

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
ORDER OF SERVICE
December 3, 2006 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

*** Gathering Song** (Sung by the congregation - #347)

Gather the spirit, harvest the power.
Our separate fires will kindle one flame.
Witness the mystery of this hour.
Our trials in this light appear all the same.

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.

*** Call to Worship**

*** Lighting the Chalice** (spoken in unison)

We light this chalice
For the renewal of faith,
The wonder of hope,
The beauty of love,
And the gift of joy.

*** Musical Response** (Sung by the congregation - #1013)

Open my heart to all that I see;
Let me be part of the Love You give.

+++++Latecomers may be seated+++++

Responsive Reading

MINISTER: On this second Sunday of the Christmas Season we celebrate the quality of hope, forever springing up in our hearts and minds, forever being rekindled.

CONGREGATION: There is no state more desperate than hopelessness. When people lose hope, they die. As long as we continue to hope, we find courage and strength.

MINISTER: Hope is born of faith. As long as we have faith in the eternal, faith in our better selves, we shall believe that good will win, evil will be overcome, injustice defeated.

CONGREGATION: However deep our faith, it is sometimes shaken. However strong our hopes, they are many times crushed. Life does not always conform to our wishes and desires.

MINISTER: Faith must be deepened and enlarged. Hope must be confirmed and renewed. When the Candle of Hope is quenched, it must be relighted.

CONGREGATION: We must find a way to protect the flickering Candle of Hope. Each person must find a way of confirming and renewing the hopes that sustain and inspire.

MINISTER: We find hope for ourselves when we move with those who have visions and dreams. We find new meaning for our life when we share in the courage, devotion, and dignity of others.

CONGREGATION: So we come together to celebrate the qualities of Christmas. Our faith is strengthened by the love of our friends. Our lives wing with new expectancy. The hope of Christmas brings joy to the world.

(Duncan E. Littlefair, adapted)

Lighting the Candle of Hope & Musical Response

9:15: Irina Lyons

11:15: Isaac Urner

*** Hymn #233**

"Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"

Guest at Your Table & H.O.P.E Offering

Singing Out the Children

Go now in peace. Go now in peace.
May the spirit of love surround you
Everywhere, everywhere, you may go.

Congregational Announcements

Offering & Offertory

Joys & Sorrows

Meditative Reading, Period of Silence, Musical Response

Reading

Special Music

Sermon

“Hope Is Not a Strategy”

Closing Hymn #108

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

*** Benediction & Extinguishing the Chalice**

*** Closing Song #388**

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

Dona nobis pacem, pacem; dona nobis pacem.
Dona nobis pacem; dona nobis pacem.
Dona nobis pacem; dona nobis pacem.

* Please rise as willing and able

Hearing assistance devices are available to the left of the sanctuary door as you enter the building.

Tapes of Sunday Services can be ordered in the back of the sanctuary to the left of the front door (\$3). **Print** versions can be made from our website, www.quuf.org.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR TODAY'S SERVICES

FIRST SERVICE: Musical Response: Paul Reade, "Mists" (from Suite "Victorian Kitchen Garden"). Special Music: Gabriel Pierné, Canzonetta. Both selections performed by Lylburn Layer, clarinet, and Beatus Meier, piano.

SECOND SERVICE: “Light a Candle” – words and music by Marta Keen, arr. by Jay Althouse, sung by QUUF choir.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Week's Service, December 10, 9:15 & 11:15 a.m. Rev. Bode. Sermon: “What Moves Us Emotionally” Do you ever find yourself while watching a syrupy movie or even a TV advertisement both weeping and castigating yourself for weeping at the same time? This sermon, in this season of the human heart, will explore what moves us emotionally and what it means for us as human beings.

Christmas Party – Our annual Christmas Tree Trimming and Caroling Party will be **Friday, Dec. 8, 6:30-8:30**. Please bring a snack or dessert to share.

Brochures for the upcoming winter ALPS classes are now available at the back of the sanctuary. You may sign-up for these classes on the appropriate clipboard in the clipboard rack.

QUUF is participating again this year in the **Church Hosting for the Homeless Program** on the weeks of Dec. 10-16 and Jan. 7-13. This year it looks like the site for lodging will be the American Legion Hall in downtown PT with participating area churches providing food service and night monitors. If you haven't yet signed up, please sign up today at the back of the sanctuary or contact David Ditzler by e-mail at dditzler@aol.com or phone 437-0792.

Since **Christmas Eve** this year falls on Sun., Dec. 24, there will **no Sunday services in the a.m.**, rather, we will have 3 Christmas Eve services, a Children's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, at 5:00 p.m., and two Christmas Eve Candlelight Services for all ages at 7 & 9 p.m.

Also, like last year, the staff is proposing a **Christmas Day Fellowship Potluck Dinner** to begin at 2 p.m. on Christmas Day. If you wish to be part of such a gathering, please indicate your interest by signing up at the back of the sanctuary by **Sunday, December 10.**

Sister City Project hosting holiday card writing party at QUUF, Thurs., Dec. 7, 5-6 p.m. Cards are of 550 local residents in front of the Farmer's Market taken last month. Cards will be available with names and addresses of Bay St. Louis residents. Cards will be mailed Dec. 11 for a "collective message." Suggested messages will be available to facilitate card writing. Drop in at your convenience during the hour. **HELP SEND HOLIDAY JOY!!**

Middle School RE Survey of Beliefs at QUUF

Please choose up to three statements with which you most strongly agree, then come to our voting site in the breezeway to mark your beliefs.

- * There are probably as many ideas about God as there are people.
- * God cares for us and listens to our prayers.
- * God and the Universe are the same - God is in everything and everyone.
- * There is no way we can know whether or not there is a God.
- * God created the universe and then left it to run itself.
- * There is no such thing as God, and even the word is meaningless.
- * God is my conscience calling me to make the world a better place.
- * God is present in the relationships among people.
- * Creation is on-going, and we are co-creators with God.
- * There is a spark of divinity in each of us.
- * We can use science and reason to understand our Universe.
- * I find God in nature.
- * God is like a loving mother who sustains us and all life.
- * My beliefs about Jesus make me feel closer to God.

Congratulations!

A big THANK YOU is due to everyone who contributed and worked on the QUUF Capital Campaign. As we close out the formal campaign today, we have received **\$630,273** in pledges from QUUF members and friends. The chart below shows how important each gift was to reaching this goal. If you have not yet pledged and feel moved to do so, you may still submit a pledge form. No amount is too small. The support that has been shown by members and friends for expanding our church home is generous and meaningful. I am grateful to have been involved.

Next comes the task of aligning our budget with our dreams. As with any home renovation project, there are priorities to set and compromises to make. The building committee task forces are hard at work laying the groundwork for these decisions. Just as the capital campaign required participation from the vast majority of members, so too will the decisions about how to allocate the money received. I urge you to get involved and, when the time comes, cast your vote for the priorities that represent your vision of QUUF's future. Every voice is valued and needed.

QUUF Capital Campaign Essential Gifts Chart

Category	Target # of gifts	Actual # of gifts
\$30,000+	3	3
\$18,000 - \$29,999	4	6
\$12,000 - \$17,999	23	12
\$9,000 – \$11,999	5	6
\$6,500 - \$8,999	10	1
\$4,500 - \$6,499	10	14
\$3,000 - \$4,499	10	14
\$1,500 - \$2,999	35	17
\$1 - \$1,499	50	43
Total Gifts	150	116

IMAGINE... A Welcoming Home

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Beth Wilmart & the Capital Campaign Committee
December 3, 2006

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

In response to the predictably devastating effects of global climate change, the **Building Green Task Force** for our new sanctuary is recommending that we consider **forming a new, permanent committee here at QUUF to be called the Green Sanctuary Committee** in order to join a rapidly growing national environmental movement lead by the UU Ministry for Earth. You are all encouraged to pick up a handout in the back of the sanctuary, speak to a task force member, give written input and/or come to their next meeting at QUUF this coming Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m.

“AN EVENING WITH ROBERT FULGHUM” Saturday, February 3, 2007, 7:00 P.M., Wheeler Theatre

Our Sunday Services Committee will be selling advance tickets today for an appearance by Robert Fulghum (who will be also our guest in the pulpit on Sunday, Feb. 4). His performance the evening before, Feb. 3, will be at the Wheeler Theatre. Tickets (advance, \$5; at the door if still available, \$8) and more info are available at the back of the sanctuary today, at our office, or at Quimper Sound. Might make a nice Christmas gift.

“Quimper Pieces,” a CD of **20 original piano compositions by Beatus Meier**, was created for QUUF Sunday services between 2003-2005. The wide variety of styles includes adaptations of existing songs, others based on folk music elements from various parts of the world, as well as a number of freely-invented compositions. **This CD is again available for the holiday season** for purchase following both services (\$15).

Great Holiday Gifts: UU sweatshirts at \$15 and QUUF cookbooks for \$10 (2 for \$15). See Rod Mitchell or call 385-5277.

THIS MONTH'S DESIGNATED OFFERINGS

December 10 – Support for YRUU Trip to Bay St. Louis – An offering to defray the expenses of about ten of our high-school age youth who are planning a week's trip over the

President's Day week from February 13-20 to help rebuild houses in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi as part of Port Townsend's Sister City Project.

December 24 (Christmas Eve) – Offerings from our 3 evenings services (no day services) will, like last year, support the Emergency Fund of the East Jefferson County Ministerial Association and the Church Hospitality for the Homeless Project (with which our congregation is currently involved).

Offerings on the other Sundays of the month are in support of QUUF's general operating budget.