

# THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission is to change peoples' lives  
through a relationship with Jesus Christ

December 2009



## From The Pastor's Heart

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In these days leading to Christmas, I find myself sighing and thinking, "Oh, no, here we go again — into the busy, hectic, stressful holidays!" As much as I love this time of year—yes, I do love the music, the anticipation, the spirit of love and caring that abounds—I find myself yearning for something different. I find myself fearful of once again being caught up in the "commercialism and consumerism" of Christmas. I wonder if once more I will miss out on the real mystery of Christmas: the birth of Jesus as told in the Gospels.

According to the authors of the book *The Advent Conspiracy*:

*"... most of us habitually miss it (the mystery of the Incarnation) every year at Christmas. Our story is consumption and consumerism, and we are obsessed with the climax. We worship less. We spend more. We give less. We struggle more."*

It all makes me wonder – what if we were to try to reclaim the real story of Christmas this year? What if we were to change the way we go through this season of Advent and instead of sharing our busyness and our stress, we proclaimed and celebrated and worshiped Jesus together. What if we rejected the "false doctrine" of consumerism that claims that money equals love? What if we refused to get lost in the crowded malls? What if we refused

to get sucked into financial debt? What if we, instead of being bystanders to the Nativity, were to reclaim the story—our story—of Christmas? What would happen if we sought to see the birth of the Christ child from inside a stable instead of inside the mall? How might this change our holiday practices?

During the Advent season, I will be preaching on several themes from the book *The Advent Conspiracy* by Rick McKinley, Chris Seay and Greg Holder. By talking about worshipping fully, giving more, spending less and loving all, maybe we can each consider approaching this holiday season paying closer attention to the story of this wondrous, mysterious moment that God entered our world to make things right! This is the greatest story ever told—and it still has the power to change everything—even the way we celebrate Christmas.

Come, let us celebrate this season of hope, peace, joy, and love as a faith community by worshipping together. Let us seek to serve God, each other and the world through the perspective of "the stable" and not the shopping mall.

Blessings,

Rev. Michele

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### Special points of interest:

- Cookie Walk, December 20

## Cookie Walk

It's getting close to that time of year again... time for the annual Christmas Cookie Walk. The Walk will take place on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> during fellowship time in Faith Hall. For a \$3.00 donation, you get a special cookie box that you can fill with yummy treats. All proceeds will be donated to the general church fund. So, dust off your cookie sheets and plan on baking a batch or 2 of your favorite holiday treats to share with the rest of the congregation. Anyone willing to bring cookies should speak with Audry Sherry or email her at [cookiewalk@blackstonevalleyumc.org](mailto:cookiewalk@blackstonevalleyumc.org).

## Resound!-ing with Joy

Where: Faith Hall

When: Friday, December 4

Time: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Come and join us for a wide variety of music! Sing along with us or just sit back and relax! All are welcome!

Refreshments will be available at nominal charge. There is no admittance charge; however, a love offering will be accepted at the end of the evening.

Contact Danielle Wilson at 508-883-2547 or [resound@blackstonevalleyumc.org](mailto:resound@blackstonevalleyumc.org) for more information.

## Women's Ministry

### Book Study

A Woman's Call to Prayer

Where: 418 Chestnut Hill Rd, Millville

When: December 1, 15 & 29

Time: 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Who: EVERYONE!

You do not have to attend every session or read the book! Bring a friend!

For more information contact Lee Ducharme  
508-883-2654 / [women@blackstonevalleyumc.org](mailto:women@blackstonevalleyumc.org).

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

We will meet on December 6 and January 2 from 4:30 p.m until 6 p.m. in Faith Hall.

All are welcome! We'll teach you how to knit or crochet, or you can help with blankets where you only need to tie knots.

This is a great time for Fellowship!

## Shopping Smart

Saving Tips from the Finance Committee

With Christmas rapidly approaching, we're all thinking about the extra money that will be spent for gifts, parties, food, decorations, and so on, and so on. An easy way to save time, and to help minimize the impulse spending, is to shop online. But, how do you know, for sure, that you've shopped smart? Here are a few tips for getting good deals online.

- Compare prices before committing to a purchase. Some of the sites that can help with this are [www.pricegrabber.com](http://www.pricegrabber.com), [www.shopping.com](http://www.shopping.com), and [www.google.com/products](http://www.google.com/products). No one site has all the deals, and there are other sites available, but these are easy to use and good for finding bargains.
- Find promotional codes to use for getting discounts on purchases. One place to look is [www.retailmenot.com](http://www.retailmenot.com) or Google a shopping site and search on "coupon codes" or "promotion codes."
- Web sites, such as [www.istorez.com](http://www.istorez.com) and [www.shopittome.com](http://www.shopittome.com), compile information about sales across product categories and for specific retailers.

You can keep an eye on prices of thousands of items by registering for an e-mail alert on one or more of these sites:

[www.priceprotectr.com](http://www.priceprotectr.com),  
[www.dealalerter.com](http://www.dealalerter.com), and  
[www.pricespider.com](http://www.pricespider.com).

Happy shopping and Merry Christmas!

## Notes from the Communications Team

### Newsletter

When submitting an article to the newsletter, please be sure to email the information to [newsletter@blackstonevalleyumc.org](mailto:newsletter@blackstonevalleyumc.org) to ensure that it will be in the newsletter. You may still use the newsletter mail box in the hallway if you do not have email access. Thanks!

### Website

When submitting information to be posted on the website, please be sure to include:

Who? What? When? Where? How? And Why? So that we can have sufficient information available to publicize your event.

If you are providing a personal email address as a contact, please let us know if we have your permission to set up a forwarding email address on [blackstonevalleyumc.org](http://blackstonevalleyumc.org) for you, so that we may protect your privacy.

# United Methodist Women Annual Meeting

By Irma McKeown

On a very rainy October 24, Tom (as a pastor is also a member) and I attended the New England Conference United Methodist Women's Annual Conference in East Greenwich, RI in a new and convenient United Methodist Church. It was a rewarding and momentous event. Two rewards were special musical presentations. The first was an opening presentation by the local high school music department's band director of a bass horn solo extraordinaire. Both the arrangement and the talent were extraordinary.

The speaker of the morning was Valerie Bell, Environmental Justice Coordinator in the New England Conference on the subject "Why Christians Should Care about Climate Change." From Cape Cod, she called attention to communities and island nations that are repeatedly and routinely experiencing flooding and land loss because of global warming, melting of glaciers, polar ice and mountain snow packs. At the same time, deserts are spreading, land water flows are drying up, and food production is diminishing even as populations are growing. These trends are more pervasive, and will affect our lives not only in food supplies, but also in climate change, water resources and international relationships.

The afternoon was business oriented, recognizing successes, honoring leaders and planning the future.

One particular item involved Cooper Community Center in Boston, the only United Methodist Women's Division social agency in New England. When the Interstate Highway System in Boston was designed in 1976, the Boston Redevelopment Authority needed the space on which the original Cooper Community Center was located. At that time, a new organization, Derby Park Center was made up of United Methodist Women and the Unitarian Church to finance a new location for Cooper Community Center to be at 1891 Washington Street. After many questions and explanations, it was voted that the body of United Methodist Women of Southern New England United Methodist Church hold the primary and sole mortgage for the Hattie B. Cooper Community Center. This move also has the support of the National United Methodist Women's Organization, and will clarify the relationship of Cooper Community Center to the UMW and UMC organizations, with funding through the United Methodist Foundation of New England. This move has been under discussion for many years and is viewed as a clarification of the relationship between the center and the church.



# Celebrations

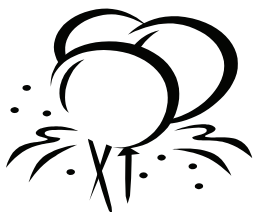


## December Birthdays



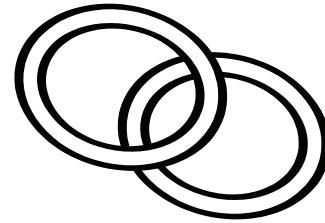
- 1 - Bill Dalrymple  
Christopher Leighton
- 4 - Kirby Mitchell  
Nicole Belle  
Wesley Mawn
- 6 - Laural Plourde  
Viki Viana

- 7 - Grace Pimentel
- 8 - Trinity DiStefano  
Kaitlyn Mochu
- 12 - Ingrid Murphy
- 13 - Grace Burns  
Bunny Shangraw
- 17 - Gabrielle Muscatell  
Charlie Ewers
- 18 - Myrt Doble  
Lou Squier
- 23 - Roberta Trier  
Jake Ethier Sr.
- 24 - Paula LaFlamme
- 26 - Kerri Radcliffe
- 27 - Darlene LaBonne



- 29 - Nate King
- 30 - John Fairhurst
- 31 - Ginny Hammer

## December Anniversaries



- 13 - Shannon & Dan Wheeler
- 30 - Kim & Dave Nadreau



Please help the Communications Team keep the Birthday/Anniversary list up-to-date. Should you notice an error or omission, please let us know.



THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1</p> <p>7 p.m.. AA Meeting</p> <p>7 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 p.m. Choir/Resound Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7 p.m.—9 p.m. Resound!-ing with Joy Faith Hall</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30 a. m. AA Meeting</p>
<p>6</p> <p>10 a.m. Sunday Worship Communion Sunday <b>Blue Bag Sunday</b> 4:30 p.m.—6 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7 p.m. Girl Scouts (Old Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>Church Directory Photos</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7 p.m. AA Meeting</p> <p>Church Directory Photos</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12 Noon Young At Heart—Faith Hall</p> <p>6 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 p.m. Blackstone Valley Gardner's Club</p> <p>7 p.m. Choir/Resound Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 a. m. AA Meeting 9 a.m. Finance Committee</p>
<p>13</p> <p>10 a. m. Sunday Worship</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7 p.m. Girl Scouts (Old Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7 p.m. Church Council</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7 p.m. AA Meeting</p> <p>7 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7 p.m. Choir/Resound Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 a.m. AA Meeting</p>
<p>20</p> <p>10 a.m. Sunday Worship Christmas Pageant Cookie Walk</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 p.m.—8 p.m. UM Men (Activities Room)</p> <p>7 p.m. Girl Scouts (Old Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7 p.m. AA Meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>Christmas Eve</b> 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service 11 p.m. Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>Christmas</b> Community Christmas Dinner 12 p.m.—2 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 a.m. AA Meeting</p>
<p>27</p> <p>10 a.m. Sunday Worship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7 p.m. Girl Scouts (Old Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7 p.m. AA Meeting</p> <p>7 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31</p> <p><b>New Year's Eve</b></p>		