

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: 717/766-7931

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AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

The Epistle

is a monthly publication of St. Paul's UCC.

Comments, suggestions, and submissions are welcome!

Worship Schedule – Two services 8:15 & 10:30 am Dec 6th & 13th, one service @ 10:30 Dec 20th, Sunday School at 9:15 am on the above Sunday's, one service @ 10:30 Dec 27th no Sunday School on this day.
Childcare available @ 10:30 am service. *Christmas Eve Services: 7:30 & 10:45 pm.*

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF

Pastor John J. Ward-Diorio
Administrative Assistant Terry Shaner
Director of Christian Ed & Youth Advisor Holly Yeuell
Director of Music Eric R. Dundore
Choristers' Director Jonneke A. Dundore
Organist Sarah A. Myers
Assistant Organist Patrice G. Miller
Sexton Michael W. Hatz
Consistory President Kevin B. Allison

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00 ♦ Office email: stpaulstaff@verizon.net
Phone: 717/766-7931 John's email: revjohnwd@verizon.net
FAX: 717/766-7374 Holly's email: ce-holly@verizon.net
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The Epistle

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 2009



Advent has begun. Our time of preparation for Christmas has begun.

Many may well argue they have been preparing for Christmas, since last Christmas. They purchased things at after-Christmas sales. They have been making purchases over the course of the year as they have found gifts that are "just right." They have been selecting items to decorate their houses, to wear and to eat. Yes many can argue, and rightfully so, that they have been preparing for Christmas well before Advent began.

The question we need to ask ourselves is: which Christmas have we been preparing for?

Our cultural Christmas (which is quite often wonderful, please make no mistake about that) is marked by the exchanging of gifts, the decorating of our homes, and our attending various parties and special events. We tend to get very busy with all this. This season is often quite joyous, filled with powerful memories and the anticipation of what might be coming. Preparations for the cultural Christmas can indeed take a whole year, as we are influenced by advertising and our own expectations. We are asked (and ask ourselves): what can we do to make this the best Christmas ever (for our loved ones, for our community, for the retailers).

If we are honest, all this cultural Christmas stuff has little to nothing to do with the coming of the Christ Child. It has to do with a season and the coming of a day on which we have huge expectations about what kind of joy or happiness we might experience, for ourselves and for our loved ones. And for the most part, there is nothing wrong with that. We have to always guard against excessive expectations, and how our desires can be

manipulated. But the cultural Christmas can be a really wonderful time and it is well worth celebrating.

It is also important to point out, the Christmas season is not joyful for everyone. Many people, and more this year, are unable to join in with all the festivities and gift-giving. They have lost jobs and homes. It is not a wonder filled time and it is made harder by the expectation that everyone should be happy and gay this time of year. What is also true is that those people who have lost loved ones, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children, often feel those losses to an even greater extent now. The absence of a loved one is felt more deeply as we realize their absence at these special times. The hole or wound left by the death of a loved one, even the holes that have started to heal, often feel as if they have broken back open.

We all would do well to bear in mind the suffering and sorrow of those struggling in these ways, and to reach out. Another person's recognition of such sadness can help bring some healing, some light to those who feel the darkness of this time of year most deeply.

We all would do well to embrace Advent as the time of preparation for our religious or spiritual Christmas. Indeed God recognized our sorrow, our struggles, our woundedness, our brokenness and came to heal us. The gift of the Christ Child is a gift to bring light to our individual and communal darkness. We must individually and communally make the choice to prepare for and receive this gift, because our culture wants to pull us toward the other type of Christmas. We do not want to all together say no to that, so we must negotiate a balance. Unfortunately, we often spend way more time on the cultural side of things.

Let us make conscious choices to do things differently this year. Let us set aside time daily, to prepare our hearts and spirits for the coming of the Christ Child. Let us pray and meditate. Let us listen to the music of the season with fresh ears. Let us listen carefully at Worship and as we travel to and fro, as we are indoors and outside. Let us clear some space within our hearts, minds and spirits so that we might sense the surprising and shocking ways God is coming into our lives and into the world this year. Let us share our presence with others, as God comes into our presence. Let us not come to Christmas day and realize we are not ready to really celebrate God's great and mysterious gift to us.

One of the really ironic or contrasting differences between the cultural and spiritual Christmases is that we know that if we do not get ready for the cultural stuff, it will not happen, and people will be disappointed. With the spiritual Christmas, God is coming, and we do not have to do a thing. God is coming whether we are ready or not. The question is whether we will notice just what God is speaking to us this year, what God is calling for us to do this year, how God is seeking to shape us this year. We will notice, if we prepare. Let us take the time so we will not be disappointed. It is Advent. It is time to get ready.

Peace, John

ADVENT DISCUSSIONS

One and all are invited to three Advent Discussions at St. Paul's UCC. We will meet on Thursday evenings, December 3, 10 and 17, from 7 to 8:30 PM. We will be discussing Jesus' birth stories as found in the Gospels. We often take the stories for granted, thinking we clearly understand their meaning. We may well be surprised by what we find and what we do not. We will also take time to talk about, think about what various parts of these stories might symbolize. Unfortunately, we are so busy during this time of year that we have not had (or taken) the opportunity to dive more deeply into these rich accounts. You are

invited to come to as many as you can. Missing a week will not hinder your ability to take part in the discussion. We will take the time to light candles on an Advent Wreath, offer some prayers, listen to some music and in general prepare together for the coming of the Christ Child. I hope to see you there.

Peace, John



December 3rd 7 pm Advent Discussion

December 6th 8:15/10:30 Worship Services – Lighting of the second Advent Candle

December 10th 7 pm Advent Discussion

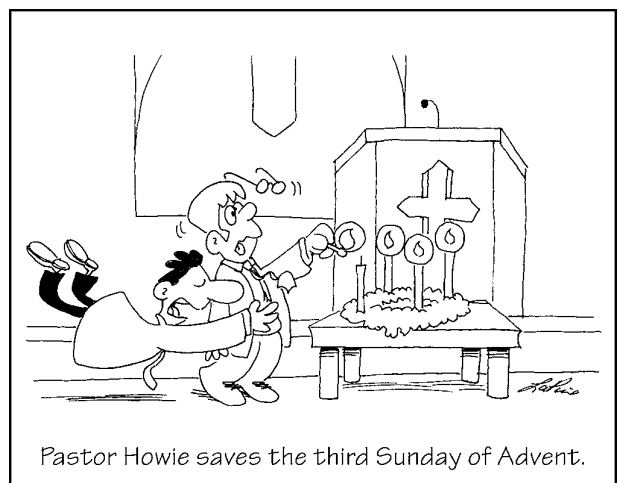
December 13th 8:15/10:30 Worship/Blessing of the Prayer Shawls – Lighting of the third Advent Candle.

December 17th 7 pm Advent Discussion

December 20th One Worship Service at 10:30 – Christmas Musicale – Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle.

December 24th Christmas Eve Services with Pew Communion @ 7:30 & 10:45 PM.

December 27th One Worship Service at 10:30 – Hymn Sing and Baptism.





THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER:

Mayme Alfano (Paula Boyer's mother); **Kevin Allison**; **Rev. Ken Arthur** (friend of Tom Stone); **Stacey Barnett ad her infant**; **Lisa Benoist** (Dave Ritter's nephew's wife); **J.B. Black & Family** (husband of Lois Ritter's friend); **Peggy Baum**; **Eleanor Boreck** (friend of Phyllis Hershey); **Brenda** (friend of Dar Murphy); **Charles Breon** (step-father of Sue Miller); **Shar Briner** (sister of good friend of Susan Gabriel); **Larry Brown** (close friend of Cindy Bensel); **Rev. Lila Butz**; **Mary Jane Chipriano**; **David Chronister** (father of Ron Chronister); **Kevin Clancy** (neighbor of Chronister's); **Amy Clarke** (Susan Gabriel's niece); **Cleason Cromer**; **Alice and Bill Crouse**; **Darla** (Sarah Myers co-worker's wife); **Ellie Deeble** (great-granddaughter of Jean Myers); **Tyler Derr** (grandson of a friend of Winnie Wentz); **Gail Diorio** (Rev. John's cousin); **Jackie Diorio** (Rev. John's mother); **John Diorio** (Rev. John's father); **Jacque Drager**; **Edna Dreibelbis** (Anna Burn's mother); **Ingrid Eberly**; **Scott Eichman** (Colleen's husband); **Emily** (daughter of friend of Susan Gabriel); **Abby Freeland** (daughter of Assistant Principal at MASH); **Debbie and Joe Gartland**; **Les Gerber**; **Nancy Girard** (sister of Belva Garman); **Bob Gladwin**; **Liane Gladwin**; **Chuck Goodhart** (friend of Anna Thompson); **Lucy Goodridge** (Betsy Rushong's sister); **Tom Grammer**; **Ken Groff**; **Bethany Grubbs**; **Cheryl & Mike Gundrum** (friends of Shirley Keith-Knox); **Shirley Harmon** (friend of Melba & Herb Bomberger); **Sandy Heckman**; **Phyllis Hershey**; **Travis Hessom**; **Sue Higgins** (friend of Anna Thompson); **Dorothy Hildebeitel** (mother-in-law of friend of Anna Thompson); **Jim & Diane Hughes** (Jim is pastor of Grace UCC in Greencastle); **Mary Kathryn Hunt** (mother of Kimberly Leonard); **Betty Hyde**; **Alberta Jamison** (Betty Olsen's mother); **Dan Jones** (Jean and Willard's son); **Beverly Kahn**; **Bob Kayer** (Kris Amtower's Dad); **Brian Keefer** (high-school classmate of Christy Aumiller); **Nancy Keith** (Martha and Gene's daughter); **Steven Keith** (Martha and Gene's son); **Caleb Kilgore** (brother of a co-worker of Colleen Eichman's husband); **Rev. George Klinefelter** (former pastor of St. Paul's); **Shirley Knisely**; **Barbara Lumby** (friend of Betsy Rushong); **Susan & Natalie M**; **Kelly MacCarthy** (Rev. John's niece); **JoEllen Reed & Robert McAleer** (former neighbors of Ward-Diorio family in Maine); **Melodie** (colleague of Randy Murphy's); **Clyde & Treva Miller**; **Sue & Dayne Miller**; **Dory Milletics**; **Steve Mitchell**; **Jean Myers**; **Patricia Nalepka** (Jon Nalepka's mother);

Nancy (friend of the Chronister family); **Craig Parker** (Ruth Wrightstone's nephew); **Julia Paroda & Family** (friends of the Shaner/Gates Family); **Ann Patch** (friend of Ruth Wrightstone); **Dave Petko** (former co-worker of Tim Kern); **Kristen Pike** (sister-in-law of Christal Pike-Nase & Jonathan Nase); **Tim Powell Family** (friends of Victoria Velez); **Doris Rhoads** (Jack Rhoads' mother); **Sandy Ritter-Butz**; **Lynn & Bea Row** (Sue Miller's parents); **Candice Rush** (friend of Phyllis Hershey); **Irv Sanders** (Brenda Kern's father); **John Scott**; **Don and Peggy Seiler**; **Ida Shaner** (Gene Shaner's mother); **Shelly** (works with Randy Murphy); **Lisa Skinnell** (Eric Trout's step-mother); **Rena Smith**; **Lester Starner**; **Clarence Steck**; **Tom Stone & his family** (son of Tom and Cindy Stone); **Clyde Strock** (Becca Strock's grandfather); **Alex Szeles** (friend of Jean and Willard Jones); **Rev. Karin Stork-Whitson**; **Jim Sufrin** (Noel's Father); **Debra Urich** (friend of Dot and Jim Kinzer); **John White**; **Trevor Wilkins** (Jean Myers Great Grandson); **Art Williams**; **Kathy Williams**; **Eric Williams** (Art & Kathy Williams son); **Frank Williams** (friend of Tom Stone's), **Ruth Wrightstone**.

Please also keep:

All youth and adults that are affected by the Swine Flu; **All the people in the Middle East struggling for peace**; **All the people in the military and their families** and **All the people who have lost jobs and their families in your prayers**.

Please keep the office informed if there is anyone who should be added to or removed from the prayer list.

St. Paul's UCC on TV - watch for United Church of Christ ads on WHTM Channel 27! St. Paul's has joined with 8 other churches in the Penn Central Conference to air TV ads during the Advent/Christmas Season. Together, we are airing 50 ads during primetime including: News, Good Morning America, Soaps, Regis and Kelly and a primetime holiday special ad. In addition we will be listed on the WHTM website. Ads will air between the weeks of November 21 through December 21st. During this time, as always, we expect visitors to be joining us on Sunday mornings. Please welcome the stranger among us!

DECEMBER LECTIONARY TEXTS

6 Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9 Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 1:68-79 Luke 3:1-6

13 Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Philippians 4:4-7
Isaiah 12:2-6 Luke 3:7-18

20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:46b-55 Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

27 First Sunday after Christmas

I Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Colossians 3:12-17
Psalm 148 Luke 2:21-52



- 06 8:15 am Youth Choir
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 13 10:30 am Choristers at Children's Message
- Hand Chimes at Offertory
- 19 9:00 am Rehearsal for Christmas Musicale
- 20 10:30 am All Choirs – Christmas Musicale
- 23 No Choir Rehearsals this evening
- 24 7:30 pm Youth Choir
- 10:45 pm Chancel Choir
- 27 10:30 am Service of all Carols
- 30 Thornwald Home carol sing (am)
- 30 No Choir Rehearsals this evening

DECEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

ACOLYTES

- 06 8:15 Katelyn Chamberlain
- 10:30 Kevin MacKinnon
- 13 8:15 Mike Brown
- 10:30 Slater Ward-Diorio

GREETERS

- 06 8:15 Betty and Tom Olsen
- 10:30 Susan and John White
- 13 8:15 Carol and Bill Sizemore
- 10:30 Lois and Dave Ritter
- 20 10:30 Winnie and Darryl Wentz
- 27 10:30 Joan and Jim Quick

LECTORS

- 06 8:15 Doug Jacobsen
- 10:30 Betsy Rushong
- 13 8:15 JoAnne Miller
- 10:30 Deb Cashman
- 27 10:30 Colleen Eichman

Head Usher: Michael Gray

FLOWER DELIVERY

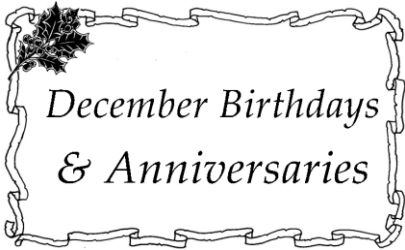
- 06 Dot and Jim Kinzer
- 13 Joan and Jim Quick
- 20 Eichman Family
- 27 Patty and Dave Scott

COMMUNION PREPARATION-PEW

- 06 Donna Sterner
- 24 Donna Sterner



Katelyn Chamberlain, Jeff Dundore, Ally Moyer, Erin Moyer, Clayton Pirtle, Beth Pirtle and Audrey Runkle joined other youth from area Churches in sleeping out Thanksgiving Eve to help raise money for New Hope Ministries. What a great way to celebrate the meaning of the season by helping those in need.



December Birthdays
& Anniversaries



- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Doris Albrecht | 14 Roland Parthree |
| Raymond Krouch | Sandra Ritter-Butz |
| 02 Devon Miller | 15 Thomas Amtower |
| John White | 16 Jean Jones |
| 03 Ralph Miller | Tina Kless |
| 05 Richard Kline | 17 Vic Brown |
| Lindsay McCorkel | 18 Maddie Simpson |
| 07 Pat Cleland | 19 Dylan Siemons |
| 08 John Scott | 20 Carol Flory |
| Kathy Witmer | 21 Dale Thorpe |
| 10 Nathan Brymesser | 23 Kevin Laughery |
| 12 Donna Chronister | 26 Elaine Charles |
| Willard Jones | James Haas |
| Alexx Miller | Gene Shaner |
| Maxx Miller | Merikay Wood |
| Shane Morell | 27 Kateri Grice |
| 13 Dale Burns | Joseph Simpson |
| Matthew Morell | 28 Jean Myers |
| Richard Startzel | 29 Michele Motter |



- | |
|--------------------------------|
| 02 Sue and Bill Mullin |
| 03 Rhoda and Ned Rupp |
| 11 Debbie and Joe Gartland |
| Jill and Dave Morell |
| 22 Jean and Willard Jones |
| 24 Joanne and Lawrence Schmick |
| 25 Barbara and Jacob Blust |
| 27 Melba and Herb Bomberger |
| Gloria and Richard Hoffman |
| Susan and John White |
| 30 Kim and Jim Pirtle |
| Carol and Jack Rhoads |



CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS – November 17, 2009 Stewardship Council – the 3rd annual stewardship gala at Allenberry was a success, with approximately 40 in attendance. \$2500 was raised and a good time was had by all in attendance.

Christian Ed Council – Holly Yeuell is now on board as of Nov 2 and is settling in to the position.

Parish Ministries Committee – Saturday December 5th is our first annual Christmas Gift Wrap for the community with a light breakfast being served while gifts are being wrapped. Volunteers and donations are needed and appreciated. Joanne Paulus has been chairing this committee and wants to step down as chair, but continue to serve on the council. Jack Rhoads has agreed to to oversee the Kitchen for supplies.

Property Committee – Dave Hall, Mike Hatz and Dave Scott raked the leaves. **Called to Care** – New potential Called to Care members will be trained sometime this Spring. **Finance Committee** – In the process of putting together a budget proposal and have it ready to go out to the congregation one week before the budget meeting scheduled for Sunday December 13th.

Daycare Committee – MLC is going forward with the plans to expand the play yard area, and is getting in touch with the “do not dig” authorities before digging for the footers in the property. **Bazaar Committee** – final bazaar report was distribution with a profit of \$9,141.83. The Bazaar committee suggests that some of the profits be used to purchase a leaf gatherer. It was noted the many hours that individuals put in gathering our leaves. The Property committee will review and come up with a suggestion of what to buy. **Worship Committee** – The Chancel committee, which is a sub-committee under Worship, has reorganized. Responsibilities need to be clarified and they are looking for a chair for this sub-committee. Items discusses at last meeting were: Passing of the Peace – hand sanitizers are now in place with 2 on the walls and one free-standing which will be placed outside the sanctuary. Congregants should make responsible decisions about whether or not to shake hands. No intinction communion for the next couple of months and the last baptism was done differently so as to be more sanitary. **Pastor’s Report** – Consistory began discussion of our councils/committees and how comnsistory can best support them as we transition with new council/committee members and new consistory members in the new year. Rev. Tom Herrodl resigned his position as Vice Moderator of the Penn Central Conference effective immediately. Harvest Home Sunday was on 11/15 with half of the food going to New Hope and the other ½ to the

TREASURER'S CORNER

Ecumenical Food Pantry. Discussion with people in need in the community is ramping up; decorating the Sanctuary on 11/28 with the sanctuary tree being placed about the choir loft this year instead of the usual place due to the need for space for musicians for the 12/20 musical presentation so the choir will sit out in the congregation during the Holiday season. 11/29 will mark the beginning of the advent candle lighting during worship; **New Business:** Head Usher Duties Revision – Shirley Keith Knox revised the document. Proposal for Computer Server – Dave Ritter will attend the consistory meeting in January to discuss. Consistory changes for 2010: Three members have completed their terms and are retiring; Don wood, Susan Gabriel and Patrice Miller. Don Wood will announce during worship that 3 new consistory members will be needed for 2010. Mercersburg Assn Report – Dennis Plymette attended on 11/1 and gave the following report: 7 stations were visited for about 15 minutes each. 1st was Our Church's Wider Mission; 2nd was concerning the Mercersburg Assoc Resource Center; 3rd 2009 delegates to General Synod; 4th Road to Vitality Initiative; 5th Mediation; 6 Outreach Ministires; 7th Food and conversation. It was noted that wea re continuing to raise money for the cabin at Hartman Center. This is not part of the 4OurChurches campaign. The goal is \$16,000 and we are still short of that gaol. Head Usher for January – Shirley Keith knox volunteered to bet the head usher for January 2010. Gift for Jonne Dundore as she retired from the position of Christian Ed. Director. It was decided to present a gift card to Jonne at the Advent gathering. Consistory voted to present Christmas Gifts to staff. Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm. Next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15th.

As the year draws to a close very soon, this will be the last Epistle article for 2009 from the treasurer. This past year has been challenging for many during an economic climate that has resulted in cutbacks, job losses, and questions about what the future may hold. Throughout this time of uncertainty you have all continued to support the church. I thank each and every one of you for honoring the commitments that you made during last year's stewardship campaign.

Giving remains very close to the projected budget figures allowing us to maintain a fiscally sound basis to honor all of our commitments for the year. We have been able to pay our expenses in a timely manner and continue to satisfy our benevolence pledges for 2009.

In this month's Epistle you will find an Advent envelope which provides an additional opportunity for giving above and beyond those amounts we have already pledged. During this joyous season, this provides a means by which we can share our joy of belonging to a wonderful fellowship of the Christian faith. Theses envelopes will also be available in the pews for your use during the Advent season.

Giving has consisted not only of your treasures but also the sharing of your valuable time and many talents. So many have consistently helped with special outreach programs that mean so much to those who receive the benefits. Likewise, much time and effort has been expended to make our in-house programs an overwhelming success.

As the year draws to a close I wish each of you a season of joy and contentment knowing that you are a part of the larger body of this church. It is through your cooperative efforts that the mission we deem so important can be successfully accomplished.

Dave Hall, Treasurer



The Finance Committee is working on the budget. Unfortunately we are still waiting for quite a few pledges. Therefore the budget will not be available to the congregation until Sunday December 6 at both services and at the church that week. This must be voted on at the congregational meeting on December 13 so please pick up a copy so that you are familiar with the details.

Kevin Allison, President of Consistory.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL - Many thanks to all of you who have participated in our Fall Stewardship Campaign. The Kick-off Dinner at Allenberry was a success. With the silent auction and contributions we were able to raise \$2500 as well as having an evening of good fellowship. Our special thanks to the following for their donations:

Adult II Sunday School Class
Kevin and Karen Allison
Mike and Kathy Aumiller
Bill and Deb Cashman
Ron and Donna Chronister
Ron and Susan Gabriel
Dave and Jane Hall
Greg and Shirley Keith-Knox
Gene and Martha Keith
Jim and Dot Kinzer
Beth Mihmet
Bud and Dottie Miller
Greg and Patrice Miller
Mary Louise Miller
Sarah Myers
Jonathan and Christal Nase
Jim and Joan Quick
Betsy Rushong and Lucy Goodridge
Jere and Carolyn Rutherford
Gene and Terry Shaner
Herb and Connie Sutton
Martin and Victoria Velez
John and Susan Ward-DiOrio
Art and Kathy Williams
Bill and Deb Cashman
Art and Kathy Williams

There are some who have not yet turned in their pledge cards. You are encouraged to do that as soon as possible so the proposed budget for 2010 can be developed.

Warm Holly Day Greetings! From Holly Yeuell - I am so excited to be here at St. Paul's and greatly looking forward to working with all of you in the ministries of Christian Education and Youth. Please be sure to tell me who you are and what you'd like to see happen in our learning together here at St. Paul's. My office is Room 6, also known as the middle school classroom! Please stop by and chat, or let me know your thoughts and ideas by email at ce-holly@verizon.net. Many thanks to the staff and all the great volunteers who have helped

get my office up and running! Dayne Miller installed an electrical outlet, Gene Keith installed the doorknob, Dennis Plymette put together the bookshelves, and Dave Ritter has the computer running in tip-top form. We've been cleaning and sorting and moving lots of Christian Education materials around the building—phew! This has actually been very helpful for me to see what we have in resource materials and know where it is, and it is also great for the choirs to have more space in the music room. Thanks also to the middle school Sunday School class for being flexible and adaptable as my office evolves!

Crafts and Cookies - If you enjoy arts and crafts (and cookies!), please plan to join us to work on creating puppets and banners for the Christmas cantata. We will be crafting from **3:00-5:00 on Sunday, December 13 in the Fellowship Hall**. Everyone third grade and older invited! **Items Needed** Plastic jars: We need clean plastic jars for making our stick puppets. The kind we're looking for are about 8" tall and 3-4" diameter, with a wide top. Jars used for creamers or fiber powders would be great. Please leave at the church office for Holly. Quilts: We'd like to borrow quilts to use for decorating for the Christmas cantata. We're especially looking for a white and gold quilt and quilts with star designs. If you would be willing to lend your quilt for a short time, please bring to Holly by December 13. We will be using them for the service on December 20. Many thanks!

Children's Sign-up - Children and youth are invited to participate in the Christmas cantata on December 20. We will need several non-speaking actors and lots of children to carry the stick puppets and banners. Look for a sign-up chart in the common area. You **MUST** be able to attend the one and only rehearsal from 9:00-12:00 Saturday morning, December 19. All elementary children are invited and encouraged to be part of this enriching and fun activity. Preschool children are also invited, ages three and up, as parents think they ready and would enjoy being part. Youth not singing in the choir are also needed to help direct! Please see Holly with any questions. Thanks!



Christmas Gift Wrapping and Breakfast - OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY - Saturday, December 5th, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Let us take away the hassle of wrapping your Christmas presents. Bring your Christmas presents and have us wrap them for you while you enjoy a free light breakfast. St. Paul's is opening its doors to the community for this event, so be sure to invite your friends, too. This event will be advertised at New Hope Ministries and on the WHTM website. **We need donations of gift wrap, bows, gift tags, scotch tape and breakfast items. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the common area for breakfast food donations and helpers...young and old alike are needed.** If you have any questions, you can contact Chris Grice at 432-7917.

who knows, maybe Mr. Dundore will even lead us in singing a few Advent songs.

Giving to others helps us to remember the great gift of the Christ Child we are preparing to celebrate on Christmas Day. In that spirit, we are hoping you might be willing to bring a non-perishable food item or other useful product. People's needs are great again this year, and the people in Boiling Springs are served by Project Share in Carlisle. I know they have been running into some serious shortages. It would please us to no end to be able to deliver donations to them during Advent.

If you have any questions please see myself or Sue (probably your better avenue) or give us a call at home 249-6239. Our home address for those map questing or GPSing: 4 Jenny Drive, Boiling Springs, PA 17007. (Just in case things look strange, we are off Tanger Road, which runs between Mountain and Petersburg Roads.)



St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - The December meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held the 2nd Tuesday, December 8th at 1 pm in the parlor. Prayer Shawls will be blessed on December 13th during both worship services.

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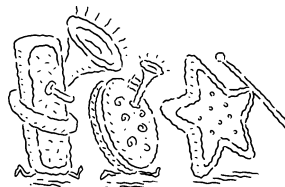
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on **December 13th** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to hold a discussion and vote on the 2010 budget. Copies of the budget will be available in the common area on Sunday December 6th. Please plan now to attend.



Christmas/Advent OPEN HOUSE At the Ward-Diorio's

We would like to invite each and every one of you to our home for our second annual Advent/Christmas Open-House on **Saturday December 12 from 2 to 6 PM.** Young people are invited and there will be a place for them to play inside and/or out (depending on the weather). There will be food and drink and lots of good cheer. Plus this is an opportunity for me to share some of the unique Christmas music I am continually searching out. And,



Cookie Walk

THE POLLYANNAS are having the second annual **COOKIE WALK** in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 13th after both services. **This year the Pollyanna's are asking members of the congregation to help with the baking of cookies for this event.** Please pack your cookies in baggies priced to sell at \$1.00 per bag and drop off in the Adult 2 Sunday School room on Saturday December 12th, 10 am to noon. The money raised at last year's cookie walk went toward the purchase of the Choir Robes.

Pollyanna's – will be meeting at noon on Tuesday, December 15th at Mary Louise Miller's home. Please remember your food donations. RSVP to Mary Louise at 766-6615.



If you ordered Poinsettias, you may start to pick them up after the 7:30 or 10:45 Christmas Eve Services. If you have not paid for your poinsettia (\$6.25 each), please place your payment, in the offering plate or drop off at the Church Office, make sure you mark Poinsettia on the envelope. Thank you for purchasing the flowers that will help beautify the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Poinsettias that are not picked up by Sunday afternoon December 27th will be delivered to the residents at Sarah Todd and Thornwald nursing homes. If you want your poinsettia and cannot pick it up prior to the afternoon of December 27th, please let Terry in the Church Office know and we will hold it for you.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for St. Paul's Annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner on January 17, 2010. There will be one worship service on this day at 10:30,

followed by the annual meeting and then a delicious pork and sauerkraut dinner in FH. Plan to stay and enjoy a wonderful meal and fellowship. Please see signup sheet on the bulletin board in the common area.



**HELPING
HAND
MINISTRY**

Bring a quality of life to others and to yourself by becoming a Pinnacle-Health Hospice Volunteer!

- Pinnacle Health is seeking caring individuals interested in providing support and companionship to its' Hospice patients and their families. Potential

volunteers receive training that enables them to examine their attitudes toward loss and death, enhances their communication skills, allows them to explore the physical and emotional issues faced by Hospice patients and families, and trains them to provide emotional support for bereaved family members. The training provided allows the new volunteer to understand their role as members of the PinnacleHealth Hospice team. For more information contact: Stephanie Schaefer, Coordinators of Volunteers 1-800-889-1098 or email sschaefer@pinnaclehealth.org

Goodwill Keystone Area's Wheels for Work Program

– is a Community program that opens doors for people who are trying to help themselves and support their families. Did you know that reliable transportation is one of the biggest barriers people face in finding and maintaining a job? Sometimes having a car can make the difference between keeping and losing a job. Through the *Wheels for Work* program, Goodwill will provide donated vehicles to working parents who can't afford to buy or car or utilize public transportation. Goodwill believes in giving "a hand up, rather than a hand out." Goodwill accepts cars from individuals and businesses. Car donations are tax-deductible and the donation process is easy. Contact Marsha Banks at Goodwill at mbanks@yourgoodwill.org or 717-232-1831 x 2076. Goodwill is more than just a store.



IT'S A BOY!

"Gavin Daniel Leeder" was born to Ryan and Lyne (Soisson) Leeder at 9:47 Thursday November 12th. He was 8 lbs 8 ozs 21 inches long! **Our Congratulations** go out to proud Mom and Dad and to Grandma Mary Runkle and Aunt Audrey Runkle

"Ethan Gregory Dixon" was born at 2:20 am Wednesday November 18th. He was 7 lbs 4 oz and 20 ½ inches long. **Our Congratulations** go out to the proud parents; Sabrina (Thompson) and Chris Dixon, big brother Caleb and Grandma Anna Thompson



THANK YOU - Not only as we enter the season of thanksgiving but at all times, it is appropriate to remember and be grateful. As most of you are aware, I spent 5 days receiving intensive radiation treatment for breast cancer. Not only am I grateful for early detection, very effective treatment and a good prognosis, I am profoundly grateful to all of you who supported me through your prayers, emails, cards, notes, phone calls, and food. In my various roles as a pastor, I have often wondered how in the world people get through a time of crisis without the support and care of a faith family and close friends. I know I would never choose to be without the strong prayer warriors and care givers God has placed in my life in all of you. Thank you for being present to me. Abundant joy and gratitude! Rev. Karin

Dear Friends & Members of St. Paul's: Shannon and I want to thank everyone for your wonderful thoughts and prayers during my recent operation and recovery. The flowers from the altar on November 1st were just beautiful. We had them on our kitchen counter for many days. It was great to be back in Church on November 15th. If it weren't for the many caring members of St. Paul's, Shannon and I would not have been able to have the thoughts and prayers said that were said for us. It is just awesome to be part of a loving, caring and helpful Body of Christ such as St. Paul's. We would like to say Thanks again for everything the members and friends of this Church have done for us both. Thanks again and God Bless! Eric and Shannon Trout.

Our sincerest thanks for delivering the Altar flowers to us on November 1st. Maddie was thrilled to be thought about & prayed for like she was. She's feeling 100% better now & we're so thankful to have all of that behind us. Thanks again, Shawna and Dave Simpson.



Our Thanks go out to Dave Scott and Dave Hall who raked up the leaves in the month of November.

Thank You to **Don Wood** for agreeing to chair the Property Committee and to **Ed Thorn** for agreeing to be our Heating Liaison with the plumbing and heating companies. Thanks go out also to everyone who helps to take care of our building and property all year long.

Thanks go out to the **Pollyanna's** who paid for the tables that the Hand Chime Choir use when they play so beautifully during worship.

Thanks to all who helped make **Harvest Home Sunday** a huge success. 45 Bags of Food was delivered to the Ecumenical Food Pantry on November 19th and an equal amount was delivered to New Hope on November 18th. Phyllis Hershey who has helped with the Ecumenical Food Pantry stated that this was a wonderful show of the generosity of the Member's of St. Paul's. Thanks go out to all who donated, Shirley Keith Knox for arranging them for our Sunday Worship Service and to Bruce Perry and Bud Miller for delivering the food. Please continue to keep those less fortunate in your mind when you go to the grocery store and help out by picking up extra items to donate. The need for donations of food and other items is huge in our current economy.

A BIG THANK YOU to **Jonne Dundore** for the 7 plus years she served wonderfully as Director of Christian Ed.

Thanks go out to **Jonne Dundore, Holly Yeuell, Linda Alburger, Katelyn Chamberlain, Leann Davinroy, Carol and Jack Rhoads, Patty, Dave & Julie Scott, Amy Paulus, Mary Runkle and others** who made the Advent Workshop and Alternative Holiday Market so much fun. Thanks to Jonne Dundore for organizing her own "Transition" party (though she didn't know she was doing that), **Patty Scott** for her phone calls, **Amy Paulus** for her cake, **Shirley Keith Knox** and the Adult Sunday School II class for providing refreshments. We got to say a brief thank you to Jonne for her years of service as Christian Education Director (since March of 2002) and her dedication to the young people and adults of this congregation.

Letter from Jesus about Christmas –

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Now, having said that let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15: 1 - 8.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.

2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.

3. Instead of writing the President complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up... It will be nice hearing from you again.

4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.

5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.

6. Did you know that someone in your town will

attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference.

7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.

8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary--especially one who takes My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name.

9. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.

10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember :

**I LOVE YOU,
JESUS**



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**
&

*From St. Paul's
Consistory and
Staff!*