

MWR Report December '07/January '08

Rochester Mennonite Church

Advent worship centered around the theme, "The world is about to turn." The lighting of the Advent wreath was a weekly event. During Advent the "Children's Story" time featured a different Biblical costumed visitor each week: Isaiah, Mrs. Noah, Elizabeth, a Shepherdess, and Joseph. The devotional magazine, "Rejoice," was distributed to members. The Dec. 2 service was cancelled because of snow. The worship chair emailed members the bulletin and sermon planned for that morning.

The semiannual congregational meeting was held Dec. 8 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Dec. 9 we had our final rehearsal for the Christmas concert which our Fellowship performed at Oak Center on Dec. 15. Betty Kennel coordinated a potluck meal which preceded the concert. The Dec. 16 worship included a celebratory Communion service.

Relief kits were collected for MCC and delivered to the Crowded Closet at Iowa City by the Phil and Kim Leichty family. Money is collected bimonthly for the assembling of kits after the children and youth make an original appeal for funds to the congregation during a worship service.

On January 6 Sarah Leichty, after her 13th birthday, was presented a Bible from the congregation which included a back pocket holding notes from church members listing Scriptures with special meaning for them. The annual Church Council Retreat was held on Jan. 20 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

The adult and youth Sunday School classes are studying the MCC "Return to the Earth Project" led by David and Jo Ann Brunner. This is an opportunity to study a key restorative justice issue of Native American tribes and nations. On Jan. 27 Ron Schirmer, Archeology Prof. at Mankato State U. with a special interest in Native American issues, spoke to the class. That day Mennonite World Fellowship Sunday was celebrated. Art Kennel shared some experiences of his service in Zaire from 1970-1972. Lois Kennel read an anecdote from Dr. Lester and Lois Eshelman's account of their work in Africa: "Some of the Wise Men and Women in Africa." We prayed for people and situations around the world. All joined in the international songs accompanied by percussion and recorder.

--Lois Ruth Kennel