

# SCARBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

www.scarboroughchurch.org

Articles Invited from Members & Friends

December 2008

Rev. Timothy Ives, Pastor  
 Mr. Kenneth Potter, Choir Director & Organist  
 Mrs. Barbara Devir, Commissioned Lay Pastor  
 Ms. Florence Fletcher, Office Administrator  
 Mrs. Katya Montelbano, Director Children's Center

P.O. Box 8835, Scarborough, N.Y. 10510  
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 SPChildren's Center (914)941-0025  
 SPCC e-mail: spchildrenscenter@yahoo.com

## From the Pastor's Pen....

## WORSHIP CALENDAR

### 10:30am Worship

Communion 1st Sunday of the Month.  
 Childcare provided for 1st grade + younger  
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## A Baby in a Box

*And this will be a sign to you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.*  
 -Luke 2:12

- Nov. 30      **Watching and Waiting**  
*Advent Begins*  
 Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37
- Dec. 6      *Greening of the Church*
- Dec. 3-7    *Scholastic Book Fair*
- Dec. 7      **The Birth of Jesus According to Mark**  
*Communion*  
 Mark 1:1-8
- Dec. 14     **The Birth of Jesus According to John**  
 John 1:6-8; 19-28
- Dec. 19 11am *SPCC Holiday Sing a Long*
- Dec. 21     **And a Child Shall Lead Them**  
 Luke 1:26-28
- Dec. 24     *Christmas Eve*  
 5pm **Family Service-Pageant**  
 11pm **Candlelight Service**
- Dec. 28     **Which Way Did The Go?**  
 Luke 2:22-40
- Jan. 4      **Grace and Truth**  
 John 1:1-9; 10-18

*Earth is crammed with heaven,  
 And every common bush alive with God!  
 But only he who sees, takes off his shoes.*  
 -Elizabeth Barrett Browning

The dark caverns of lower Manhattan run cold in late December. The black water seems to generate the frigid winds that race up and down the steep sides of buildings stopping pedestrians in their tracks as they turn this corner or that. Late at night the thousands that animate the streets by day leave these caverns and escape to the warmth of homes north and west and east and south. The old real estate adage that no one lives downtown isn't true but the lifelessness of the dark night streets say otherwise. Even if a few are housed on the tip of Manhattan hardly anyone calls its cold desolation home.

"Not home" is how Moses always felt. He lived downtown. His wanderings through life had moved him from the wealthy Rhode Island shore through various prep schools for the wonderfully advantaged, to the appropriate Ivy school and then to Wall Street. As if scripted for success each step was well planned and wisely conceived with the proper goal in mind. The promised land of new found wealth to add to an already impressive inherited portfolio was found in the late night hours that Moses spent trying to prove that he was worth his wealth. But increasingly Moses knew his life for what it was, not home.

One late night following a slavish period trying desperately to please one client who was precariously "at risk" Moses finally walked out of his office and turned out the lights even later than his pedigree demanded. Everyone earned their way in his family, his Dad always said. Moses had internalized the

family trait as positively as he had accepted his inheritance. Perhaps, they were one in the same. So Moses didn't mind staying late. It was as much home as he had. Even on Christmas Eve. His client would be impressed with so much new information waiting for him in his email box on Christmas morning. Moses was warmed by the thought until he stepped outside.

"What is it about the winds of lower Manhattan?" he asked himself again as he turned up town for the twenty minute walk to his apartment. It took that long because he had to avoid the homeless man who had been haunting him ever since Moses had told him his name one night when Moses was feeling especially lonely and in need of connection. The man had been calling him "Moses of Pisgah who shall never enter the promised land." It gave Moses the creeps so he avoided him even if it meant twice the time out in the cold. Moses pulled his coat tighter wishing he had his ski parka and wool hat or fail that small comfort at least the thought that he was returning to a place that was warmer, or cozier, or just more comfortable.

Home, he wanted to go home but he had been wandering on the earth some forty years and there was no such place for him. He seemed fairly sure. It was a cat in the night that pulled him out of his nightly session of self pitying loneliness. Cats, he hated cats but this one seemed to be in real trouble, screaming to high heaven. The sound came closer as Moses walked north. Above the din of the late night busses and taxis that still roamed at that hour there was the sound of real pain. Usually Moses never even heard the sounds of the city. He had been there long enough to forget them but there was something desperate about this sound. This sound came from the soul. There was also a feeling or expression that Moses even seemed to share with this sound. Moses wasn't so sure any cat could make such a human cry. Then he saw and then he realized that the sound came from a box on the side walk. Moses stopped ten feet away and decided to cross the street and leave the howling box behind. Whatever it was it couldn't be good. His instinct was the same that had pulled him through every day of his life. Keep it safe, play by the rules, keep your powder dry Dad used to say and everything would be fine, just fine. Dad had been right all along. It was good advice but tonight it wouldn't hold. The scream that Moses heard sounded just like the sound Moses felt in his soul when he longed to go home to the place he didn't know and had never been. He knew it couldn't be a cat but dared not look to see what it was. At the same time Moses couldn't leave that desperate cry behind. He was not a sentimental man but this was different. "This is real," he thought.

Finally, somehow he moved ahead. He stopped at the box and peeked in. Moses was startled. It was a baby in a box left on the sidewalk to freeze for reasons unfathomable to Moses at that moment. Peculiar, this baby was not that story in the Times that Moses would read and shake his head about. This

baby was not newsprint or as far away as a news bulletin on television. In a strange realization Moses understood as a complete truth that he shared some basic circumstance with this child. Moses too, was alone on the sidewalk in the cold darkness without a home to return to. Moses reached down and picked it up as naturally as if it were his own and held it close under his coat. The baby stopped his desperate yelp. Moses realized that he had never actually held a baby. He always demurred when he had the chance, being somewhat afraid of the consequences. Not knowing what to do next Moses walked fast toward his apartment. He couldn't help it but he moved like he had just stolen something. He didn't even think to go to the police. A mystery beyond the worldly authority of propriety had just taken place. Someone had expressed his pain. Moses knew he had to take care of this child or he would be completely lost. It was the first sacred moment Moses had ever known.

Then came the second. Another sound. From a place he couldn't quite see. Through the cold came the sound of a melody not quite hiding behind the noise of the traffic. He could just barely make out the words and then heard these as clearly as if they were meant for him "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. . ." He stopped walking, the baby was quiet, so close to the warmth of another body. When he stopped the child looked up and Moses saw his eyes sparkle. For the first time in his life he felt like he was home. What would happen next neither of them knew but it didn't matter, this night they were found. There were days and nights ahead that would try his soul, thank God, for finally he found out that he had one.

Tim

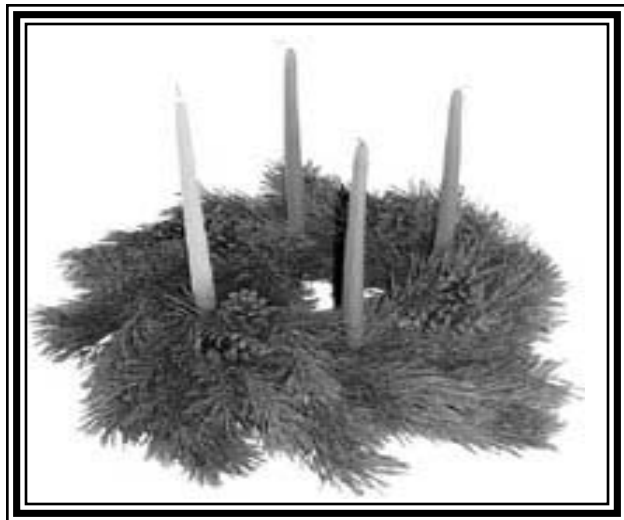
### WORSHIP SUPPORT TEAMS

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Coffee Hour Host</u>
12/7	Gene Croft Arthur McKinley	Terri Zuckerberg	Sandy Evans
12/14	Don Copans Connie Curran		
12/21	John Codman Debbie Wenninger		
12/24	Lyle Codman Grace Resnick		No Coffee Hour
12/24	Tom Davis Ed Payne		No Coffee Hour
12/28	Cory Ethridge Andy McMains		
1/4/09!!			

**We need volunteers.** If you are unable to serve on the assigned dates, please arrange for a substitute and/or call the office; you will receive a reminder call the week prior to your date of service. Guidesheets are posted at the Pastor's Study and Kitchenette. Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to serve in this way.

## **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

During Advent a different family is asked to do the honor of opening worship each week with **lighting of the Advent candle(s)** If you would like to participate in this tradition on any particular week, please call or e-mail the office or speak with Tim.



### **YOUTH NEWS**

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** next meets on Sunday, Dec. 7th at 9:15am in the Chapel. Have your Gospel of Mark posters finished.

**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** (6-7-8 graders) Meets Friday, December 12th at 7:00pm for pizza and Holiday Festivities including The Grinch, Charlie Brown, Twilight Zone Christmas and eggnog. We will be done by 9pm. Let Tim know if you are coming.

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH** (grades 9,10,11,12) meets Sunday, December 14 at B.C.C. at 6:00pm. Call Tim at 941-1142 if you are going. Also, if you want to go on the Mission Trip to New Orleans over February break, you have to be signed up by Dec. 7th.

### **NEWS FROM THE SCARBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER**

The days are just flying by. In November the children happily explored topics such as: Pilgrims and Native Americans, Fall Harvests, the First Thanksgiving and Families. We discussed how "Little Acts of Kindness" can make a big difference. We are learning to share, and show concern for our friends and our community. The children are quite proud to be able to offer a "help-

ing hand" to others. Our Food Drive for the Ossining Food Pantry was a great success! We collected boxes full of canned goods. Thank you to all the families that participated.

On December 8th we will be collecting items for families of the Ossining Open Door Organization. The donations will help make this holiday season a little brighter for families in need.

The following items are needed:

Diapers and wipes

New layette or baby items (Onesies, baby blankets, booties, etc.)

Hats, gloves, scarves, socks ( new - for male and female infants thru adults)

New toys for children under 5 years old

New children's books - in English or Spanish

Please do not wrap the donations. Donation boxes will be placed inside the classrooms. The last day for donations is December 12th.

In November we had a wonderful class visit in Class 3A and in the 4's Class by Michelle Dhanda - Julian, Gavin and Adelle's Mom. Michelle spoke to the children about the Hindu Holiday - Diwali. Diwali is the Hindu Festival of Lights, lasting 5 days in either October or November. Diwali is a happy time of celebration that marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year. Michelle read the children a story and they made a "Diya" - a small clay candle lamp that is traditionally lit during the celebration of Diwali. Then the children had a sweet snack in hopes that the new year will be sweet. The children enjoyed their Diwali celebration. Thank you to Michelle Dhanda for sharing the family's traditions with us.

Each of our classes will hold scrumptious feasts as the culmination of their Thanksgiving Units. The three year olds and four year olds will gather together in the "Big Room" for their feast. This year we are looking forward to Pastor Tim joining us for our feast on Tuesday, November 25th.

In December the children will be busy preparing for our annual Holiday Sing-a-Long. The sing-a-long will be held on Friday, December 19th at 10:30am in the chapel. The children are also excited to be making surprise gifts and cards for their families. In December the children will be learning about the holidays - Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Registration for the 2009 - 2010 school year is now going on. New Afternoon Enrichment classes for 3 to 5 Year olds will also begin in January 2009. If you are interested, please give me a call at 941-0025, ext. 17.

*Katya Montelbano*  
Director SPCC

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

### *Congregational Life Thanksgiving Dinner---A wonderful Church tradition.*

November 23rd was our annual Church Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a wonderful dinner!

Thank you to all who poured their love and work into the event. I pray we all went away with our bodies well fed by turkey and ham and any number of nutritious and tasty condiments brought to the table by every family, and that our souls were nourished by the love and fellowship with each other.

I am already looking forward to next Thanksgiving! That is the wonder and beauty of traditions: they stabilize and anchor our lives through their deep symbolic meanings in an otherwise often chaotic world; they help make "order out of chaos". When Jesus broke the bread and poured the wine at the Last Supper with his disciples, when He commanded: "Eat-drink in remembrance of me", was that the beginning of Church traditions?

Thank you again to all: From command and control in the kitchen---Angela and Camille with Terri, Debbie and Kathy steady at their sides--- Signe quietly hosting, tending to things behind the scene; Inge with husband Ken at her side carrying and filling in gaps where needed; to Don's dedication to get the tables set up just right, sparing no energy, and sweeping up after all was cleared; to the confirmation class for enthusiastically placing silverware according to "etiquette" to Margo and to Conner for helping with flowers and other decor; Martha Dodge and John Codman, nursery school director Katya Montelbano and friends Linda Levine, Steve Black and others who helped with clean up, and of course a thank you to Flo, who is always there for any question and concern, and for putting away the last dish and the last wiping of the kitchen counter. The place is back in order.

Blessings,  
*Karin*

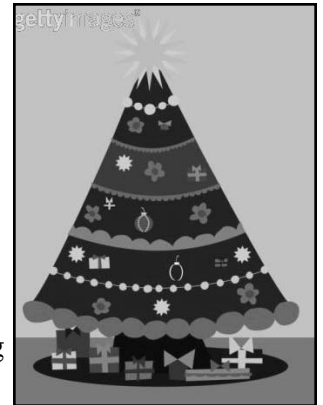
## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Stewardship Sunday was celebrated quite appropriately on Thanksgiving Sunday with a full church and a wonderful spirit. Many pledges were received and consecrated. As of November 26th we have received 20 pledges for \$156,000. (A wonderful response so far!) Our hope is to receive twenty more pledges, to provide a doubly sound footing for SPC's core and mission activities in the coming year, and to ensure that our church will continue to grow and continue to make a difference in our community and the wider world. If you have not made a pledge and would like to there are pledge cards in the pews or you can pick them up from the office. Please send them in or leave them in the office. Thanks to all who support the church for truly this is an important and vital place.

## THE DEACON'S GIVING TREE

The Board of Deacons initiated the Deacon's Giving Tree during the past ten years. Realizing that we are a fortunate congregation, the Deacons strove to address the needs of our needier neighbours. Hence the Giving Tree grew.

Hanging on the tree are ornaments that can be taken off and represent what is needed in the local community. Recipients of gifts have been the Ossining Children Center, Ossining Open Door, Planned Parenthood's White Plains prenatal program and First Steps program of the Ossining School District.



Various ways of giving have been adopted:-

1. Recipient families were adopted by SPC families and gifts were bought for the whole family from a list provided by the family via Social Workers who identified the most needy.
2. Gift certificates for local supermarkets were given to families.
3. Calling cards for international calls were given to families to enable them to call home on Christmas Day without cost.
4. Layettes for new babies in pastel colours were given to newborns. Gifts were also included for the mother
5. Under 5 toys for boys and girls were given to Ossining Open Door and Ossining Children Center
6. Cold weather accessories, such as hats, gloves, scarves and boots were given to various groups.
7. Books in English and Spanish were given to various groups to enable parents to read to their pre-schoolers.
8. This year we may add footwear for children/adults.

The Deacons collect funds/toys/books/gifts and organize the wrapping and distribution of same. It gives us great pleasure to spend the congregation's money for a good cause. We have a solid relationship with Ossining and Sleepy Hollow Open Doors, though Lindsay Farrell, CEO, and Angela Rogers, a Deacon, and the social workers there and at the Ossining School District.

I hope that our drive, during this difficult economic time, benefits our needier neighbors as we have in years past. Please speak to a Deacon if you would like to help.

God bless you all as you care for those less fortunate than ourselves. *Lucy Milne* for the SPC Deacons

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

We re growing here at SPC!! On Sunday, Nov. 2nd we welcomed many wonderful people into our membership. They are: **Sandy Beach (Nayak), Matt and Kitty Burruss, Barbara and Richard Cody, Marion Fichenschner, Arthur McKinley, Jim Simmons, and John and Christine Suess.**

What joy! We celebrating the baptism of **Finley Kate Reilly**, daughter of **Keith & Danielle** and sister to **Kailyn and Cavan**, during worship on Sunday Nov. 23rd.

**FYI-** Due to need for prolonged rehabilitation, **Meg Pierce** continues to receive treatment and therefore has not moved. Please keep Meg and Bob in your prayers, and use the old address: 10-6 Hunter Lane, Ossining, NY 10510

**Barbara Devir** is a Grandma again!! Her daughter Megan gave birth on Wednesday, November 19th to her third granddaughter, **Hazel**. A big baby (8#15oz), all are doing very well. With **Barbara Grampa, daddy** and her **twin sisters** are so glad she s arrived!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tim Ives
- 2 Larry Savell
- 7 Mary Elizabeth Ingraham
- 8 Mary Helen Davis
- 13 Jake Resnick
- 14 Ken Potter
- 16 Gil Long  
Allison Shaffren
- 22 Gene Croft
- 26 Laura Wenninger
- 27 Jackie Davis
- 29 Margaret Theresa Ingraham  
Alex Lane
- 30 Caroline Farrell



*Please let us know if we missed listing your birthday. Is there a special event or success (graduation, birth, engagement, new job, etc.) coming up or just past? We d love to celebrate with you!*

## *"Knowledge through Love"*

Last Sunday's sermon (November 16) by Rev. Tim Ives was very meaningful to me and very powerful: Jesus wants us to have courage to live life and to engage fully in life. This was the message, or so it seemed.

The True and powerful message for me was the message that came through Tim's very moving and very personal testimony of "Knowing": Knowing what to do in the life and death situation of his father. Knowing and acting became indistinguishable. This, I believe, is the Holy Spirit.

"Knowledge through Love" is the title of a very powerful sermon by theologian Paul Tillich. A sermon, I believe, that attests to a son's testimony of his deep love for life and his deep love for his father.

My Christmas Wish and Prayer for myself, my family, and my Church: "...now I am known in part; but then I shall know even as also I am known". I Corinthians 13:8-12

*Peace, Karin Chaudhari*

## ***DECEMBER ADULT EDUCATION NEWS: WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOU WANT:***

*Please come to the Adult Ed Planning Committee Meeting on Sunday, Dec. 14th right after the service or send an email to amyks@optonline.net with any thoughts or suggestions for programs before Dec. 14th.*

*Many thanks!*

**NEW COURSE PROPOSED:** Ashok Chaudhari would run a weekly discussion group on The Book of Confessions which is one of the two parts of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Book of Confessions has in it various confessions made throughout Presbyterian history which were chosen by the church and form the back bone of our church theology. In these times of turmoil and re-organization, which can be bewildering at times, turning to tradition can be both comforting and strengthening, and can help keep an even course while navigating through any confusion. Ashok will serve as tour guide as we make our way through fascinating church history and, hopefully, illuminating theology. Please contact Ashok at ac2300@columbia.edu with any thoughts or questions. If you are interested in this study course please let us know by Christmas! We hope to start in January on Tuesdays from 7-8 p.m. If you are interested but would prefer another meeting time please let Amy know at amyks@optonline.net.

**LECTURE SERIES:** Rev. Dr. Tim Ives continues his monthly series of lectures on "The Second Death of Christ." Rev. Ives looks at the diversity and tolerance that was part of the church in the first three centuries of existence. Then a change came with the first

Christian Emperor Constantine. Did the resulting orthodoxy help or hurt the ministry of Christ? All are welcome to join the lively discussion to follow. The next Friday evening meeting will be Dec. 5th at 7 p.m. with refreshments provided. Please contact the office at #941-1142 with any questions.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Rev. Ives leads Bible study of the Sunday Lectionary Readings every Wednesday at 11 a.m. This is an opportunity to look at the Bible/Christianity with historical and theological perspectives. Come for discussion only or bring a bag lunch. Please contact the SPC office at 941-1142 with any questions. Everyone is welcome to join at any time and can find the Lectionary Readings online at [www.PCUSA.org](http://www.PCUSA.org) by selecting: Devotions and Readings, Read Them Online, Next Sunday.

**ADULT EDUCATION COURSE:** Tom Davis and Joel Cambron continue to facilitate our Sunday lecture and discussion course on Martin Luther: Gospel Law & Reformation in the Carriage House conference room at 9:15 a.m. Outlines of the study course are available in the office and copies of transcripts of the lectures can be obtained if requested. For more information contact Amy K-S at [amyks@optonline.net](mailto:amyks@optonline.net)

**DINNER & A MOVIE GROUP:** met twice this fall to watch "Enron" and "What Dreams May Come." Suggestions are being proposed for January's meeting. Join us to share potluck dinner, movie viewing and discussion. The winter schedule is being prepared. Please contact Kathy Davis at #941-5537 with any movie preferences or questions.

### **New Earth by Eckhart Tolle: A Continuing Discussion** *part 3 of 3 parts*

**What is your life's purpose?** Eckhart Tolle writes: "Nonresistance, nonjudgment, and nonattachment are the three aspects of true freedom and enlightened living. Those words are not telling you that you should not enjoy the good in your life, nor are they merely meant to provide some comfort in times of suffering. They have a deeper purpose: to make you aware of the fleetingness of every situation, which is due to the transience of all forms - good or bad. When you become aware of the transience of all forms, your attachment to them lessens, and you disidentify from them to some extent. Being detached does not mean that you cannot enjoy the good that the world has to offer. In fact, you enjoy it more. Once you see and accept the transience of all things and the inevitability of change, you can enjoy the pleasures of the world while they last without fear of loss or anxiety about the future. When you are detached, you gain a higher vantage point from which to view the events in your life instead of being trapped in them. You become like an astronaut who sees the planet Earth surrounded by the vastness of space and realizes a paradoxical

truth: The earth is precious and at the same time insignificant. The recognition that "This, too, will pass" brings detachment and with detachment another dimension comes into your life - inner space. Through detachment, as well as nonjudgment and inner nonresistance, you gain access to that dimension."

"When you are not longer totally identified with forms, consciousness - who you are - becomes freed from its imprisonment in form. This freedom is the arising of inner space. It comes as a stillness, a subtle peace deep within you, even in the face of something seemingly bad. "This, too, will pass." Suddenly, there is space around the event. There is also space around the emotional highs and lows, even around pain. And above all, there is space between your thoughts. And from that space emanates a peace that is not "of this world," because this world is form, and the peace is space. This is the peace of God."

Now you can enjoy and honor the things of this world without giving them an importance and significance they don't have. You can participate in the dance of creation and be active without attachment to the outcome and without placing unreasonable demands upon the world: Fulfill me, make me happy, make me feel safe, tell me who I am. When that dimension is present in your life, you can enjoy things, experiences, and the pleasures of the senses without losing yourself to them " (pp. 225-226.)

When I put my faith in God I think I have the same experience as Tolle describes: a greater appreciation of the life without requiring that the world fulfill me and a connection with God that gives me a sense of peace. This changes how I live my life. Tolle also talks about inner and outer purpose. Once we are aware of our inner purpose in God then our outer purpose becomes informed by this. And once we are aligned with God we become a conduit for God's infinite energy.

My friend responds: "I think the discussion about detachment/awareness/engagement and how religions understand each other on this topic is very interesting because I suspect that language often gets in the way, but I do also wonder if there are not major differences between being detached (while also engaged), keeping in mind the transitory nature of things, vs. what I have come to feel in my journey as a call to passionate engagement and heartfelt caring, but trusting God enough with the outcome to let myself truly care and still be free from worry. I don't know if these are contradictory states of being, but those questions come to mind when I read the latter half of Tolle's writing. Rather than not asking the world to give you things that he says are unreasonable, in my belief, those are things that come from relationship to God. For example, I think the need to know who we are is a valid one. And it's one I think

God answers. So rather than ignore that need as invalid, I seek the answer in God. Again, this may be more a question of language than philosophy."

I too wonder if it is more a question of the limits of language in describing experience than philosophical disagreements. I think this is important to consider as we reflect on how we can be examples of being truly accepting rather than merely tolerant of others and their seemingly "different beliefs" in a divisive world. Lack of communication and true understanding often seem to be the justification for conflict in the world. What is your inner purpose and how do you feel God's energy in your life?

In peace & love, *Amy Kitahata-Sporn*  
with many thanks to Ken Vought, Pia & Karin Chaudhari.  
Copies of A New Earth can be found in the SPC Lending Library.

### THOMAS FAMILY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2008



As we come to the end of another year, we are mindful of the many blessings God has blessed us with - most notably our supporting friends and church family. You have been great partners in 2008 - joining us in helping Woodstock students, employee families and now, distant villagers in the Tehri-Garhwal hills. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

We recently visited the village of Bel Gaon, about a two-hour drive north of Mussoorie. We saw the tiny village nestled on the side of a mountain long before we crossed a steel bridge over the Aglar River and then drove up the Very Narrow zig-zag dirt road to the village. We were welcomed by a greeting written in Hindi on an entrance arch and then by the brightly dressed women coming in from the potato fields to see the visitors. Their well-swept homes were hung with drying cobs of corn - a good harvest this year. We were met by the village leader who took us proudly to a small plot of land dedicated for a new school building. We could see the village's government-run school nearby, standing idle as the teacher never comes and the village is too remote for the government inspector to check. The village families decided that their children's education is valuable, so they contacted Rev. Timothy from Mussoorie's Kellogg Church, who had helped another village with piped water, and asked him to help them start a school. That he did last year and we shared a short video with some of you about the school children who met in the community grain storage building with two Christian school teachers. Since we reported to you last summer, one villager has become a Believer. But God is

working in the hearts of this predominantly Hindu village - even the village leader prayed with us as we asked God's blessing on the venture to build a proper school building for the children. One of the farmers is deeding the land for the new school building. Through your donations to the Thomas India Mission Fund, we will give a Christmas gift that will help rent rooms so that classes can continue once the grain storage room is full, buy school supplies, pay for legal documents to be drawn for the sale of property and for building permits, and provide seed money for the construction. We will keep you updated on the progress - knowing that this will all happen in God's time.

#### Prayer Requests

All of us have been well this year - please join us in prayers of thanks for good health, often a luxury in this part of the world. We ask your prayers for discernment, as we consider our next steps at the end of our four year contracts with the school. Specifically, if we come back to the U.S., we will need jobs. Chris is diligently completing college and financial aid applications - we ask prayers for his acceptance into a good school and for funds to meet the costs. Coleman will be traveling to Nepal in January, and we ask for safe travels. Two of Barb's sisters will travel to India to visit us in late January - we ask for safe travels and enriching family time. Pray for our students and staff as they rapidly close the semester and travel back to homes in time for Christmas. Please pray for the continued success of the "Monsters and More" project that Barb works with that helps local women sew their way out of debt. Join us in thanks to God for the completion of the renovation of our local church, St. Paul's Church of North India!

Please consider coming to visit us in India in the new year - there is much to do in and around Woodstock School to engage a group of any age!

May you enjoy God's richest blessing during the Christmas season and in the new year.



Nameste,  
Jeff, Colman, Chris & Barb outside St. Paul's Church

**SPC DEACONS  
CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL**



If you wish to have poinsettias displayed during Advent to remember or honor loved ones, or to give thanks to God for the joy of life, please PRINT names as you wish them to appear in the Christmas bulletins.

Given by:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Honor/Memory/Other)

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettias @ \$12.50 ea.

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit your order by December 14th to insure delivery; bulletin information must be received by Monday, December 22nd to be included in the Memorial Listing of the Church bulletins on Christmas Eve.

Make check payable to: SPC Deacon's Flower Fund

\*Please pick up your poinsettias following the 11:00pm service, or on Sunday morning Dec. 28th.

*The following list are those persons elected by the congregation who are willing to serve in a leadership capacity. Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail if you have a prayer request, an idea, a joy, a concern, a resource or a talent to share.*

**SPC Leadership 2008**

- |                         |               |  |
|-------------------------|---------------|--|
| Rev. Timothy Ives       | 645-1482      | Pastor<br>Tives4932@aol.com                            |
| Elder Barbara Devir     | 923-3517      | CLP Prison Ministry<br>barbdevir@yahoo.com             |
| <b>Elders</b>           |               |  |
| Linnea Carnes           | 941-0996      | Personnel; SPCC<br>linnea529@aol.com                   |
| Patty Chapman           | 760-2453      | Christian Education<br>pchapman@stonesoupmarketing.com |
| Steven Cho              | 762-9129      | Buildings & Grounds<br>shcho@optonline.net             |
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