

Report of **Diaconate concerns**, January 2011  
prepared by Julie McCurdy, chair

Christmas 2010, in review: We have purchased a new, more modern-looking set of **nativity figurines**. They work well in the stable that we already had. The new set replaces two older nativity sets, which had broken and missing pieces. We plan to donate the old sets. Though incomplete, they are still functional.

Nest year, we plan to continue adding more color and variety to the new, larger sanctuary Christmas tree, by once again inviting people to contribute some of their own decorations. We also plan to add color to the **Chrismons**, by painting the frames of half of them. Currently all the frames are gold, but we want to paint some of them red, green, or purple.

Pastor Jane was pleased with the "intentionality" of the new method for encouraging **poinsettia** donations, with a promise to deliver them. Several of our homebound were presented with flowers, which also graced our sanctuary during advent.

We have purchased a supply of **candles and drip protectors** for use at the Christmas Eve service. These are just for back-up, as the candles used for Christmas Eve 2010 are still in good shape, and usable again for next year.

Looking forward to Lent (Mar 9): We have purchased 200 **eco-friendly palm fronds** to dress the sanctuary on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. For Easter Sunday, we plan to purchase **silk Easter lilies**, rather than fresh plants. In addition, we will encourage donations so that we can purchase **colorful, fresh flowers**--for delivery and for dressing the chancel area. We will invite people to promise to deliver the flowers they donate.

We are very sad to lose Marilyn Dunnells and Joanne Lussier from our board of deacons. Their services have been greatly appreciated. Julie McCurdy and Judy Ely will continue to serve in 2011.