



First United Methodist Church of Brighton

The Beacon

(Reminder for those receiving the Beacon early.)

January 2008
Volume 9, Issue 1

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors



Sunday Worship
8:30, 9:45 & 11:15 a.m.
Sunday School
10:00 & 11:30 a.m.
CrossRoads
5:30 p.m. Wednesday
Friends in Faith
5:30 p.m. Saturday

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Christmas Eve Services *Monday, Dec. 24*

Each service will include singing of carols, Christmas scriptures, meditations by our pastors, and will close with candle lighting.

6:00 p.m.—Contemporary Service

The Rev. Dr. Gilson Miller
Music provided by First Band & U3 Praise Band

8:00 p.m.—Blended Worship Service

The Rev. Dr. Gilson Miller
Music provided by CrossFire, Sacred Strings, a blending of traditional and contemporary Christmas classics

11:00 p.m.—Traditional Service

The Rev. Scott M. Chrostek
Communion will be served at this service only.
Music provided by Echoes of Praise & Chancel Choir, Christmas Orchestra, congregational singing of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus"
And the Sharp Family Brass Ensemble



Holiday Service Times

Sunday, Dec. 23
Sunday Morning
8:30, 9:45 & 11:15
(3 services)

Monday, Dec. 24
Christmas Eve
6, 8 & 11 p.m.
(3 services)

Sunday, Dec. 30
Sunday Morning
9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
(No Sunday School)



PONDERING YOUR LIFE IN THE NEW YEAR?

How Will You Be Remembered?

Did you take every opportunity to help your fellow man, or did you watch from afar? The Brighton First United Methodist Endowment Fund can make an impact through pooling your donation with others and using the interest to support programs for generations to come. How can anyone forget that type of commitment?



Continue the Legacy... You can make a difference by contacting the Endowment Fund at (810) 229-8561, or donating directly to the "Brighton 1st. UMC Endowment"

Gil's Quill

Gilson Miller, senior pastor

Good News Changes Everything

I had a slight scare recently regarding my mother. She's 93 and lives independently in Lapeer. I had been trying to reach her for several days by phone, with no success. She doesn't have an answering machine, no cell phone and I can't get her to wear a pager. In frustration I called her pastor, Ralph Pieper, on Sunday afternoon. I asked if he had seen her lately and he responded, "She was sitting in church this morning in her usual spot-third pew toward the right. Following services she left with friends to dine out."

My anxiety lifted and I was really grateful for Ralph's report! I thanked him and returned to scrapping ice and snow from the driveway. About an hour later the phone rang and it was Ralph again. "I'm here in your mother's apartment as I thought it might ease your mind if I checked on her. She's fine and wants to talk to you." Mom was a little embarrassed by all the attention and told me that she is gone a lot with social engagements! She savors her privacy and by the "edge" in her voice I realized that she perceived my concern as intrusive. "Mom," I said with a sense of contrition, "I was worried about you and I wanted to let you know that you are a great-grandma, again!" News of a new baby changed everything and the intrusion was redeemed. Her excitement caused her to forget the inconvenience of the moment.

Babies can change the way we look at ourselves, our relationships and our world. Let's not forget that Jesus came as a baby to bring peace and to redeem our world. Why can't we carry the news of his birth in our hearts throughout the year? Imagine where that focus might take us.




The altar flower sign-up chart for 2008 is available in the community room.

First Steps Preschool

"When choosing a preschool for your child, first experiences and memories are fundamental. Let First Steps Preschool be with your child every step of the way."

Dear First Church Families,

In June 2007, First Presbyterian Preschool received notification that the First Presbyterian Church of Brighton would phase out its sponsorship and housing of the program in June 2009. After months of questions about First Presbyterian Preschool's future, First United Methodist Church of Brighton announced in October that they would sponsor the preschool. Our name will change to "First Steps Preschool" to reflect the significance of a rich learning environment where children ages 3 and 4 can play, socialize and flourish in their understanding of God's world. We will move the preschool at the end of this school year and the current staff will remain the staff at First Steps Preschool.

Registration for the 2008-09 year will begin in February. Church families with children between the ages of 3 and 4 will be mailed information and registration packets will be available at the church office.

Current students and their siblings will have first priority in registering for the Fall. Next, we will register children of First United Methodist Church members, children of First Presbyterian Church members and children of previously-enrolled families. Remaining spots will be filled by children from the general public. Three classes will be offered for three-year-olds and three classes will be offered for four-year-olds. We look forward to serving the community with a high quality program for young children and their families. Please contact the director, Lisa Guise, 810-227-0262, if you would like more information about this exciting new program.

Library Team Update

The library team has been hard at work evaluating materials in the library. Due to space concerns, we have tried to eliminate duplicate copies of books and to align the collection with the focus of the beliefs held by our church. This has resulted in many books that we are able to donate to Christian Resources International in Fowlerville. (Their job is to redistribute donated materials throughout the United States, as well as, around the world.) Our next goal is to start adding new materials to our collection. Our hope is that the library will be a vital place in the church to select books for pleasure, as well as, help us on our faith journeys.



Happy New Year, Mr. Wesley!

Scott Chrostek, associate pastor

I'm pretty sure that you're going to start wondering why I talk about John Wesley so much. And I'm pretty sure that you probably thought that along with the New Year you'd get to hear about a new favorite of mine. Maybe with the New Year you'd get to hear about someone other than the elusive Mr. Wesley. I'm sorry to inform you that the year 2008 will be another year involving the brothers Wesley. In fact I want to begin this year talking quickly about John, the founder of our church.

John Wesley was someone who really bought into the concept of humility. He understood his life as pure gift. Only by God's grace, could Wesley have lived. However, that's not all. Wesley enjoyed the toil of his labors. He celebrated his triumphs and he endured failure. Mr. Wesley loved life. He loved the gift; all of it. Sure at times he endured it; but in every moment, no matter what the circumstance, he loved others and gave glory to God, because in his heart, right up until his dying day, he believed and confessed that, "Best of all, God was with us."

John Wesley was the way he was, because he chose to uphold an open posture toward God. He upheld that posture by making a New Year's resolution most of the years of his life, and 'tis the season' for resolutions, right?

I'm guessing there were times when Wesley spent some of his time crafting resolutions about working out, eating better, or spending less time in front of the television, but those

aren't the kinds of resolutions I'm interested in. The resolution Wesley made over and over again (the resolution I am most interested in) was his resolution to renew his covenant with God.

John Wesley typically used the New Year, this season, as his time to give everything back up to God. He used the New Year, this season, to let go of everything all over again. He used this season to become humble, subject to all things, obedient to the extent that he might become a pure and holy instrument of God's peace. John Wesley used this season to wholly devote his life to the One who is, was, and forever shall be. He used this season to become open to God.

Now you might be wondering how I know all of this about John Wesley and his New Year's traditions...well the answer to that is simple. I know it because I've read it. I know it because I've prayed it...in fact you have as well. Last year. You'll read it again this year...on December 30th to be exact. So, as you begin this New Year...look for Wesley's words, pray Wesley's words...they're even in the hymnal...

"I am no longer my own, but thine...put me to what thou wilt, rank me with who thou wilt...put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee..."

As this year comes to a close, I urge you to look back on your life. See the gift as it was given to you. Relive the joys. Boast in your sufferings, and celebrate it all as a gift given to you.

Happy New Year!

Scott

It's Here - Electronic Giving!

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? First Church now offers Electronic Giving for those of you who wish to have your contributions transferred electronically to the church's account.

Benefits for you:

- The satisfaction of giving to God first
- Easier to fulfill stewardship commitments
- Strengthens participation and support in the church
- Allows you to contribute even when you're away
- Easier personal budgeting
- More secure than bringing cash or checks to church

What you do?

One simple and easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contribution amount. Pick up an authorization form from the church office, or at the information table in the community room on a Sunday, or download and print a form from our web page. Attach a cancelled check to the signed form and return it to the office. Allow at least 3 business days to process before automatic payments can begin. Someone will be available to answer questions at the information table, or you can call the church office.



There is a small fee that the church pays per transaction, similar to the cost of printing envelopes, or the "Initial Offering". All contributions made electronically will appear on your regular contribution statement that is mailed by the church office.



Benefits for our church:

- Promotes consistent giving
- More predictable cash flow for better planning
- Reduces number of checks to process and deposit
- Secure and easy maintenance of stewardship commitments

What A View!

Loretta Job, deacon

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

There are plenty of clichés about starting a new year, a new diet, a new anything. This year I would like to avoid those old clichés and focus instead on a new way of seeing our church and ourselves. Perhaps you are fairly new to this congregation and for you everything looks new and a bit confusing. You might be a long time “attende” and while the view looks familiar, it may at times be just as confusing or you may not recognize it as the church you once knew. Change is inevitable and I think for the most part good. God does not call us to stay as we are, God always calls us to be more, be better, be more fully like our Lord Jesus.

Picture for a moment, if you will, a kaleidoscope. You remember those simple toys from the past, or perhaps you are more familiar with the modern version (I’ll have one in my office if you want a peek), hold it up to the light, turn it slightly and beautiful images appear and change before your eyes. What happens if you look through the wrong end? What you see is simply a jumble of pieces of colored glass or plastic. It most often resembles chaos, a mass of unstruc-

tured bits and parts that do not appear as anything special. I put to you that our church is a lot like that kaleidoscope. If your view is from the wrong end of things, we can appear chaotic, unstructured and not so pretty. If, however, you look through the proper end, you see an ever changing view of color and beauty as the bits and pieces fall into astounding patterns.

God asks us to view our church from the proper place. God has placed each of us, all of us just bits and pieces together, to form something beautiful. Sometimes it takes a bit of turning for the pieces to fall into place; sometimes we might feel like we have been tumbled around for a long time, but in the end with God’s guidance we can form the beautiful image God intends for us to be. It takes all the bits and pieces with our variety of gifts to make the kaleidoscope image work.

In this New Year, may we listen to God’s call, may we allow God to turn and tumble us. May the light of Christ shine through us so that all inside and outside our fellowship will see what a beautiful community of God’s love we can be. I’m looking forward to being a part of the wonderful things that God will be doing among us in 2008.



United Methodist Women



The purpose of the United Methodist Women’s group is to develop a creative, supportive fellowship among women of all ages in our church, and to participate in the global missions of our greater church. We look forward to seeing you at any of the following events. We invite you to join us for fun and fellowship.

Calendar of Events

Please note: There will be **no Executive Committee** meeting in January.

Jan. 2 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m.: **Sarah Lewis Circle** meets in the fellowship hall. Program: “Dreams” by Una Couch. Hostesses: Sandra Anderson, Marge Horner, Carol Lucas, and Joan Tobel. Devotions: Jackie Hay.

Please note: **Rebekah Circle will not meet** this month.

Jan. 3 (Thursday) 7 p.m.: **Phoebe Circle** will meet at Carolyn Combs’ home. Programs: Gloria Downing will speak on the mission of UMW, followed by game night.

Jan. 9 (Wednesday) 7:30 p.m.: **Dorcias Circle** meets at the home of Miriam Osterhoff. Co-hostess: Judy Cordon. Program: Preparing crafts materials for the Bible School in Rio Bravo. **Please note change in week.**

Jan. 13 (Sunday): Cookies for Hickory Haven by Marilyn LewAllen & Carol Lucas. Please label and leave in the office.

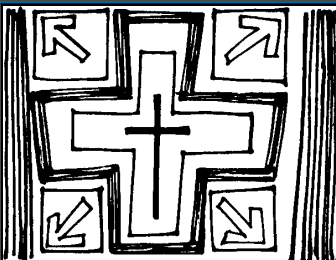
Jan. 17 (Thursday) 12 noon: **UMW Luncheon** with Sarah Lewis Circle as Hostesses. Program: “Thoughts on Spirituality” by Rose Bledsoe.

The Campbell Soup Company will no longer accept the front labels we have been collecting for so many years. Instead, they now want the small labels near the bottom of the can at the back, including the UPC symbol. Please continue to place them in the envelope on the kiosk or in the Campbell’s Soup Labels mail slot near the church office. Thank you for supporting this project.

I would like to thank everyone at First Church for their prayers, cards, calls, hugs and kind expressions of sympathy on the recent passing of my mother, Pauline (Polly) Shaver and also for my brother, Jeff Shaver, as he battles cancer. It is so comforting to know that people are thinking of you during difficult times.

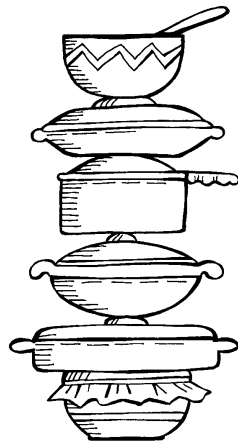
Thanks also to the United Methodist Women for their contribution in memory of my mother. As an active member in the UMW for many years, she would be so pleased.

God Bless,
Mary Johnson and family



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Call Suzy!
 Suzy Hutchison
 Christian Education Director
 810-229-8561
 suzy@brightonfumc.org
 Suzy can answer any questions you may have about Christian Education at First Church.



CrossRoads Dinner

This is our Wednesday Evening dinner. We serve from 5:45-6:30. We are in need of a team willing to plan, prepare, serve and clean up on the following dates:

- January 16
- February 27
- March 12
- April 16
- April 23

If you can help on any of these dates, please contact Suzy at 810-229-8561 or Suzy@brightonfumc.org

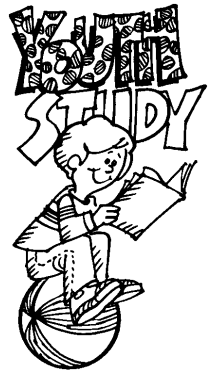
No Sunday School on Dec. 30.

Calling all High School Students: Did you know?

Seekers to Study New Book
All are invited!

The Seekers class meets 1 p.m. Mondays and will begin studying a book titled "The Faith Club." This is a book that seeks to ignite interfaith conversations. It is written by three women; one Muslim, one Jewish and one Christian. You are invited to join our group for this important conversation. Also please invite people of all three faith traditions to join you and our group. See you there!

Sunday evenings are designed just for you. We have teachers available beginning at 3:30 p.m., in the Well, to help you with your homework. Beginning at 5:30, this is a fun time to hang out and be with your friends. Dinner is served at 6:30 and worship follows. We wrap up the evening at 8 p.m. Come for all the evening, or just for part. **Come and join the fun. Bring a friend!**



Support Group for Cancer Survivors and Their Support Persons

Our next meeting of the Cancer Support Group will be 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21, in the church parlor (room 201). This group is open to anyone who is affected by a cancer diagnosis, whether a patient, family member or friend, during any stage in diagnosis or point in treatment. It is an opportunity to discuss common experiences and concerns, exchange information and share feelings with others who really understand. If you have any questions please call Deacon Loretta at the church office 810-229-8561 or Jackie Hay at 517-548-9548.

Leadership Training Day

January 26, 2008

9 a.m.—Noon

@ Marble United Methodist—Milan

Practical workouts designed to train you to be a stronger leader in service to Christ's Church



- Workout #1—Volunteers in Mission
- Workout #2—How to start a young adult ministry
- Workout #3—Trustees
- Workout #4—Staff Parish Relations
- Workout #5—Strategically planning your church's future
- Workout #6—Roadmap for a healthy congregation



These workouts are designed for anyone in a United Methodist Congregation. They are sponsored by the Ann Arbor District of the United Methodist Church in order to create stronger and healthier congregations. **Please contact Suzy if you are interested in attending.**



New Prayer Concerns

- † Marcy Sebastian, on the death of her mother, Gladys Posejpal
- † Kaleb Montooth, nephew of Barb Morgan
- † Irene Morgan, mother of Lanny Morgan
- † Margie Stracener, aunt of Arla McPeek
- † Family of Steve Laney, lifelong friend of Bev & Daryl Smith
- † Jackie Steuer, friend of Donna Thompson
- † The Woodward Family, friends of Angela Brown
- † Patrick Michael, on the death of his mother Nancy Michael
- † Barb & Vic Radecke, friends of Kelly Armistead
- † Paige McCririe, granddaughter of Bill & Barb McCririe
- † Kandi Kubiak daughter of John & Sue Wheeler
- † Jeanne Dittmar
- † Karlene Browder, mother of Beth Shuster
- † Betty Salmoni, family member of Susan & Steven New
- † Paul Hyzer, cousin of Julie Arcuri
- † Bruce Everett and family, on the death of Bruce's brother, David Everett
- † Mary Ellen Powers, sister-in-law of Jack and Dorothy Hartkop
- † Charlotte Van Vorhis, mother of Laura Surrey
- † Diane Cooper, on the death of her mother, Evelyn Dietrich
- † Jeff Shaver, family member of Mary Johnson

Lord, hear our prayer.

Faithful Servants for January

Would you like to see your name here? We would!

Please call Deacon Loretta at 810-229-8561, if you can help our church in any of these capacities. Training provided.

	Sunday, Jan. 6	Sunday, Jan. 13	Sunday, Jan. 20	Sunday, Jan. 27
Acolytes	8:30 9:45			
Liturgist	8:30 Bruce Stark 9:45 Dean Guard 11:15 Fred Warren	Gerald Tilles Kelly Myers Deb deLaski-Smith	Rich Ray David Osterhoff Sheri Richmond	Rose Bledsoe Jane Todt Deb deLaski-Smith
Ushers	8:30 9:45 Bill & Barb McCririe, Roger & Kelly Myers 11:15 Slapshak Family	Don & Marge Horner, Eric & Kathi Dahlberg Haselhuhn Family	Rich & Stephanie Willson, Jim & Sandi Anderson Maxey Family	Greg & Mary Kushner, John & Laura Shakarjian Wagg Family
Greeters	8:30 Sue Sutherland, George & Macky Bachelor 9:45 Lee & Lisa McKenna, Jim & Sandi Anderson	Jim & Carol Glenn, Bill & Maggie Shrier Don & Kathy Straitiff, John & Laura Shakarjian	Harry & Carol Davis, Trishia Wylie Gary & Roxanne McGone- gal, Nancy Smail	Bill & Lisa Pearson, Jeff & Barb Terry Felicia & Tony Salmeto, Julie Swanson
Techs	8:30 Larry Job 9:45 Larry Job 11:15 Jay Collins	Gene Smith Gene Smith Rick Pearsall	Jay Collins Gene Caicco Garrett Stover	John Phillips John Phillips Rick Pearsall
Nursery	8:30 Kelly White 9:30 Sue & Russ Ruhnnow, Greg & Becky Flynn, Sheryl Hemphill 11:15 Kelly White, Carol Kimball	Kelly White Sue & Russ Ruhnnow, Bob Hemphill, Kara Shuell, Annette Oliver Kelly White	Kelly White Sue & Russ Ruhnnow, Bill & Maggie Shrier, Melissa Byers Kelly White, Karla Trombley	Kelly White Sue & Russ Ruhnnow, De- nise Daberko, Rebecca Lundy, Lynda Krupansky Kelly White
Sanctuary Guild	Mary Ann Parker	Jane Tomlinson	Lila Anderson	Una Couch
Welcome	8:30 Jane Tomlinson 9:45 Lisa McKenna	Cathy Tilles Mary Hickerson	Ruth Hetherington Lorraine Cook	Ruth LePatourel Carolyn Combs



January

CrossRoads

Music Group Practices

5:00-5:30 Tiny Tunes, Kids' Choir

Dinner 5:45-6:30

Classes 6:30-8:00

Adult—Disciple 1, The Madness Behind the Methodists, Invitation to Romans
Youth—Nursery through high school groups

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6 8:30, 9:45 & 11:15 Communion & Food Bank 11:15am Confirmation 6:00pm Starting Over 6:30pm Awaken 7:00pm Praise Band</p>	<p>7 1:00pm Seekers 7:30pm Finance</p>	<p>8 9:00am Men With Tools</p>	<p>2 9:30am Sarah Lewis Circle No CrossRoads</p>	<p>3 7:00pm Phoebe Circle No Chancel Choir</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Men of Faith not meeting today 9:00am CrossFire 5:30pm Friends in Faith</p>
<p>13 8:30, 9:45 & 11:15 11:15am Confirmation 6:30pm Awaken 7:00pm Praise Band February Beacon Deadline</p>	<p>14 9:00am Prayers & Squares 1:00pm Seekers</p>	<p>15 9:00am Men With Tools 7:00pm Welcome Team 7:00pm Ad Board</p>	<p>9 CrossRoads 5:00pm Tiny Tunes Kid's Choir 5:45pm Dinner 6:30pm Classes 7:30pm Dorcas Circle 6:30pm HS to Gleaners</p>	<p>10 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm NAMI Support</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 8:00am Men of Faith 5:30pm Friends in Faith HS to St. Andrews</p>
<p>20 8:30, 9:45 & 11:15 Commissioning Rio Bravo 11:15am Confirmation 11:00am Teacher Breakfast 6:00pm Starting Over 6:30pm Awaken 7:00pm Praise Band</p>	<p>21 9:00am Prayers & Squares 1:00pm Seekers 7:00pm Cancer Support Group</p>	<p>22 9:00am Men With Tools</p>	<p>16 CrossRoads 5:00pm Tiny Tunes Kid's Choir 5:45pm Dinner 6:30pm Classes</p>	<p>17 12:00pm UMW Luncheon 7:00pm Chancel Choir February Beacon Publication</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 8:00am Men of Faith 5:30pm Friends in Faith</p>
<p>27 8:30, 9:45 & 11:15 11:15am Confirmation 6:30pm Awaken 7:00pm Praise Band</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>23 CrossRoads 5:00pm Tiny Tunes Kid's Choir 5:45pm Dinner 6:30pm Classes</p>	<p>24 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm NAMI Support</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 8:00am Men of Faith 5:30pm Friends in Faith</p>
<p>30 CrossRoads 5:00pm Tiny Tunes Kid's Choir 5:45pm Dinner 6:30pm Classes</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>30 CrossRoads 5:00pm Tiny Tunes Kid's Choir 5:45pm Dinner 6:30pm Classes</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>

First United Methodist Church
400 E. Grand River Ave.
Brighton, MI 48116

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Contact Us

First United Methodist Church

400 E. Grand River Ave.
Brighton, MI 48116
(810)229-8561
www.brightonfumc.org

First Church Staff

Senior Pastor	Dr. Gilson Miller
Associate Pastor	Rev. Scott Chrostek
Director of Congregational Care	Rev. Loretta Job, Deacon
Christian Education Director	Suzy Hutchison
Educational Assistant	Anne Walters
Nursery Director	Kelly White
Director of Music	Norma Nichols
Office Manager	Terry Keefe
Multimedia Coordinator	Arla McPeck
Administrative Professional	Darlene Howard
Housekeeper	Michelle Oats

The Beacon

a monthly publication

Next Newsletter Deadline:
Midnight Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008

(Articles may be placed in the newsletter box, faxed to the church (810-229-5008) or emailed to Mary Hickerson, editor, at maryhickerson@charter.net.)

Czech Republic Protivin UMC Partnership



Protivin Partnership Postings

Check out the latest photos and news on the Protivin Partnership bulletin board in the community room.
Visit their website at www.umc.cz/protivin/

Notes from Pastor Filip Jandovsky and Miluska Salkova, children's leader

12-3-07 (Filip): I just came from one Bible study. We have this Bible study about 10 miles from Protivin in one small village; very nice fellowship. About my wedding. I would like to have wedding probably in fall time. But I still didn't prepare anything for that . . . I have just a bride.

12-3-07 (Miluska): We still are busy with our house but we hope and pray to move next year at least in fall. Filip did tell us about the conference in Johnson City, TN, so I believe it was an encouraging and blessed consultation. Vasek (husband) sends his regards and big hug from us.

12-5-07 (Filip): Interview with local broadcasting was cool; we talked about our church, my ministry, and have some greeting about Advent and Christmas. Our DS is in Germany this week meeting with the Bishop. They are talking about the Tyn Church; there is hope that somebody will come to help us with the ministry there.