and calls us to answer in the manner of that same savior.

In all times, in all places, and to all people, God is listening. May we learn to listen as God listens, and answer as God answers.

Peace, Andy

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER, MINISTRY AND HUMOR

#### Church Membership

Please contact Rev. Sandy Porrey at (585) 773-8512 or <u>Sanders74@juno.com</u> for information on joining the First Congregational Church of East Bloomfield or arranging for Home Communion for a shut-in.



#### **November**

#### December

29 Noah Bartos

13 Jacquie Walters

Help Needed—Help Needed Check out the signup sheets in Fellowship Hall

## **Upcoming Events**

| Choir<br>Everyone is<br>welcome to<br>sing. | Wednesday night rehearsals resume at 7:30-9:00  |
|---|---|
| Nov 4                                       | -Women's Breakfast,<br>8:00 @ Brady J's<br>-Daylight savings time<br>ends-set clock back! |

| Nov 11                        | -Pledge Sunday. Place your pledge card in the collection basket todayFirst Sunday Food Basket & special offeringCouncil Meeting  Veteran's Day   |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Nov 15                        | Book Club, 2;30 – 3:30,<br>The Best of Enemies,<br>Jen Lancaster   |
| Nov 17                        | Holiday Fair   |
| Nov 18                        | Contemporary service<br>at 10:00 AM in<br>Fellowship Hall  |
| Nov 22  THANKSGIVING          | Thanksgiving Day   |
| Nov 25                        | -Men's Breakfast 8:00<br>@ Brady J's.<br>-Christ the King Sunday   |
| Dec 2  First SUNDAY  Helivent | -Women's Breakfast,<br>8:00 @ Brady J's<br>-First Sunday in Advent<br>-First Sunday Food<br>Basket & special<br>offering.<br>-Hanging of the Greens<br>with potluck lunch.<br>-Council meeting |
| Dec 9                         | Second Sunday in Advent  |

| Dec 16                        | -Contemporary service<br>at 10:00 AM in<br>Fellowship Hall<br>-Third Sunday in<br>Advent   |
|-------------------------------|--|
| THIRD SUNDAY<br>Halvent       |  |
| Dec 18                        | Newsletter Deadline for Nov/Dec 2018   |
| Dec 20                        | Book Club 2:30-3:30,<br>Insidious Intent, Val<br>McDermid  |
| Dec 23  FOURTH SUNDAY  Advent | Fourth Sunday in<br>Advent   |
| Dec 24  Christmas             | Christmas Eve service<br>(Time to be announced)<br>Bring a candle to place<br>on the communion table<br>in remembrance or<br>honor of a loved one. |
| Dec 25                        | <b>Christmas Day</b>   |
| Merry<br>Christmas            |  |
| Dec 30                        | -Men's Breakfast 8:00<br>@ Brady J's.  |
|                               |  |

#### **PEWPOINTS**

## **Lectionary Readings Nov/Dec 2018**

Nov 4 Ruth 1:1-18, Psalm 146, Hebrews 9:11-14, Mark 12:28-34 Nov 11 Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17, Psalm 127, Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44 Nov 18 1 Samuel 1:4-20, Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25, Mark 13:1-8 Nov 22, Thanksgiving Day, Joel 2:21-27, Psalm 126, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Matthew 6:25-33

Nov 25 2 Samuel 23:1-7, Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18), Revelation 1:4b-8, John 18:33-37 First Sunday in Advent Dec 2 Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

Second Sunday in Advent Dec 9 Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Third Sunday in Advent Dec 16 Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

Fourth Sunday in Advent Dec 23 Micah 5:2-5a, Psalm 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Dec 30 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

## How to advertise your church event

To advertise any church event contact Alice McConnell, 8291 Wesley Road, Bloomfield, 14469; 703-1449 or <a href="mailto:beehive270@gmail.com">beehive270@gmail.com</a>. Please give the written details to Alice 4 weeks before the date of the event.

Phyllis Rechtin will handle information for the Newsletter, the website and Bloomfield Buzz. Keep in mind our issues are published every 2 months, so you should think ahead to have the event included in the correct newsletter. (Phyllis Rechtin, 6700 Rice Rd., Victor, NY 14564; <a href="mailto:rechtin@rochester.rr.com">rechtin@rochester.rr.com</a> or 657-7018).

## The Ties That Bind



"Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night."

During November and December, the congregation prays for Lynn & Will Tyler, the Schaefer family, Alice McConnell, Mary Martin, Carl & Nancy Stewart, and the Robin Stewart family.

Remember our members and friends who cannot be with us on Sunday morning: Dorothy and Bob Hodges and Richard Gladding (Mona Eddy's brother).

Let us also pray for Norma, Nick Glamack's mom and Kathrine, Donna Messner's mom.

We offer prayers for: Ann and Dick, Alice McConnell's sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Nancy Stewart's brother; Terry and Nettie friends of Phil and Elsa Schaefer; Trish Gliewe; Jeannie Schubert, niece of Phyllis Rechtin and Ann Lincoln.

## **Holiday Fair Time**

**Beverley Clark** 

The Holiday Fair is November 17, 2018. Lujza Rockcastle and I look forward to making pies for folks—for Thanksgiving—or for Sunday dinner.

We will be making 9-inch pies and 6-inch tart size pies. Pie tins are available in the church kitchen. Pick up what you can use.

We are freezing the unbaked pies and will bake them the week of Nov. 12.

Sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall for set-up, supplies and helping hands, as well as for pies.

Thank you for always being there and helping us! Bev Clark (657-6586)

### **Book Club**

This month you have a 4-5-star review along with a 1-2-star review. You be the judge!

November 15, we are reading The Best of Enemies, Jen Lancaster.

Let's start with a reader's 4 1/2-star review: "I adore Jen Lancaster and her sassy, snarky humor. "The Best of Enemies" is such a fun book. Kitty and Jack(ie) were BFFs in college, until they weren't, and now they are MORTAL ENEMIES!!! Problem is. thev have another mutual Sarabeth/Betsy/Sars, and so they can't avoid each other and often come to blows (and cause expensive food fights) when forced to spend time in each other's company. Flash-forward 20 years after college, when the suspicious death of their mutual bestie's husband brings Kitty and Jack together again to solve the mystery.

I loved this book. It's total fluff, but it's HILARIOUS, and it made me LOL so many times. The ending is super ridiculous and rushed, but still a lot of fun. I predict this will be the first of Lancaster's books to finally make it to the big screen, and I will be one of the first in line to buy a ticket."

Now to a 2-star customer review: "Most of the first 100 pages used to establish the characters could have been edited out. The plot didn't even begin until halfway through the book, which made it a real slog to get through. The characters had all the usual Jen Lancaster tropes that she loves to write about: sororities, love of the armed services, suburbs by way of John Hughes. It got old a while ago. The dialogue was hard to follow and didn't flow in the way that people actually speak. Jack's dialogue sounded especially derivative of Stacy Ballis. The only reason this is getting two stars instead of one is because the plot did pick up in the last 100 pages, which could be quite enjoyable, and the proofreading is way, way better than "Stories I'd Tell In Bars," which was criminally bad. If you do purchase this book, barely skim the first half of it, then read the rest. If I were Ms. Lancaster. I'd stick with memoirs."

December 20, we're reading Insidious Intent, Val McDermid.

A 5-star review from a reader: "I am a big fan of the Tony Hill/Carol Jordan series by Val McDermid, and this one did not disappoint. This is the 10th book in the series and I am always amazed at McDermid's well crafted stories. This book's antagonist is a "wedding crasher" who preys on single women looking for "Mr Right", his modus operandi so to speak! Carol Jordan has been made the head of a new unit whose job it is to take the hard cases and solve them. Needless to say, this one presents a myriad of problems for them as the killer is very thorough and up to date on forensics. The team finds themselves on the ropes looking for answers and even Tony Hill can't help. The author has asked that readers not spoil the ending of the books and I certainly won't! You will be surprised by the twist and turns the book takes so I highly recommend it."

The 2-star review: "As a long time fan of Van McDermid who has read all her books, I had preordered this one as soon as was advertised. It was а disappointment. Not only was boring at times, it made a mockery of law and order. For a good cause? Doubtful. No spoiler, but just because the reporter in the story is a bitch does not mean that she does not have a very valid point. And Stacey who broke the law in the last episode, does it again. The ending is ludicrous. So why 2 stars? Because I like some of the characters and slogged to the end, hoping against hope the author would do right by them. And yes, I shall read the next one."

## "God is nigh"

The earliest official reference to using "Taps" at a military funeral is described in an 1891 manual. During the Civil War, a Union soldier "was buried at a time when the battery occupied an advanced position concealed in the woods." Because it wasn't safe to fire the customary three volleys over the grave, Captain John Tidball decided the sounding of "Taps" would be an appropriate substitute ceremony.

Previously, "Taps" signaled the end of a soldier's work day, but it has since come to honor the end of his or her earthly life. Horace Trim's lyrics remind us of God's constant presence:

Day is done, gone the sun From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky All is well, safely rest God is nigh.

Thanks and praise for our days 'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky
As we go, this we know
God is nigh.

## Little word, big difference

God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean you need to give thanks for everything. You don't need to give thanks for that bad day. Or for that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is — you are not to give thanks for the difficulties but rather in the difficulties.

That is a very important distinction, and one I think we often miss. Giving thanks in everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that he can use them, if you approach him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and his glory.

—Tony Evans

## More than skin deep

Gratitude, said Martin Luther, is "the basic Christian attitude." Yet gratitude is much more than a state of mind. Often it's a decision, and it becomes an act of humility when we recognize our depravity — and our need for a Savior.

The 10 disgraced lepers who beg Jesus for mercy (see Luke 17:11-19) are described as allogenes, Greek for "outcast." (All humans, sick with sin, fit that description!) The leper who returned to give thanks received more than just physical healing, according to Scripture. When Jesus

says, "Your faith has made you well," he uses the Greek that means "Your faith has saved you." The grateful leper, recognizing his depravity, humbly decides to return and give thanks, knowing — through faith — that his skin and his soul have been healed.

## King of kings and Lord of lords

In the Bible, no one is called "Lord of lords" but God and Christ. Although a couple of Old Testament earthly kings (Artaxerxes and Nebuchadnezzar) are referred to as "king of kings," only in reference to Christ is the term capitalized — "King of kings."

Earthly rulers can claim supremacy, but we celebrate Christ the King Sunday as the culmination of the liturgical year to testify that our Lord Jesus is Ruler of all. In the words of the famous "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's Messiah: "King of kings and Lord of lords; and he shall reign for ever and ever!"

#### Self-care for the sake of others

In light of Matthew 22:39, where Jesus says we should love our neighbors as ourselves, Rozella Haydée White writes: "I believe that we are called to love ourselves so that we can love our neighbor. I believe that loving God leads to loving self. When we love self, we practice how we are called to love others. Then when we love others, we love the incarnate God. And this cycle continues, leading us deeper into love with the One who is love."

Unfortunately, many Christians have been taught that loving oneself is, well, selfish. But White understands self-care not as being self-serving but as recognizing oneself as a holy, beloved dwelling place for God.

She asks, "What if God has been inviting you not just to rest but to remember that you are first called to love God and love yourself? What if living out the commandments in that order gives you boundless energy to love others?"

## Small packages, great things

The motto for Hershey's Kisses used to be "Big things come in small packages!" That also could be a motto for Bethlehem, for Baby Jesus and, indeed, for us. It's an important message to remember when we fear we're too weak to fix the world's problems, too small to fight the gigantic terror that threatens a loved one or too lacking in abilities we see in others.

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah," God declares through the prophet Micah (5:2, NRSV), "from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel." Bethlehem was a mere village. God's ruler for Israel started as an infant. His birthplace was a small stable, not a palace or temple. But size isn't everything. Big — that is, great — things can come in small packages. And thanks to the tiny baby who grew up to share immeasurably huge love with the world, God can do great things through you, too!

## A merry balance

In Luke 10:38-42, Martha gets a bad rap. After all, we need Marthas to get things done and to show hospitality. (Note that Martha is the one who opens up her home to Jesus in the first place!)

Marthas are needed in December, but holiday preparations shouldn't shift our focus from the reason for the season. When we become "worried and distracted" as Martha did (v. 41, NRSV), we're tempted to trade God's "one thing" (v. 42) for the world's many worthless things. Yet if we're only like Mary, we may forget to let the world know who we're celebrating!

So this Christmas, keep a proper balance between your inner Mary and your inner Martha. Take time to "be Mary," kneeling at the manger, so that all the merry things you do as Martha have meaning and serve the newborn king.

## While waiting ...

Advent does not lead to nervous tension stemming from expectation of something spectacular about to happen. On the contrary, it leads to a growing inner stillness and joy allowing me to realize that he for whom I am waiting has already arrived and speaks to me in the silence of my heart.

Just as a mother feels the child grow in her and is not surprised on the day of the birth, but joyfully receives the one she learned to know during her waiting, so Jesus can be born in my life slowly and steadily and be received as the one I learned to know while waiting. —Henri J.M. Nouwen, The Genesee Diary

## The perfect gift

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry said, "Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction." At Christmas we celebrate God coming to earth to look outward with us in the same direction, from our perspective and experience.

Jesus was an ordinary person: He learned to talk and walk like any toddler, learned a trade from his father and acquired the habits of faith from his family. In adulthood, Jesus experienced life as we all do: the challenge of hard work, grief at a loved one's death, heartache over oppression and the world's great needs — but also joy in celebration, fellowship with neighbors and deep friendship.

God personally knows our every experience, emotion and need — because Jesus, while fully divine, lived as a full human being. He has gazed at the world, life and even death from our direction, giving us the perfect Christmas gift: love.

### **Picture Us**

Christian Education prepared a Bible Scavenger Hunt for us to enjoy. First, we shared food and fellowship and then divided into teams to find our clues. The committee was good to us! They kept us searching all on one floor! Everyone enjoyed this activity. Thank you for all the work! Well done.



Each clue was found in a Bible verse that pointed to a spot in the church where we found the next clue. When all the clues were found we regathered in Fellowship Hall to declare the winner. No prizes—just a lot of fun and fellowship!







Gabriel's Horn Newsletter

