

# The Messenger

for the Earlville-Poolville United Methodist Churches

P.O. Box 67, Earlville, New York 13332

## Worship Services:

Poolville UMC – 9:30 am

Earlville UMC – 11:00 am

**DECEMBER 2003**



Rev. Mario J. Gazzilli, Pastor  
315-691-5824

Michelle L. Wyman, Administrative Assistant/Editor  
315-691-2114

## ~From the Pastor's Heart~

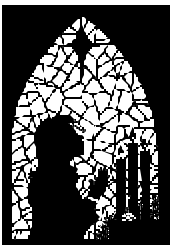
Every time we sing the song "Holy Ground" it reminds me, that when we are standing in church it is holy ground! Let me ask you a question. When was the last time that you sensed God's presence? In a moment, alone in prayer? As you held a newborn baby? As you watched a stunning sunset? During that moment, you felt something, that where you were standing was holy ground. Like Moses, so long ago, you sensed that "the place where you are standing is holy ground." (Exodus 3:5) How about when you walk through the door of your church? Do you sense the presence of God? Do you feel that this is where love abounds, a temple where Jehovah God lives?

Of course the Holy Spirit lives in every believer, so we are in God's presence no matter where we are. Yet, as we gather to worship, our love for God and for others should overflow. Because Jesus taught, "Where two or three come together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 8:20)

To be in God's presence is to sense completeness, joy, and love. As we come into God's presence to worship with our brothers and sisters, let's always remember and realize that we are standing on holy ground. May others, who come to visit, discover that love abounds among us as believers, and they may want to join us. The next time you attend church just sit quietly and sense the Lord's presence. Quietly pray and ask Jesus Christ to speak to your heart. Watch what happens when you realize you are in God's presence as soon as you come into the door.

Psalm 16:17 says... "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

**Offer Them Christ, Pastor Mario**



Christian & Malachi Abell, Antaya family, Donna Bardsley, E. Jeril Benedict, Bishop's Cabinet, Cyndi Bono, President George Bush & affiliates, Terri Mullenax-Carmon, Karen Carroll, Annalyse Cerio, Norm Chesebro, Ann Daniels, Don Davey, Steve Davidson, Rev. Sam Davis, Jeffrey Dye, Al & Helen Everly, James Gager, Alice Godfrey, Doris Houck, Sue Hughes, Norma Hull, Janet Hunsinger, Karen Hutton, Jim Jipson, Lachevet family, Clare Law, Mackechnie Family, Gene McGregor, Diana Kupris-Mettler, Don Misch, Mike Morgan, Robert Murtagh, Pixie Nardi & family, Abigail Ogden, Dale Ogden, Brent Otis, Marcia Owen, Kimberlee Payton, Charlie Price, Phil Price, Shirley Price, Robert Radford, Angelo Riente, Dot Schreher, Rev. Joyce Jo Serchak, **Students**, Mary Tallerico, Roy Tanner, Peter Vogelgsang, Roberta Warner, Bobby Warren, Travis Whitmore. **The family of Teresa Arns, Walter James.**



## Persons in our Prayers...

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him in front of the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean; it's the same in my business."





## Special December Dates...

### Birthdays:

Joyce Chesebro	1	Jon Stenberg	4
Rick Shiminski	6	Tom Robertson	10
Benjamin Slentz	10	Kevin Young	12
Joelle Faulks	16	Michael Virgil	17
Miriam Hill	21	Eugene McGregor	21
Rebecca Cleveland	23	Paul Nower	25
Kalie Hill	28	Christopher Larkin	28
Joan Gazzilli	29		

### Anniversaries:

Diane & David Bensley	23
Sharon & Joel Partridge	24
Crystal & Richard Eades	27
Dawn & Rich Dando	30



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**Christmas Caroling** – 2 p.m. on December 7, please join at the Poolville Church to venture out to village homes and area nursing and hospital facilities. Following caroling refreshments will be served at the Parsonage by hosts' Pastor Mario & Joan. Join in on this delightful holiday tradition!!!

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**It Couldn't Hurt...**

S. Ezrine, Chicken soup for the Woman's Soul.

I took flowers to the nursing home; it couldn't hurt. I cooked some chicken soup for a friend who is sick; it couldn't hurt. I played Candy Land with my daughter; it was fun. I thanked the person who bagged my groceries; he beamed. I gave my assistant the day off with pay; it only hurt a little. I played ball with my dog; it felt good. I invited a woman who doesn't drive to lunch and a movie; I enjoyed myself. I got a massage for me; it felt marvelous. Random Acts of kindness ~ hmmm...

Maybe I'll live this way all year...It couldn't hurt.

*A joint candlelight Christmas Eve Services will be held in Poolville this year at 6:30 pm. All are invited to attend this special worship service. The joint choirs will perform and communion will be served. Please join us!*



**INFORMATION NEEDED:** Address Changes, Anniversaries, Birthdays. Please get details into the office immediately for next year's newsletter. **ALSO:** If you currently receive the newsletter and wish to discontinue your subscription, please submit your request to the office. Your cooperation is essential so that accurate records are maintained. Thank you!



## **Christmas Pageant & Pot-Luck Supper**



### **Poolville United Methodist Church**

This year's Children's Christmas Pageant will be held on Saturday evening, December 20, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. Following the pageant we will share in a pot-luck supper. All to be held at the Poolville United Methodist Church.

We invite you to an evening of drama, music, laughter, delicious foods and deserts and Christian fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass; table service and beverage will be provided.

Following dinner, a special guest will arrive to delight young and old.  
Decked in red, he'll bring treats for all the children!

Join us for this annual event and witness the wonder as the Youth of our congregation re-tell the story of Christ's birth.  
You'll be blessed by the experience!



Calling all helpers!: All Lay Readers, Ushers, Greeters.



Please be sure to contact the office if you wish to have your named added OR removed. The 2004 list is now being prepared. Your cooperation is imperative in order to have an accurate list. Thank you!!!

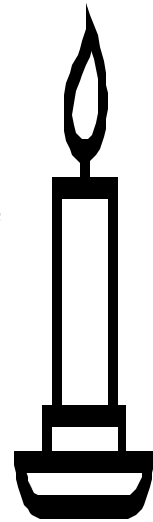
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Congratulations to our fine youngsters! The following were honored during Sunday morning worship on November 17 in Poolville for their service to God and Church as Acolyte:

**Erica & Richie Dando    Ben & Will Slentz    Orrin & Lane Wyman**

They were presented with a small token of appreciation from their guide and friend **Joyce Wratten**. Joyce has given of her time year after year in training these children in the duties of being an acolyte. Thank you for your time and talents Joyce!!!!

Newest Acolyte-in-training is **Emma Kate Wyman**. Along with a treat, she received an acolyte pin. She is excited and anxious to begin this special service. Thank you to all these young people and God bless!



## December Family of the Month

**Helen Niles-Earlville**. Helen & her husband Bob live in Lebanon. Their address is 1216 Bradley Brook Road, Earlville, NY 13332.



**Sharon & Ken Fox – Poolville**. The Fox's live a stone's throw from Poolville at 1267 Gorton Road, Hamilton, NY 13346.  
Phone #: 315-691-2891.



We are thankful for your service to our Church family and are blessed to have you all among us!  
We'll be praying for you!!

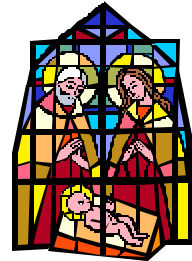
## Earlville UMC Trustees Update

The remainder of the windows on the back of the church building were replaced this fall with new more energy-efficient windows. The upstairs front stained glass windows have also been repaired, returned and installed. We will not be pursuing any more repairs of stained glass windows at least until the spring.

We do not have a person hired to shovel the church walk this year. We have been very spoiled to have **Ross Pancoe** shovel for many years. He did a fine job for us and now I am sure he is glad to be in college and not having to wake so early on a snowy morning to get to the church before school -- or rush home after school to be sure the walk was clear for nightly meetings. **Richard Pancoe** has graciously volunteered to shovel. He has two backup shovelers in case he cannot complete this duty. The backup people are **David Bensley** and **Bob Knickerbocker**. Please give them all the encouragement and support you can. If you notice that there is a shoveling need and are able to assist, please pitch in and give them a hand. I am sure they will appreciate it. If we all pitch in as one family to share the work, it will not feel so overwhelming to the few. This is a great way for our church to save a few dollars and meet a need. Given the tight economy right now, this is an excellent way that we can help reduce costs and work together for the good of our Father. I applaud these gentlemen on their idea and commitment. I hope you do too.

Thank you,  
Joelle Faulks, Earlville Board of Trustees Chair

Anyone interested in making a donation toward the stained glass window repair or making a memorial donation, please contact Richard Pancoe. Thank you.



A new Electrolux vacuum cleaner has been purchased to help keep the Poolville Church cleaned. It is a canister style and will allow for easier access to many areas in the Sanctuary. If you would like to make a donation toward this purchase, please contact Linda Seymour, Treasurer, P.O. Box 249, North Norwich, NY 13814.

Thank you all for your continued prayers for Norm!  
-Joyce Chesebro



Editor's Note:

Joyce & Norm are now relocated in Florida.  
Their new address is:  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Chesebro  
6906 Orlo Dr.  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

## Santa vs. Jesus??

- ~Santa lives at the North Pole...**JESUS** is everywhere.
- ~Santa rides in a sleigh...**JESUS** rides on the wind and walks on the water.
- ~Santa comes but once a year...**JESUS** is an ever present help.
- ~Santa fills your stocking with goodies...**JESUS** supplies all your needs.
- ~Santa comes down your chimney...**JESUS** stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart.
- ~You have to wait in line to see Santa...**JESUS** is as close as the mention of His name.
- ~Santa lets you sit in his lap...**JESUS** lets you rest in His arms.
- ~Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...**JESUS** has a heart full of love.
- ~Santa says, "You better not cry"...**JESUS** says "Cast all your cares on me, for I care for you."
- ~Santa's helpers make toys...**JESUS** makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.
- ~Santa may make you chuckle but...**JESUS** gives you joy that is your strength.
- ~While Santa puts gifts under your tree...**JESUS** became our gift and died on a tree...The Cross.
- ~Santa leaves after giving gifts...**JESUS** never leaves us.

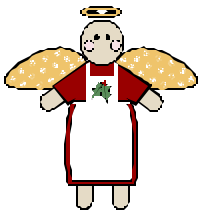
**Remember: CHRIST is CHRISTmas!**



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United Methodist Women

Reported by Norma Schuman



Your reporter has been remiss in getting news of our Fall meetings, but wants everyone to know that both program leaders and refreshment hostesses have served the membership attending (and quite occasionally Pastor Mario) very well. There has been a core group of loyal members actively involved, but we hope to continually add more women in mission from our joint charge. In fact, did you know that any woman in the community can

be part of UMW?

Business meeting wise, our treasurer reminded us of our 2003 pledges, as she has to send in her report to District Treas. Dec. 1. We voted on Sept 23 to keep our local budget the same in 2004. Since slates of officers for 2004 were also due, once again we discussed possibilities. Current President, Joyce Chesebo thanked all for their cooperation through the year. She was able to be with us for Sept. and Oct. meetings before leaving for the winter in Florida. It was decided that Norma Schuman would be a Co-President Dec. – May, when Joyce will pick up the leadership again.

The Dec. meeting is always such fun, as we invite all women to provide/help pack goodies & practical necessities to surprise the several shut-ins every year. So join us at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8. Norma has a very special program for all "Star Child, When Christmas comes for everyone," an inspirational experience for your Advent Season and beyond. You'all come now!