Greetings, Friends of EuNC! We hope you’ve had a wonderful holiday season and that you’ve enjoyed the fond company of family and friends. We have ended out the year well and wanted to share with you some of the last things that happened with EuNC in 2009…

Büsingern hosts annual Christmas Concert for Community

On Dec. 5th and 6th EuNC hosted their annual Christmas concert and awed the audiences once again. The concert contained various acts and features lots of talent. The EuNC choir was a huge hit, performing five songs and an encore song for the captivated audience.

The choir was composed of students, faculty and a few other community members, and they have been busy practicing and preparing through the semester for this moment of performance. The songs were not such traditional Christmas tunes, but they were new, powerful songs which spoke to the hearts of those listening.

The concert also featured two separate hand bell choirs: one composed of students, and one composed of faculty and community members. Each hand bell choir performed 3 different Christmas tunes to help ring in the Christmas season. The community loved hearing the bells and it truly brought the Christmas spirit into the place.
Other special performers also contributed to the concert including EuNC faculty member John Haines, a special ensemble, and a quartet all of whom sang beautifully and wowed the audience. As a special performance, Adam Waite, an EuNC student, performed a beautiful Christmas Medley on his saxophone. All the performers have worked through the semester putting in lots of time and energy, and it was clear to all who attended the concerts that they’re hard work paid off.

The concert had two showings, one on Saturday, Dec. 5th at the Gottmadingen Church of the Nazarene, and another on Sunday, Dec. 6th in the Dorfkirche in Büsingen. After the Sunday performance, the audience and performers were all invited to the EuNC campus to partake in a time of fellowship with coffee and Christmas treats.

**Advent Chapels**

During the Advent season the residents of the Büsingen campus were able to celebrate the season by intentionally focusing on advent in the chapel services. Because of the school schedule and the fact that students wouldn’t be on campus all the way until Christmas day, the advent season was observed during the first two weeks of December. The campus participated in the Advent themed chapel services twice a week during those weeks and they learned together how to focus on the coming king. The services included elements that challenged the participants as well as helped to focus their days on what this time of year truly means for believers in Christ. The Advent theme was "Sacred Invitation" and focused on preparing to meet the Messiah of Christmas.

In addition there were Advent stations that changed throughout the weeks that had different activities which helped to connect participants to the themes. The services and the stations were put together by a team of creative students who wanted to help people engage in the sacredness of the season when it’s so easy to get distracted by other things. Altogether it changed the dynamic of the campus throughout the season and was a very special part of the semester.

**Advent Banquet and Talent Show**

Those at the Büsingen campus closed out the Fall semester by celebrating, eating, and laughing together. The last night of the semester the students, faculty and staff got dressed up and gathered together for the annual Advent Banquet and Talent Show. The night was a total success from the delicious meal all the way through all of the talent acts. Some of the acts were fun and humorous, and other acts were more serious, taking the chance to showcase some of the other talents that exist among us. The talent show included many gems, including the funny emcee’s Rich Walker and Regan Veach who wore all of their clothing inside out and backwards to go with the theme of the night: Inside-Out Backwards World. This name was given to the Talent Show because of the trend that has emerged over the years of
students participating in ways that show off a side of their personality that we normally don’t get to see.

The audience was entertained by the variety of the acts: A choir of faculty who had taken a vow of silence, a beautiful violin performance, poetry reading, a Bollywood version of the Christmas story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus, and so much more. It was a wonderful night to celebrate and close a wonderful semester.

**Letter From the Rector**

Dear friends,

We hope you had wonderful Christmas holidays! Strictly speaking (according to the Christian calendar) Christmas is not over until January 6 (Three King’s Day or Epiphany or the Twelfth Day of Christmas). We pray and trust that you are experiencing the presence of the Lord these days as we are getting ready to start a new year. 2009 has been very special. We are very thankful for God’s presence and guidance in so many ways as a school: with students, faculty, and staff. Many stories can be told for the glory of the Lord – we hope you have gotten a glimpse of that in the various EuNC newsletters this past year! And now we are entering a new year – 2010. Especially in these times of crises and challenges we are reminded of Isaiah 7:14, “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.” Immanuel – God with us! The best news for us and for the world. Whatever the situation is – this is for sure: God is with us, since Jesus Christ came on this earth! With this promise of God I wish you a blessed and fruitful new year and all the best and the Lord’s richest blessings.

Klaus Arnold, Rector