

**2009 Christmas Special Offering**  
**MINUTE FOR MISSION**  
December, 2009

*“Let’s get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.” (Luke 2:15b)*

What joy it brings to journey to Bethlehem! Who knows what we might find as we talk with one another on the way there. Who knows what we will see when we look into that manger.

We know the rest of the story about that Baby and the world-changing, life-saving ministry that began at that manger, but we always have a sense of wonder every year as we think about going to Bethlehem again. We know in our hearts that all parts of our church long for the renewing joy that can come to us. Let’s get going!

As we make our way to Bethlehem this year, may we remember with gratitude those who keep company with us every week in our faith journey....our regional pastors. It is wonderful to know that we are not alone as we seek ways to serve God. As pastors and congregations, we are glad for the company of our regional pastors....

- ✦ when we **search** for a minister in times of transition in the life of our church.
- ✦ when we **look** for encouragement in designing mission work that will help others.
- ✦ when we **engage** in teaching the great story of Bethlehem and the life of Jesus Christ, and all the faith stories that help shape our lives of faithful living.
- ✦ when we **seek** advice in our relationships and ministries so that we can work well together.
- ✦ when we **pray** for one another and the world.

We enter a Holy season when we have the opportunity to give gifts. Let us be generous in our offerings and gifts that will uphold and sustain our regional pastors. They continue to support us at every turn. We are grateful for their work, and we give thanks that we are given the invitation to share.

Together, let us run toward Bethlehem! Word of new life awaits us there.