



# Focus

December 2017

[www.daleheightspc.org](http://www.daleheightspc.org)

## A Message from Pastor Roger

### Dale Heights Staff

**Pastor:**  
Reverend Roger Roberts

**Office Manager &  
Director of Music:**  
Maggie Rogers

**Treasurer:**  
Wendy Weber

**Custodian:**  
Rick Geiger

### Dale Heights Session

**Moderator**  
Reverend Roger Roberts

**Clerk**  
Gale Oakes

Edi Chan  
Melanie Klump  
Roy Lembcke  
Rick Shannon  
Wendy Weber

### Christmas Memories

While we were erecting and decorating (*actually she was doing all the decorating!*) our Christmas tree, Jan and I reminisced about our Christmas memories from childhood. Ah, the wonder we felt as children, with all the decorations and celebrations, and special events at school and church! And, of course, we made our gift requests known to Santa, and after the Santa myth was dispelled, we trusted that our parents would do as well in meeting our gift expectations. Christmas was a magical time of the year, and it seemed that Christmas Day, of all the days of the year, was slowest in arriving, as we asked our parents, “How many more days till Christmas?”

And, what I remember most, along with the interminably long car ride from central Ohio to my grandparents’ homes in North Carolina on Christmas Day, were the presents I received from Santa. An all-time favorite was a cowboy outfit, including hat, chaps, vest, scarf, and even a two-gun holster (in those days, not even the Lone Ranger’s bullets actually hurt anyone—just gave ‘em a good scare). That special Christmas Day was on a Sunday, and after imploring my pastor-daddy, he let me wear my cowboy suit to church, sans guns, of course. So proud was I (surely I looked like Roy Rogers himself!), that during the preliminary part of the worship service, I made my way to the platform and sat in the empty chair next to my dad’s, in full view of everyone, naturally, and remained there during his Baptist-long sermon. Why my usually strict dad let me do that, I’ll never understand. Pure grace, I suppose.

That cowboy suit was a gift that made an impact on my life, and featured my admiration for Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, the Lone Ranger, et al. Another Christmas gift was a large Bible, given from my paternal grandmother. In a way, that fit had a more lasting impact because, even before I could read, it was a “prop” I used when I would place it on a pedestal in my bedroom and pretend I was preaching, just like my dad. In the words of author Graham Greene, that Bible “opened a window and let the future in.” God was planting the first seeds of my calling to ministry.

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This Christmas we all can celebrate the greatest gift of all, one that has changed and will continue to change our lives, forever. Jesus was given to us as God's amazing gift, and when we received him and began to follow him as the crucified, risen Lord, he gave us eternal life, and henceforth is daily transforming us into the people he has created and called us to be. Now celebrating Christmas should be like continually opening a window and letting the future in, to fulfill our calling to a daily life of faith and trust, and a looking forward to the eternal glory he is preparing for us.

May God bless all the dear Dale Heights Family with a most memorable Christmas!

Yours in his love and service,

*—Pastor Roger*

<b>December 3</b>	First Sunday of Advent
<b>Liturgist:</b> Jennifer Jones	<b>Ushers:</b> Roy Lembcke, Gale Oakes, Wendy Weber
<b>December 10</b>	Second Sunday of Advent
<b>Liturgist:</b> Melanie Klump	<b>Ushers:</b> Bonnie Savonne, Otty Schaefer
<b>December 17</b>	Third Sunday of Advent
<b>Liturgist:</b> Melanie Klump	<b>Ushers:</b> Vreni Straubhaar, Keith Chan
<b>December 24 (AM)</b>	Fourth Sunday of Advent
<b>Liturgist:</b> Mike Holland	<b>Ushers:</b> Alicia Shumate, Margie Shumate, Nathan Tripp
<b>December 24 (PM)</b>	Christmas Eve
<b>Liturgist:</b> Wendy Weber	<b>Ushers:</b> TBD

### December New Beginnings

New Beginnings meets on the **third Friday** of every month. This month, the New Beginnings gathering will be TBD. Please **text** or e-mail Mary Towne at 692-3885 or marytowne45@gmail.com for reservations.



### Church Women United

December 1 was Church Women United's Tea and Silent Auction. It was held at Memorial UCC on Lacy Road. and included a luncheon. \$500 was raised for such causes as The Road Home and ARC Halfway Houses for Women (GED Program). The next program is Human Rights Celebration Day on January 6, 2018 at Monona UMC, 606 Nichols Rd., Madison. The recipient is very worthy. All are welcome.

—Ellie Metzloff, Key Woman

### Lessons & Carols

Our annual Lessons & Carols service on December 31 needs 9 readers. The lessons will be read from your place in the pews (please stand if possible) and will alternate with carols. The sign-up sheet is in the Concourse. This is a great opportunity to participate in the service by sharing your voice!

### December Birthdays

- December 13 Vreni Straubhaar
- December 18 Jamie Engebregtsen
- December 22 Ray Miller
- December 25 Dick Corey
- December 28 Marian Todd
- December 29 Caroline Pope

### December Anniversary

- December 16 Otty & Larry Schaefer



### Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

Although we prefer not to have to cancel worship, sometimes winter weather makes it necessary. If the decision is made to cancel worship, Maggie will send an email and change the answering machine by 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning to indicate the cancellation. If you are at all unsure about whether or not to come to church, please check your email or call the church.

*Above all, play it safe.*

## Property & Finance Highlights

**November 14, 2017**

- Memorial Gardens: the sign on the post by the wooden steps will be reordered to say “Shirley-Dawn and Bob Jorgenson” (and to correct a spelling error and obtain a brighter finish). One plaque will be ordered for the flowering almond (Shirley-Dawn and Bob Jorgenson) and one plaque will be ordered for the flowering crabapple tree in memory of Carl Metzloff.
- Eaves troughs: covers will be done in the spring. The gutters will need blowing out soon.
- Sunday School closet: a new wooden door and frame have been installed to take the place of the old folding door. This door has a lock on it and the office now has keys for those who need one.
- Lighting: PKK Lighting has fixed one of the can lights by the concourse stairs. One of the lights by the back doors is still not working correctly. There is a need for an estimate to improve the lighting in the choir/organ area.
- Parking Lot: seal coat project has been moved to spring.
- Office copier: a new color copier will be purchased for the office.
- Fire Alarm system: Committee members met with Tyco on November 2 for fire alarm system replacement quotes. Two options were given of varying price. Tyco will be recontacted to give a detailed estimate for the less expensive fix. The committee is also considering getting estimates from local companies.
- Outreach planter: will see if there is any interest in growing herbs for MOM during winter.
- Interest-bearing accounts: heard a brief report on this subject and the difference between personal and business accounts. More research will be done.
- 2016 Financial Audit: was reviewed and members were given a copy to study on their own. Thank you to Gerry Klump for preparing this.
- Financial statements: reviewed financial reports as of 10/31/2017. Briefly discussed 2018 budget ideas. Giving statements for November year-to-date pledge contributions will be prepared and mailed out after November 26.
- Stewardship: Pastor Roger has prepared a stewardship letter. Pledge cards will accompany the letter. Pledges will be dedicated on December 10, with a pledge song on the 3rd and 10th.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00pm.



December *Outreach* News

**Sharing Christmas**

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to Sharing Christmas. Because of your generosity, we were able to purchase gifts for our entire family! A special thanks goes out to the following people:

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jan and Roger Roberts      | Wendy Weber                 |
| Bonnie Savonne             | Marcia Holman               |
| June Zeeh                  | Otty Schaefer               |
| Ellie Metzloff             | Gale Oakes                  |
| Nathan Tripp               | Jamie and Matt Engebregtsen |
| The Kneubuehl/Slack Family |                             |

**“Guess Who” with Outreach**

Check out the Outreach bulletin board in the concourse to "guess who" the featured organization is from the local community groups we support. The winner will receive a bag of fair trade coffee!

**Christmas Joy Offering**

For the month of December we are collecting for the Christmas Joy Offering. Each week we are hearing a Minute for Mission about the great programs supported by the Christmas Joy Offering including support for current and retired church workers and racial-ethnic schools. The Offering will be dedicated on Christmas Eve. Thank you for your generous support!

**As always, a big thank you! You and we know we could never do the work without you!**

Many thanks to the following people who purchased poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary this Advent season: Jamie Engebregtsen, Barb Fleishman, Ellie Metzloff, Bonnie Savonne, Margie Shumate, Jennifer Jones, Gerry Klump, Roger & Jan Roberts, Marcia Holman, Rick Shannon, Otty Schaefer, Elizabeth Ndafooka, June Zeeh, Wendy Weber, and Vreni Straubhaar.



Check out our website:

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### Sunday Schedule

9:00-10:00am

Adult Christian Education

10:00am

Worship

11:00am

Fellowship

### **Dale Heights**

#### **Mission Statement:**

*Our open-minded congregation affirms and celebrates God's gifts of love and grace. We seek to share God's love by inviting others to join us in following Jesus and by serving those in need in our community and world.*

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