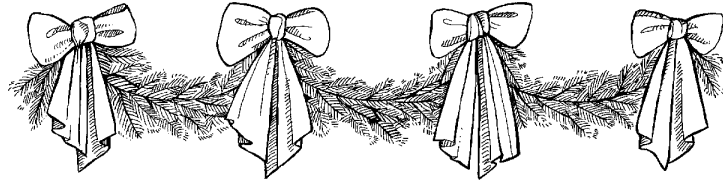


CROSSWALK

A Communiqué of Anchor Christian Church

Have You Heard . . .

- Plan to attend our Christmas Musical, December 20, 21, 22, & 23 and bring lots of guests. It's free!
- Don't miss our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service which begins at 6:30 PM.
- We offer Adult, Deaf, and Youth Bible studies, and Pioneer Club for kids every Wednesday evening at 7 PM.
- Ladies' Bible Studies are held every Monday, at 10 AM
- All ladies are invited to our Ladies Luncheon, January 13.
- Your comments and contributions to this publication are important to us. Call the ACC church office (889-2436).
- Check out our web site: www.AnchorChristian.org



Anchor Church Presents "Be Not Afraid"

The Crosswards Company at Anchor Christian Church is presenting *Be Not Afraid*, a Broadway-style musical featuring both Deaf and hearing actors.

In an age when fear seems ever-present, this show proclaims the message that Jesus came to take our old fears away and create a new hope for us and in us.

Be Not Afraid is set at a dress rehearsal for an upcoming Christmas production. The director leads a cast of fun characters and tries to keep the evening's chaos to a minimum. And a special messenger shows up to deliver the encouraging word that Jesus



transforms pain, even if the pain is still present.

Performances of this show will be on December 20, 21, 22, and 23, at 7:30 PM here at Anchor. Admission is free, but ticket reservations are recommended. All performances will be interpreted for the Deaf. Afterwards, we'll have refreshments and fellowship.

Invite all your family and friends! Take this great opportunity to influence those you love toward Jesus Christ. For ticket reservations, please call Carmella Ramey at 288-2263 or e-mail her at cramey@rochester.rr.com.

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Have You Met Our Newest Members?

This past year, we sadly have seen many families move away because of job relocations. But God is good, and we are happy to report that He has brought us several new friends. It is with great joy that we introduce our newest members.

David Stewart came here after finding us in the Yellow Pages, and he has been worship-

ping with us regularly ever since. He comes to us as an immersed believer and recently he decided he would like to be a part of our church family. On September 16, he came forward and proudly affirmed his faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

Riane Flint is Nora Sponholz's daughter. Nora is a new member

(Continued on p 4 as NEW MEMBERS)

Meet December's Mystery Member

December's Mystery Member was born in Lewston, NY. She has one older and one younger sister. Our MM grew up in Ransomville, NY, a little town just north of Niagara Falls. She says the only attraction in the town is the Ransomville Speedway, a dirt race track.

EDUCATION :

December's Mystery Member attended Wilson Central High School located in Wilson, NY, right on Lake Ontario. She graduated in a class of about 120, and was in the top 10% of her class.

Music was a major part of her high school career. She was involved in both band, mixed choir, women's choir, and chamber choir over those years. While in high school, she also sang in All-County and Area-All-State chorus. She says, "In my junior year of high school, I conquered my stage fright and participated in my high school's performance of *Grease*. I didn't have a speaking part, but my love of acting began there. The following year I had

one of the lead parts in another production, a murder mystery called *Trixie and the Mystery of Gravestead Manor*."

Since high school, our MM has concentrated more on her love of literature, but her desire to act and sing is still strong. Maybe we'll see her in one of our Christmas musicals!

This MM is a graduate of Roberts

Wesleyan College, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Communication. Soon, she hopes to have her Masters in English Literature from SUNY Brockport.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

December's Mystery Member has worked for Sears, Tops, Staples, and currently for Roberts Wesleyan College. When asked what she likes about her job, she replied, "I just started my job at Roberts, so it is difficult to say what I enjoy most. But I am very excited to be working with faculty members whom I used to have as professors."



INTERESTS:

December's Mystery Member enjoys many pursuits, such as painting, gardening, reading, tennis and fishing.

HER FAVORITES INCLUDE:

- **Books:** *The Chronicles of Narnia*
- **Food:** chicken fingers
- **Movie:** *My Fair Lady*
- **Music:** Chantal Kreviazuk

OTHER INTERESTING COMMENTS:

"I became a Christian when I was about 12 years old. I had just started going to church and I was roped into attending youth group meetings. It turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to me! I saw the passion for Christ and the joy of living for Him in the other kids there and I became curious. While attending a Christian Convention that year with my youth group, I gave my life to Christ."

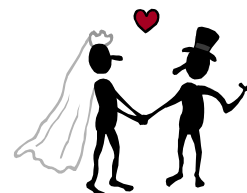
FAVORITE SCRIPTURE:

John 3:30: "He must become greater; I must become less." She says she selected this verse because it is a reminder for her to make sure God gets the praise for the blessings and gifts she receives.

WHO IS IT? CAN YOU GUESS?

Here's one more clue – She's getting married this spring to someone admired by our youth group.

(Answer on page 4.)



Come Worship on Christmas Eve

Ben Hays is organizing a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service for our church. It will be a quiet, simple affair, with carols, some special music, and Scripture reading.

We will begin at 6:30 PM, and we'd love for you to share with us in this family celebration of our Lord's birth.



Come Rejoice
With Us!

Bible Correspondence Courses Available

Would you like to increase your Bible knowledge? KYOWVA Evangelistic Association offers free Bible correspondence courses. Lessons are available for students ages 10 through adult. Some of the topics for study are:

1. Understanding The Bible
2. The Holy Spirit
3. Occultism
4. Bible Survey
5. Book of Revelation
6. Christian Way
7. God's Grace
8. Book of John
9. Book of Acts
10. Book of Romans
11. Foundations of the Faith
12. Know Your Bible
13. Marriage
14. Christian Growth
15. The Restoration Movement



Several ACC people have found these courses to be very helpful and enlightening. Why not take advantage of this FREE opportunity to learn God's Word. Just call, email, or write KYOWVA Evangelistic Association, 1541 S. 7th St., Ironton, OH 45638. Phone: (740) 532-8020. Email: kyowva@sbcglobe.net



Ladies! You're Invited to a Ladies' Luncheon

We will have a ladies' luncheon for all women on Sunday, January 13th, at 1 PM here at the church building. This luncheon will mark the start of the year 2008 Secret Sisters, a program designed to encourage the women of our church. Each secret sister commits to anonymously pray for her assigned sister throughout the year, as well as give cards and small gifts to brighten her day.

Ladies, you don't have to join up as a secret sister to come for the luncheon. We will reveal who our secret sisters were for the last year, but all women are welcome to attend. Sound interesting? Contact the church office at 889-2436 if you have questions.

Harvest Banquet a Huge Success!

Each year we say this, and each year it's true. Our Harvest Banquet gets bigger and better! This year was no exception! We served a delicious, hot, free meal to 325 people! And even though we didn't plan for such a huge crowd, we didn't run out of food! We give thanks to our great and mighty God who gives us all good things – including enough fabulous food! Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success. We couldn't have done it without everyone's cooperation and help.

A special thanks goes to our guest speaker, Larry Travis, from Cincinnati Christian University.

We also thank Bob Krueger, Gail Strang, and the kitchen crew for receiving food and the beautiful set-up of the buffet tables; to



Carol Schulz and Donna Lacey for the drink table; Rhonda Bacus and her helpers for table decorations and set-up; Ben and Philip Hays for the sound system; to our singers,

Ben and Stacie Hays and our Christmas Chorus; to Aaryn Holley and Corey Wilson for interpreting; to our Pilgrim greeters, Priscilla Bacus and Shea Mason; and to our teens who helped with childcare. Thank you to Chris Bacus for being the MC and John Hilts for leading us in prayer. A

special "thank you" goes to Leonard Perry for gathering a truck-load of our supplies and hauling them to the school and back again! A thank you also goes out to the many who volunteered behind the scenes in preparation and clean up. You made our 2007 Harvest Banquet the best yet!

*Debbie Letson,
Harvest Banquet Coordinator*

When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles. When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops praying, the devil shouts for joy.

-Corrie ten Boom

Parental Guidance is Not an Option by John Hilts

Have you been to the video store lately? I went the other day, and was amazed at the amount of interest Hollywood has in blood, gore, horror, and sex. One video that avoided all of these issues caught my attention, though. I turned the artistic case to the back so I could get a better idea of what I would be spending my money, time, and mind on. I first checked the rating. “PG”. Yep, this one would be a winner! But as I looked at the rating, my eyes zoomed in a little closer. Here’s what I read:

Suddenly I had a revelation, right there in the middle of the video store: parental guidance these days is merely a suggestion!

But is parental guidance ever an option? The whole concept of guidance is that someone needs guiding. Our teens today are in a whirlwind of social ideas, moral relativism, MTV/VH1 persuasion, pop culture, homosexual influences, drug and alcohol pressures, and New Age religions. Is it any wonder that researchers* say only 9% of born again teens believe in moral absolutes, and that 83% of teens maintain that moral truth depends on the circumstances? How about the fact that 3 out of 5 teens agree that if a person is generally good, or does enough good things for others during their life, they will earn a place in heaven? Who is guiding them?

A few years ago, a music video channel executive was being interviewed, and the reporter asked, “How do you feel knowing that you have such a huge influence on teens today?” The executive answered honestly and correctly: “I don’t influence teens; I own them.” Most sitcoms today depict hapless dads who are pathetically self-driven, married to strong wives who seem to have life all together, were it not for their spouses. Their children are witty and independent, and tend to teach the father the moral lessons (if any) in each redundant episode.

Is this the way it should be? Not according to the Bible! Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says, “**And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.**” So the Word of God needs to, first, be in the heart of the parent, and then taught diligently to the children. But unfortunately, teens today don’t enjoy structured sermons: they want practiced preaching! That’s why the people were not only to teach their children God’s ways, but also to “talk of them when you sit, walk, lie down, and rise up.” In other words, you are living such a godly life that He is constantly on your lips! Teens not only do as others do but they also notice what people are always talking about.

Parental guidance is desperately needed today, and as the psalmist said, “**Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path**” (Psalm 119.105). The Bible is a light for our path, illuminating the moral absolutes this generation so desperately needs. But it’s also a lamp to our feet, helping teens take each step and make each decision with a confidence that they are pleasing God. May I “suggest” that you “guide” your children—because if you don’t, someone else will!

*Barna Research Group

(NEW MEMBERS *Con’t from p 1*)

herself and Riane soon started coming to worship with her mom. It wasn’t long before Riane began asking questions about how to become a Christian. This led to her studying the Bible with Chris Bacus. After seeing what the Scriptures had to say on this subject, Riane decided to answer our Lord’s call. On October 14, we had the privilege of hearing her confession and witnessing her baptism.

Freddy Enders is a young man growing up in our congregation. As we hope with all our kids here, he began to think seriously about his relationship with the Lord. After studying the Gospel with John Hilts, he decided that he wanted to give his life to Jesus Christ. That is why we’re excited to announce that on October 27, his father baptized Freddy into Christ, as the congregation looked on with joy!

Danette Gibbs is from Nashville, Tennessee. She moved to Rochester to attend U of R and finish her graduate course in psychology. She grew up in the church and quickly looked for a

Continued on p 5 as NEW MEMBERS



CompassCare is Now National!

Not many people know this but CompassCare is now national. Several years ago, CompassCare began to be recognized within the Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) movement as one of the most effective PRCs in the United States at reaching and effectively serving women at high risk for abortion.

Now, this national attention was never CompassCare's intention. What happened over time simply reflected CompassCare's fighting spirit to rigorously pursue greater effectiveness at reaching and serving the abortion-minded women at CompassCare in Rochester, NY.

In order to do that, they had to know exactly what it was they were doing well and what they were not doing so well. They began to write everything down and measure their results. Then with all staff and volunteers doing the same thing, suddenly their results made sense and they knew exactly what to do to get better! Effectiveness soared!

Soon, Jim Harden, President and CEO of CompassCare, was being asked to train and consult

with PRCs all over the country. This led to the creation of what Harden calls the Optimization Tool (OT), a holistic intervention program, complete from advertising through patient follow-up. Then, as a pilot program, CompassCare launched OT in seven PRCs in six states in October of 2006.

All CompassCare ever wanted to do was be the best in the world. And it seems their story is just beginning. They hope in the future to strategically multiply the effectiveness of PRCs all across America.

CompassCare receives no federal or state funding – never has and probably never will. By the grace of God, CompassCare is doing all this by stewarding only what believers have been generous enough to provide. And now, God has multiplied our generosity to have influence beyond Rochester, NY. Because of our willingness, lives all across the country are being saved. Moreover, these results will continue for years to come in city after city after city. May the God of life be praised!



Remember
Our Missionaries
This Christmas

God Speaks

The man whispered, "God, speak to me" and a meadow-lark sang. But the man did not hear.

So, the man yelled, "God, speak to me!" And thunder rolled across the sky. But the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said, "God, let me see You." And a star shone brightly. But the man did not notice.

The man shouted, "God, show me a miracle!" And a life was born. But the man did not know.

So the man cried out in despair: "Touch me, God, and let me know You are here!" Whereupon, God reached down and touched the man. But the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.

Don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't packaged the way you expect.

Author Unknown




(NEW MEMBERS *Con't from p 4*)

suitable place to serve. On November 11, she came forward to say she would like to be a part of our church family.

Caleb Stoner is from Elmira, NY. He, too, grew up in the church and came to Rochester to attend the University of Rochester. After hearing about us from another Christian church minister and paying us a few visits, Caleb felt he'd found his college church.

The problem is, Caleb doesn't have a car. That means, to attend our worship and church activities, he has to find rides. Thank you to those who've faithfully volunteered to bring Caleb to us each week. On December 2, Caleb came forward to state his desire to be a part of our fellowship.

Be sure to welcome all our new members. They are wonderful additions to our fellowship.

JESUS
THE WAY, 
 THE TRUTH,
THE LIFE. 



CROSSWALK

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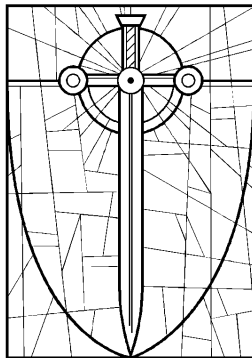
Don't Help "Kill God"

From the ads, I thought it looked wonderful, like another *Lord of the Rings* or *Chronicles of Narnia*. But then I began hearing rumors that it might not be as it appeared. The lavish landscapes, talking animals, and magical devices in *The Golden Compass* may actually mask a hidden agenda.

The film's director, Chris Weitz, has stated that his ultimate motivation in creating *The Golden Compass* is to interest children in reading the book upon which it is based, and that is the problem. For the movie's screenplay is based on Book One of *His Dark Materials*, a trilogy written for children by Philip Pullman, a well-known, outspoken, antichristian author.

Pullman told the U.K.'s *Daily Telegraph*, "I suppose technically, you'd have to put me down as an agnostic. If there is a God, and He is as the Christians describe Him, then He deserves to be put down and rebelled against." When asked

by the *Washington Post* what the late Christian author C.S. Lewis would think of his books, he replied, "I'm trying to undermine the basis of Christian belief. Mr. Lewis would think I was doing the Devil's work." And in a 12/13/03 interview with the *Sydney Morning Herald*, he said, "I've been flying under the radar, saying things that are far more subversive than anything poor old Harry [Potter] has said. My books are about killing God."



Some may protest, "But the 'God' of Pullman's series is nothing like the God of the Bible. He's really a pathetic sham who has set himself up as a god." Perhaps. The problem is that these books are written for children who likely do not have the intellectual experience to discern the subtle difference (which, by the way, is Pullman's hope).

While I have not seen the movie, early reviews indicate that none of these unchristian themes are overtly expressed. That's something for which to be thankful. But remember Weitz' avowed purpose: to use the seemingly innocent movie to whet

the appetite of young people for the books which are "about killing God."

Weitz goes on to say that he has "watered down" the anti-god message in the first movie to get the ball rolling. If it is a success, then "we have a solid foundation on which to deliver a more faithful, more literal adaptation of the second and third books." I, for one, will not be among those who help build that financial foundation to subvert the minds of impressionable young people. I ask you, dear reader, to consider joining me in that decision.

Our Mission Statement

God has called us and leads us by His Spirit to live the love of Christ, have the mind of Christ, and do the work of Christ.

The **CROSSWALK** is published periodically by Anchor Christian Church, 375 Beaver Road, Rochester, New York 14624. All visitors are welcome to worship with us each Sunday at 8:15 AM, 9:45 AM, and 11:15 AM. The 11:15 AM Service is interpreted for the Deaf. Bible Classes for all ages are offered at 9:45 and 11:15 AM. We also offer a Deaf Bible Class at 9:45 AM. The church building is located on Route 252 near Chili Avenue. Chris Bacus is Senior Minister; John Hiltz is Youth Minister; Benjamin Hays is Worship Minister; Debbie Letson is Administrative Assistant and Newsletter Editor. Church office phone: (585) 889-2436. E-mail: Churchoffice@AnchorChristian.org Web site: www.AnchorChristian.org

