

FISH

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

Newsletter

2006 Vol. 11, No. 1

Advent, the Forgotten Season

Each year the commercial "Christmas Season" begins a little earlier. Santa was at Bridgewater Commons a week before Thanksgiving. Even with all evidence of our Lord's birth removed from commercial Christmas decorations, none of us can ignore the festivities surrounding our celebration of Christ's coming. However, we may have difficulty finding time to spiritually prepare for this celebration.

The season of Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas. Many Christians use a wreath decorated with four candles during this time. One candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent. An additional candle is lit on each successive Sunday. The wreath and its light remind us that Christ is coming to light the way for all people.

Advent is a time for quiet reflection. We should think about Mary, a teenage girl who had the courage to say "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." Think of Joseph who had the courage to take an unwed mother as his wife. Advent is a good time to recall the words of John the Baptist: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make



straight his paths."

We can help prepare the way of the Lord by doing our best to help those who come to us for assistance. Remember that Jesus loves all his people, especially the least fortunate among us.

We at Fish are blessed with the opportunity to "prepare the way of the Lord" by helping many of our neighbors who are in need. If you would like to join us in this work, please consider volunteering. Our food program needs people who can lift and carry. Our clothing room needs help sorting donations and communicating with Spanish speaking clients; or, you can do volunteer work at home by returning calls made to the Fish Hotline. Call us at 732-356-0081 and one of our telephone volunteers will return your call.



Christmas Wishes



When we are children, Christmas wishes are about getting presents. It's a lot of fun but we don't give much thought to the reason these gifts come to us. When we have children of our own our wishing is centered on them as we spend a lot of time giving them what they wish for. Although we know that Christmas is about the birth of Christ, it is still difficult to give that

knowledge the attention it deserves. At some point we realize that God's Son came to save all his people on that first Christmas day, especially those most in need of his help. Then we begin to wish that everyone can experience peace and happiness at Christmas time and throughout the year.

While we can't help everyone at Christmas, we can bring joy to some of our neighbors. This is what the people who participate in the Fish holiday programs try to do. I want to thank all our volunteers and supporters for their help in making Christmas a bit happier for some of our less fortunate neighbors.

Phil Cox, president



Clothing Program

Clothing Chairperson Gerry Halteman says that we need donations of winter coats for women and children at this time of the year. Blankets and sheets are also in demand now. All donated items must be clean and in good condition. Gerry wants to thank all the volunteers and donors that make it possible for Fish to distribute clothing for about 100 people each week. She wishes her volunteers, donors, and clients a joyous Christmas and a blessed new year.



Christmas Food Donations Needed

Currently, our food room volunteers are preparing to provide Christmas food for about 500 families. In order to do this, we need donations of frozen turkeys and chickens, cranberry sauce, stuffing, and gravy. You can help by bringing any of these items to our food room at 456 New Market Road between 9:00 am and 12 Noon on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday. The food room entrance is at the rear of the building.

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please send it to:

Treasurer
Fish, Inc. Dunellen Area
P.O. Box 8565
Piscataway, NJ 08855-8006



Christmas Toy Programs

Fish volunteers operate two tot programs. Cathy Kobilis with volunteers from the Raritan Valley Baptist Church and the First Chinese Baptist Church directs a program that will serve about 200 children in New Brunswick, Edison, and Highland Park. They will also provide gifts for about 375 children of Navy and Coast Guard families. Lisa Couch heads a group that anticipates serving about 150 children in the Dunellen area. Many of her volunteers are from Our Lady of Fatima Church in Piscataway. If you wish to donate a new toy this Christmas, call 732-356-0081.



Nominating Committee Update

Fish will elect officers at the next annual meeting. If you would like to serve as an officer or wish to recommend someone as a candidate, please contact nominating committee member Judy Cox at 732-568-0648



Annual Meeting Scheduled

Our next annual open meeting will be held on February 12, 2007 in Dunellen. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm, at the First Presbyterian Church, 218 Dunellen Avenue. Committee chairpersons will report on last year's activities and will outline their plans for 2007. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.



Position Available

The Fish Newsletter exists to let people know what is being done by various groups within Fish and to invite others to join us in service to those in need. After writing this newsletter for 11 years, I would like to retire and pass this job along to someone with some new ideas. If you are interested, call me at 732-568-0648.

Phil Cox, editor



**If you need help, call our Hot Line
732-356-0081**

