

Terrace Times NEWSLETTER

Rio Terrace Moravian Community Church
15108 – 76 Ave.
Phone: (780) 487-0211 Fax: (780) 487 – 0215
E-mail: RioTerracechurch@shaw.ca
Web Site: www.rioterracemoravianchurch.ca
Pastor: Rev. Carol J.Vogler
Coordinator /Music Ministry: Karen Banks
Musician: Daniel Kapetanov
Administrator: Donna Bell

CHURCH BOARD:

Chair – Mike Kachkar
Vice Chair – Roger Delbaere
Past Chair – Jim Greenough
Treasurer – Craig Banks

Maintenance – Eric Papsdorf
Membership – Marguerite Webb
Outreach – Laurie Ward
SAGE – Judy Welch

Secretary – vacant
Social – vacant
Worship/Music – Laurie Reid
Environment – Rod Barnes

December 2008

November 30 begins the season of Advent, the four Sundays and days leading up to Christmas. It is a beautiful time in the church: a time when we bring out candles, the Advent wreath, and greenery; we hang the Advent Star; we sing songs of anticipation such as “O Come O Come Emmanuel” and the Moravian “Hosanna”. Advent is also an important time in the church, when we focus on profound themes at the heart of faith: hope, peace, joy and love. Indeed, Advent marks the beginning of the church year as we look ahead, toward the birth of Christ and prepare our hearts for what that can mean for each of us.

With Christmas music already playing in every store and the social pressures to purchase gifts, entertain and create the perfect “Christmas” memory, it is nearly impossible to capture the essence of Advent, a season as different from Christmas as Lent is to Easter. During Advent we *prepare for* the celebration, give a context for the story, and try to understand the realities of life that gave birth to the season in the first place. The song “Joy to the World”, simply doesn’t fit during Advent; it only makes sense closer to the Christmas event, after we understand the longing and deep need for that joy to come to the world.

This year, let’s recommit to an Advent experience together as the church. The Advent time of preparation and waiting, of anticipation and hope, of contemplation and thoughtfulness, can offer a welcome and much needed oasis in the midst of the frenzy of consumerism. And let’s recommit to a simpler approach to remembering who we are: people on our own journey deeper into the heart of a great story that began long ago but continues even today. A story that begins with a longing we can all relate to, a longing for meaning and purpose and love. A story that takes us toward a manger and a child, toward a new way of looking at the world and a new life. Now *that’s* worth preparing for!



Blessings and love,
Pastor Carol

Children's Church



**Join us on Sunday, November 30th
(following the worship service)**

We've made a few changes to add some extra excitement to our sale this year!

Many of our items will be packaged & ready for gift giving this Christmas!

plus ...

WE'RE HAVING A RAFFLE!

Tickets at \$2.00 each or 3 or \$5.00
(see our posters for details!)

Come join in the fun and help the RTC Kids reach their goal of \$1200 to purchase farm animals from the World Vision gift catalogue.

Bake sale for World Vision

Christmas Craft Night and Pot Luck Supper:
Sunday, November 30, we'll meet at the church for our annual Craft Night and Pot Luck Supper. There will be crafts for all ages and candle wrapping for all (starting at 4:30) with the Pot Luck supper starting at 6:30 PM. Afterwards, we'll gather for a time of singing songs appropriate to the season. During that time there will also be a recognition and thank you to Pastor Don and Terri for their ministry here at RTC. This is always such a fun and special time together, and a good way to begin the Advent season! For anyone interested, there will be an opportunity to make a Fresh Christmas Swag at the craft session – Cost for materials is \$15.00.

ABC Head start

Sign up sheets (gifts and hampers) will be available, Sunday November 30. Hampers will be filled Saturday, December 20 (10 am – 1 pm) and delivered on Sunday, December 21.

CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL OFFERING

As has been the custom at RTC for many years, our thrice yearly special offerings are rotated in order to reach out to those in need both at home and abroad. As the Thanksgiving Offering was given to two local organizations, it is now time for the offering to be sent abroad.

Our Christmas Eve Special Offering this year will be going to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), with the designation for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It is always difficult to make a special offering decision as there are so many worthy international organizations working in impoverished regions of the world, especially those torn apart by war or natural disasters. UNICEF was chosen based on the following...

Currently, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is experiencing a renewed humanitarian catastrophe. The recent confrontations in North Kivu follow a rapid deterioration of an already fragile security and humanitarian situation. Despite intense diplomatic efforts, the security situation in eastern DRC remains extremely precarious and the humanitarian situation is deteriorating by the day.

It is estimated that there is a total of over 1,000,000 displaced persons in North Kivu alone—one-fifth of the province's total population, the majority of whom are women and children. This recurrent displacement is having devastating effects on these

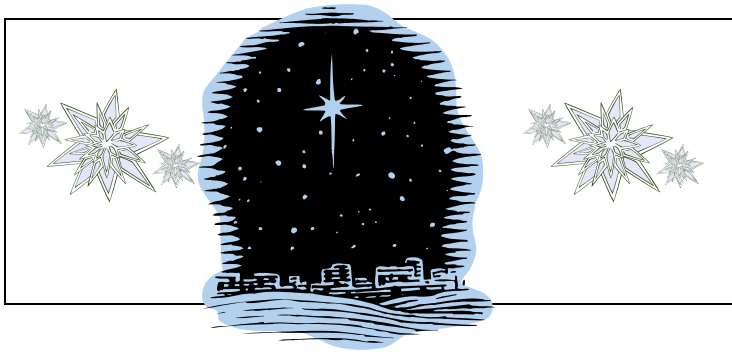
children and women. Local communities hosting displaced families, and aid agencies, struggle to assess and meet the critical needs of the affected population in many areas that are still plagued by this insecurity and limited access.

Despite the various peace initiatives and an improvement in the overall security situation in the DRC, armed clashes continue to prevail in Ituri and North Kivu, killing hundreds and displacing tens of thousands of people. Homes, villages, markets, fields, health structures and schools have been looted and often destroyed, leaving families without access to basic services or shelter. Funding is urgently required to provide emergency medical care; shelter and household items; clean water and sanitation; and to support returnee children for attending school.

UNICEF and its network of partners currently provide the largest humanitarian response mechanism in the Congo for displaced persons and disaster-affected populations. UNICEF's partnerships and programs in the DRC are being rapidly scaled up to adapt and respond to the current emergencies, but approximately \$12,000,000 is urgently needed in order to respond to these immediate needs.

May the true spirit of this Christmas Season, its joy, beauty, hope and peace, inspire us to give generously of our gifts.

The Mission and Outreach Committee



Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 17, 7 pm at Rio Terrace Church. Trinity United will be joining this service.

To my Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I write to you after visiting our Sisters and Brothers in Honduras who have been the victims of terrible flooding over the last few weeks. A low pressure storm stayed stationary over most of the north coast of Honduras for several weeks and has dumped approximately 80 inches of rain over the area. The good news is that the rain fell over a long period of time and did not cause the rivers to flood too fast and cause loss of life or too much damage to homes or other buildings. The bad news is that the rice crop was about to be harvested and it, along with the next bean crop which is their basic food source, was all washed away. Needless to say, they are in need of not only food, but seed to replant for the future!

The Board of World Mission is sending \$5,000 from funds from Moravian Disaster Response accounts to begin the process of buying food for the short-term and seed for the long-term. This amount will not last long. **Funding is needed for the future, not only in Honduras but also in ALL the other places that MDR is currently working to help those still in need— Mississippi, Nicaragua, Indiana, and Texas. A need to replenish MDR funds is necessary to continue our work!**

I truly understand the uncertain economical times that we are currently facing, and that you may feel now is not the time to be giving. But I challenge you, now IS the time.

It is time for the Body of Christ to stand up and give like never before, to be Hope in the worst of times, to show the Love of God to a world that is in desperate need of their Savior. We can't afford to not give right now. Our Lord commands it in His Word! We cannot allow the situations of this world to constrain us! (James 2: 14-19)
So again, I challenge you to pray and ask our Lord to search your heart and break it in love for those that are in need! (Matthew 6:19-21)

When you give, please send you're offering to the Board of World Mission, PO Box 1245, Bethlehem PA, 18016 and label it "MDR" so we can respond to where the greatest needs are.

I thank God for you and for ALL that He has done through you so far, but our work is far from being completed. There is much more to do before He comes. Together in Christ, we will see His Will being done on Earth as it is in Heaven! I pray that the love of our Savior continues to be revealed in your heart.

Your partner in this ministry to all mankind,

Mark Ebert
Director of Volunteer Ministries
Board of World Mission

Thank you

The outdoor gardens at Rio Terrace Church were once again a thing of beauty. Thank you to the following gardeners for their dedicated help: Pat Banks, Pat Smoliak, Diana Remmer, Joanne Kenny, Joyce Fuerst, Al Rogers and Bob Gibbs.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<h1>DECEMBER 2008</h1>						
	1 Spiritual Surprises 1:15- 3:00 pm	2	3	4 Choir 7 pm	5	6
7 Advent 2 Worship 10:30 am Advent Music Celebration 7 pm	8	9	10	11 Choir 7 pm	12	13
14 Advent 3 Worship 10:30 am	15	16 Board Meeting 7 pm	17 Blue Christmas 7 pm	18 Choir 7 pm	19	20 ABC Head start fill Hampers 10 am-1pm
21 Advent 4 Worship 10:30 am Deliver hampers	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 4:30 pm 6:30 pm 8:30 pm 11:00 pm 	25 Christmas Day 	26	27
28 Worship 10:30 am	29	30	31			

December Birthdays

Please remember to give hugs and best wishes for a wonderful year to come to all of our friends and church family members who will be celebrating their birthdays in December.

Bill Card	Judy Rogers	Darrel Shire	Don Michaels
Marion Perrin	Candace Bacon	Brian Welch	Amanda Greenough
Aaron Baxter-Betz	Eric Sears	Craig Banks	Don Becker

