

## **SOCIAL CONCERNS**

We are starting off our new year with great energy, welcoming Taunya Bedi and Dot Stearns. We continue to support local missions through our Blessings Jar which is available at coffee hour in the vestry. The total collected for Nov. and Dec. was 90.35 which has been sent to CVPS for the Share Heat project. With cold weather now upon us our committee has chosen to dedicate Jan. and Feb. donations to another worthwhile cause, SEVCA which also has a weatherization and emergency fuel assistance program, serving needy families in our area.

December was a busy month for many causes. The Holiday Food Baskets for the family center brought in \$100.00. The Christmas Fund promotion which helps retired clergy and their families (Veterans of the Cross) netted 292.00 The Christmas Eve Offering, which is our committee's main source for local missions totaled \$610.00. We also received donations for \$225.00 directed to Habitat for Humanity.

Our church is very blessed to have our members who give so generously to these missions. Thank-you all for the support to be able to help others less fortunate.

Your Social Concerns Committee

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Thank you to all who participated in the worship services during Advent and for making our Sanctuary and Narthex beautiful with pine, red berries, ribbon, the Christmon Tree, candles, poinsettias and rosemary tucked into the Advent Wreath. The candles glowed through the windows at night to light the path to Jesus and his birth. Our decorated Sanctuary and Chancel, music offered by our choir and members and friends playing the role of shepherds, Mary and Joseph, wise men and angels reminded us of the real reason we were worshiping together.

We have started our worship services downstairs and are thankful for the many gifts of our members to prepare a sacred place of worship, and for all to be willing to make changes in how we "always have done it." One member asked why does worship feel so different here in this space. "It is a good feeling and I like it." Perhaps leaving the large beautifully designed Sanctuary, allows us to focus on what it feels like to be in community with others, listening to the words and music of the Lord. There are less distractions and we are warm. Praise and thanks to the God of us all.