

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

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December

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!

Sunday Worship Service December 5th & 12th – 8:15 & 10:30 AM,
December 19th & 26th – 1 service @ 10:30 (no Sunday School on the 26th)
December 5th, 12th & 19th Sunday School @ 9:15 Childcare available @ second service

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF

Pastor John J. Ward-Diorio
Administrative Assistant Terry Shaner
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
Web Address: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

FROM THE PASTOR

Advent is coming, or perhaps is already here depending on when you receive your Epistle. Advent is the season in which we are directed to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ. We prepare by remembering how God spoke through Prophets and other people, saying that God was coming into the world in a unique way, to interact with humans face to face. We prepare by remembering how God came into the world, as a vulnerable baby, Jesus, born in a barn or cave where animals were being kept and initially placed in a manger or the animals' food trough. We remember the lessons a birth in such surprising and humble surroundings are intended to teach us. We remember that Jesus taught, lived and died in a way that promised that God is and will always be with us. And we remember that God will be born within each of us in surprising ways once again this year. In order to best receive God's coming into our lives, we need to prepare.

This is a lot to remember, to think about and to process. We need time to do all this. Advent is the time given us, set aside for us to do this but we have to consciously take the time. Lots and lots of things and people want our energy, focus and time in December. If we are to participate in the wonder and power of Advent, we have to choose to do so, on our own. If we want our children, or grandchildren or whoever we may be caring for to experience Advent, we have to choose to help them, or it will not happen. It is not our culture's job, or the school's job to teach and share about Advent, it is our responsibility. Let us commit, individually, in our families, and in our congregation to preparing for the coming of God into our lives again this year.

At a recent parent-teacher meeting, one of our children's teachers said: 'oh, I wish I had ten minutes to read whatever I wanted.' I nodded in agreement but as I was thinking about this later I realized I could take ten minutes or more to read what I want every day. I just don't do that. In Advent we need to commit to reading things for **at least ten**

minutes that can help prepare us for the coming of God into our lives. We need to do that for ourselves and for our younger ones. I will offer a few suggestions here, and am willing to offer more if you contact me, but there are many books and other resources out there that you can choose to use. Pick something, give up some computer, TV or phone/texting/gaming time and read, and pray, and experience God's presence.

We have available a new Advent Devotional entitled **Take Back the Season.** The writers of the daily email UCC's Still Speaking Devotionals put this together. It is very good. There is a pull out calendar that you can put up as a reminder during Advent. Each day has a verse from Scripture to read, a reflection and a prayer. There will be plenty to think about after reading and praying. Silent prayer works well with these devotions. Please pick up a copy in the common area. They are free, or you can make a \$2.00 donation to cover the costs. If we run out, we will order more. We will be meeting on Thursday evenings, December 2, 9, and 16 to talk about these meditations as well. Come join us for that.

I came across a book recently that would be good for family time and reading. **Celebrate Advent**, by Judith Swisher and Nancy Baay, has 25 stories and legends about Advent and Christmas. A corresponding ornament goes with each story and can be hung around your home or on a Christmas tree. These are wonderful stories that children of all ages (including adults) will enjoy. (You may want to edit slightly the reading that refers to Santa Claus, you'll see why.) You can read one a day throughout Advent. Whistlestop Bookshop in Carlisle has copies and it probably is available elsewhere. I will keep a copy in my office so you can take a look at it there as well.

We will be doing different things together as a congregation that will also contribute to our Advent preparations. These occasions are wonderful opportunities to share what we have been doing individually, so we can learn from one another.

We can do this. **Today**, make the commitment to take at least ten minutes each day to read and pray and be involved with Advent. **Commit to** readying yourself this **Advent** for God's coming into your life again this year. **Take The Time.**

Peace, John



Advent Book Study

ADVENT READING DISCUSSIONS

On three Thursdays in December, the 2nd, 9th and 16th, from 7 to 8:30 PM, we will be gathering to discuss our Advent reading for this year. TAKE BACK the Season, by the UCC Writer's Group, is a booklet organized for daily reading with a verse from Scripture, a reflection and a prayer. These same folks write the UCC Still Speaking Daily Devotionals that you can receive via email if you would like. The booklet is available free from us and we will leave a stack in the common area. You can also offer a \$2.00 donation to cover the cost. Everyone is invited!

Each Thursday, we will light a candle on the Advent Wreath, take some time to see how we each are doing, offer both spoken and silent prayers and then discuss what came up for us as we read through the daily devotions in the booklet. These discussions can be informative, meditative, and/or inspiring. Setting this time aside during Advent has proven to be very beneficial for the folks that have done so in the past. Please sign up so we have some idea how many may be attending. You can come as often or as little as you are able. Your presence is a blessing each time you are able to attend. Let us seek together to prepare for God coming into our lives again this year.

Peace, John



November 28th 8:15/10:30 Worship Services – Lighting of the first Advent Candle

December 2nd 7 pm Advent Discussion

December 5th 8:15/10:30 Worship Services/Holy Communion – Lighting of the second Advent Candle

December 5th Noon Gift Wrapping Event

December 9th 7 pm Advent Discussion

December 11th 2-6 pm Advent/Christmas Open House at the Ward-Diorio's

December 12th 8:15/10:30 Worship/Blessing of the Prayer Shawls – Lighting of the third Advent Candle.

December 16th 7 pm Advent Discussion

December 18th 9 am to Noon Christmas Cantata Rehearsal

December 19th 10:30 am One Worship Service: Christmas Cantata: "I Hear The Prophet Calling" – Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle.

December 24th 4:00 & 10:45 pm Candle Light Christmas Eve Services of Readings, Hymns and Carols with Pew Communion Lighting the Christ Candle

December 26th 10:30 am One Worship Service Christmas Carol and Hymn Sing (no Sunday School)

January 2nd 10:30 am One Worship Service with Pew Communion (Sunday School @ 9:15)



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES TIME CHANGE!!!

I want to remind everyone again that we have changed the time of our first Christmas Eve Service to 4:00 PM. The second Service will be at 10:45 PM. Both will be Candle Light Services with readings, carols and hymns. A choir will sing at each. We will offer the Sacrament of Holy Communion at both Services.

We are trying the 4:00 PM Service in response to a number of requests, a survey of our congregation, and in recognition of a number of changing circumstances. The earlier time allows for more and younger children to be in attendance with their families. Families can attend Worship and then eat a meal together, and still have young ones in bed relatively early. This also allows for people who cannot or are uncomfortable driving in the dark to attend the Service. With families being scattered farther apart geographically, an earlier Service allows people more time to travel to join in on a Christmas Eve meal or to be there Christmas morning.

We recognize that the earlier Service may make it hard for people who are working that day to make it. Our hope is that this year, and the next couple of years, with Christmas Eve on the weekend, time off will be given allowing people to be there at 4 PM. We recognize that people have developed traditions around the 7:30 Service. Our hope is that you will be able to replicate those traditions at the earlier time, or at least come close. Maybe some new traditions will begin.

From personal experience, I can attest to the advantages of having an earlier Service. I hope everyone will give it a fair try and see how it might work for you and your family. We will be asking for your feedback in our January Epistle, so write down notes of what did not work and what did. We will keep working at this.

May this Advent be a time of preparation for God's coming into your life in new and surprising ways again this year, and may we be ready at whatever time that may occur.

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, John

OFFERING ENVELOPES: ADVENT AND YEARLY

We have inserted an Advent Offering envelope in this month's Epistle. We ask everyone to consider making an extra donation at this time of year. We began this year projecting a budget shortfall. We have done all in our power to decrease expenses and increase income, and overall we have been successful. However we are still facing a shortfall. Your additional donations will allow for more benevolence payments and some capital improvements or repairs. As always, we do our very best to use the money you offer St. Paul's United Church of Christ to live into our call as a congregation.

Thank you!!!

We made a change or two with the yearly offering envelopes as we continue our cost saving measures. We have not included an "Initial Offering" envelope. Each of those envelopes cost .65 and only asked for a donation of .50 to cover the costs of all your yearly envelopes. Instead we are asking you here to consider making an extra donation at the beginning of the calendar year of \$4.00 to cover the actual cost of your envelopes. In your Stewardship mailing we also included a request to consider making your pledge offering through Bill Payer, or automatic withdrawal and payment. Most banks offer this service at no charge. If you opt to offer your pledge in this way, you can forgo envelopes all together. We will give you pre-printed slips of paper which you can place in the offering plate each week, indicating you have made your offering electronically. If you have any questions about this, please speak with Terry and she can give you more details.

Thank you for considering these requests.

Peace, John



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 third annual Advent/Christmas Open-House on **Saturday December 11 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—the pool is closed though). 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, who knows, maybe Mr. Dundore and Ms. Myers will even lead us in singing a few Advent songs (or Christmas songs if we twist their arms).

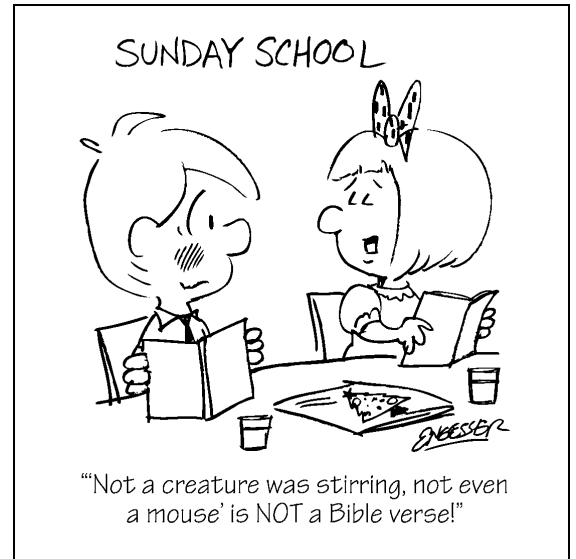
Giving to others helps us to remember the great gift of the Christ Child we are preparing to celebrate on Christmas Day. In that spirit, we are hoping you might be willing to bring a non-perishable food item or other useful product. People's needs are great again this year, and the people in Boiling 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 is: 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.)

I know some people provided rides to other congregation members last year. That was wonderful! If you would like to come but do not have a way to get to our house, please let me know. If you are coming and know of someone who might have a hard time driving, ask if they would like a ride. We really enjoy seeing each and every one who would like to come. Thank you. Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, John

Pictorial Directories – If you had your picture taken for the Pictorial Directory, you should receive your directory in the mail shortly. There will be a pocket on the back cover of your directory for you to insert a copy of the complete church directory. **A Big Thank You goes out to Shirley Keith Knox** who spent many hours on the pictorial directory.

The complete church directory will be available on the table in the commons for pick up starting Sunday, December 5th. Everyone is invited to stop by and get a copy of the complete church directory



&



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

Please review this prayer list and notify the Church Office if there is anyone who should be added to or removed from the list. Thank You.



THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER:

Mayme Alfano (Paula Boyer's mother); **Kevin Allison**; **John Argento**(friend of Rev. John); (friend of Tom Stone); **Mr. Bean** (Zach Davinroy's HR Teacher); **Lisa Benoist** (Dave Ritter's nephew's wife); **Peggy Baum**; **Mary Bensel** (**Dick's** mother); **Betsy** (Friend of Dar Murphy);**Norma Bingham** (friend of Connie Sutton); **Geoffrey Biringer** (friend of Velez's') **Pamela Bower** (friend of Ruth Wrightstone); **Jim Bowers** (Tina Bowers-Paris dad), **Charles Breon** (step-father of Sue Miller); **Sharon & Denny Browne** (friends of Sarah Myers); **Julia Bulger** (Heather Miller's Grandmother);**Sandy Buhrman** (friend of Kathy Williams); **Michaela Bushey** (friend of Sara Weaver); **Joanne & Janine Campbell**; **Tim Carter** (son of Connie Sutton's friend);**Christ Lutheran Church**; **Ruth Chronister**(Ron's Mother); **Kevin Clancy** (neighbor of Chronister's); **Cassie Collins** (daughter of Shirley Keith Knox's friend); **Shannon Collins** (Donna and Ron Chronister's niece); **Catherine Cotton** (Cheryl's grandmother); **Cleason Cromer**; **Alice and Bill Crouse**; **Deana** (co-worker of Anna Thompson);**Debbie** (friend of Velez's); **Ellie Deeble** (great-granddaughter of Jean Myers); **Bill Dietz** (friend of Chronisters);**Pat Eakin**; **Julia** (Rick Holtzapple's daughter); **Julie DeLuca**(Jim and Joan Quick's daughter);**Tyler Derr** (grandson of a friend of Winnie Wentz);**Jackie Diorio** (Rev. John's mother); **Jacque & Grace Drager**; **Lou Donneway** (friend of Mike and Kathy Aumiller);**Edna Dreibelbis** (Anna Burn's mother);**Duriske Family** (Katelyn Chamberlain's Uncle and Family); **Stewart Emery** (Sandi Ritter-Butz's father); **Debbie and Joe Gartland**; **George** (neighbor of Davinroy's); **Nancy Girard** (sister of Belva Garman); **Bob & Liane Gladwin**; **Shirley & Tom Grammer**; **Bethany Grubbs**; **Family and Friends of Dale Guanowsky**; **Jane & Dave Hall**; **Ellen Harling** (mother of Kevin Allison's co-worker); **Dot Harvey** (friend of Gene Shaner); **Paul Heaney, Sr.** (Dar Murphy's dad); **Bob Heisler**; **Phyllis Hershey**; **Travis Hessom**; **Sue Higgins** (friend of Anna Thompson); **Greg Holley**(friend of Sue Miller); **Rick Holtzapple**;); **Jim & Diane Hughes**(Jim is pastor of Grace UCC in Greencastle); **Mary Kathryn Hunt** (mother of Kimberly Leonard); **Mary Hunter** (Mary Louise Miller's cousin); **Hunter & Family**; **Betty Hyde**; **Bill Ingraham** (friend of Anna Thompson/Eric Dundore); **Alberta Jamison** (Betty Olsen's mother); **Joe** (Dar Murphey's brother); **Dan Jones** (Jean and Willard's son); **Jean and Willard Jones & daughter Sue Worley**; **Karen B. & Kay** (neighbors of the Gabriels); **Connie Kayer** (Kris's mother); **Brian Keefer** (high-school classmate of Christy Aumiller); **Nancy Keith** (Martha and Gene's daughter);

Steven Keith (Martha and Gene's son); **Megan Kern**; **Rev. George Klinefelter** (former pastor of St. Paul's); **John & Shirley Knisely**; **Emily Koontz**; **Lynn Lawler** (Peg Wightman's cousin); **Rev. Linda from Iowa** (friend of Susan Gabriel's sister);**Lon** (Tina Bowers-Paris's brother); **Cindy Long** (friend of Sue Mullin); **Marla**(Shawna Simpson's cousin); **Walter Matkowski** (Joy Perry's Father); **Brian McIntyre** (friend of Missy Gates); **Melodie** (colleague of Randy Murphy's);**Alice & Larry Miller** (Rev. John neighbor from NJ); **Clyde & Treva Miller**; **Ryan Miller** (Patrice and Greg Miller's son); **Sue & Dayne Miller**; **Steve Mitchell**; **Monica** (Friend of Anna Thompson);**Ally, Erin, Joan & Ernie Moyer**; **Tyler, Hayden & Stacy Mustico** (Layne Thompson's cousin); **Jean Myers**; **Patricia Nalepka** (Jon Nalepka's mother); **Nancy** (friend of the Chronister family); **Jeff Nye**; **Josh Oxford** (friend of Sara Weaver); **Pap** (Chelsey Wirth's Grandfather); **Craig Parker** (Ruth Wrightstone's nephew); **Julia Paroda & Family** (friends of the Shaner/Gates Family); **Ann Patch** (friend of Ruth Wrightstone); **Donna Perry** (Friend of Lois Ritter); **Joy Perry**; **Kristen Pike** (sister-in-law of Christal Pike-Nase & Jonathan Nase);**Larry R. Pike** (Christal Pike-Nase's uncle); **Ursula R. Pike** (Christal's mom); **Bill Redd** (friend of the Briggs);**Rev. Yvonne Rey**; **Doris Rhoads** (Jack Rhoads' mother);**Jack Rhoads**; **Richard Randolph** (Susan Gabriel); **Emily Rieger**(Patrice Miller's niece);**Lynn & Bea Row** (Sue Miller's parents); **Rhoda Rupp, Candice Rush** (friend of Phyllis Hershey); **Donald Rynard** (son of former co-worker of Anna Thompson); **Samantha** (Elizabeth Miller's niece); **John Scott**; **Don and Peggy Seiler**; **Joyce Sealover** (Connie Sutton's SIL); **Grace Sennett** (Linda Alburger's Grandmother); **Zachary Shade & Family** (Ward-Diorio); **Jim & Kathy Short**; **Rev. Thomas C. & Lorna Simcox** (co-worker of Brenda Kern);**Gracie Simpson**; **Carol Sizemore and Family**; **Clara Sizemore** (Bill's mom); **Bob & Valerie Smith** (friend of Anna Thompson); **Rena Smith**; **Mike Snyder** (friend of Velez's);**Susie Snyder**(friend of Skip and Sandy Kline);**Clarence Steck**; **Rich & Melissa Steineiser** (Friend of Carol Sizemore); **Clyde Strock** (Becca Strock's grandfather);**Kent Strock** (Becca's Dad); **Alex Szeles** (friend of Jean and Willard Jones); **Dave Thomas**(friend of Julie Scott); **Stu Tompkins** (co-worker of Kevin Allison); **Bob & Carol Torpey** (Kathy Aumiller cousin); **Eric Trout**; **Debra Urich** (friend of Dot and Jim Kinzer); **Rosalie Utley** (Paula Boyer's cousin);**Leah van Olden**; **Pete & Patti Watson**; **Danny Watts** (Terry Shaner's cousin); **Eric Weiner & Family**; **Brian Wickard** (brother of co-worker of Leann Davinroy); **Ruth Wrightstone**; **Margie Yarborough**(Bruce Perry's Aunt); **Angie Young & Family** (friend of co-worker of Becky Lingenfelter); **Russell and Grace Young**(Betsy Rushong's son and DIL).

Please also keep: All the people affected by the earthquakes; all the people and the environment affected by the oil spill in the Gulf Coast, all the people in the Middle East struggling for peace, all in the military and their families and all the people who have lost jobs and their families in your prayers.

DECEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

GREETERS

- 12/05 8:15 Belva & Leo Garman
- 10:30 Susan & Ron Gabriel
- 12/12 8:15 Patty & Dave Scott
- 10:30 Brenda & Tim Kern
- 12/19 10:30 Dave Ritter & Dennis Plymette
- 12/24 4:00 Joan & Ernie Moyer
- 10:45 Joan & Jim Quick
- 12/26 10:30 Leann & Tim Davinroy

LECTORS

- 12/05 8:15 Anna Thompson
- 10:30 Melba Bomberger
- 12/12 8:15 Mike Gray
- 10:30 Colleen Eichman
- 12/26 10:30 Art Williams

USHER

Head Usher: Bill Cashman

ACOLYTES

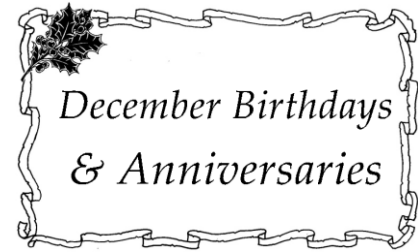
- 12/05 8:15 Chelsey Wirth
- 12/12 10:30 Kevin Rudisill
- 12/19 10:30 Amy MacKinnon
- 12/24 4:00 Katelyn Chamberlain
- 12/26 10:30 Katelyn Chamberlain

FLOWER DELIVERY

- 12/05 Tom & Cynthia Stone
- 12/12 Bruce Perry
- 12/19 Betsy Rushong
- 12/26 Bruce Perry

COMMUNION PREP

- 12/05 Tracy & Jeff Nye
- 12/24 Terry & Gene Shaner



- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 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
- 27 Gloria and Richard Hoffman
- 27 Susan and John White
- 30 Kim and Jim Pirtle
- Carol and Jack Rhoads





- 05 8:15 am Youth Choir
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 12 10:30 am Choristers during Children's Message & Hand Chimes @ Offertory
- 19 10:30 am Christmas Musicale
- 22 No Choir Rehearsal
- 24 4:00 pm Youth Choir
- 10:45 pm Chancel Choir
- 26 10:30 am Carol Sing
- 29 No Choir Rehearsal

DECEMBER LECTIONARY TEXTS

05 2ND Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-13
 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Matthew 3:1-12

12 3RD Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16 Matthew 11:2-11
 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10

19 4TH Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16 Romans 1:1-7
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Matthew 1:18-25

26 1ST Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9 Hebrews 2:10-18
 Psalm 148 Matthew 2:13-23

Consistory Highlights – October 19, 2010 –

Treasurer's Report – As of the end of September the total income was \$ 20,606.27 and the total expenses was \$ 19,552.09. We have a positive checking account balance of \$224.2 with an overall total cash balance of \$ 6,717.15. The total we owe to other accounts is \$ 31,055.25. **Stewardship Council – Kathy Williams** – Gala is scheduled for October 22nd at Allenberry. Discussion about providing information to congregation regarding upcoming budget needs. Also discussion centering on financial situation of church and which areas need to be trimmed or held at the same levels. A motion was made and approved for 0 % increase salary for all staff. **Property Committee** – Bill Cashman – It is especially important for Consistory to act on the repair of the rubber roof right away. Motion was made to do the repair and approved.

Pastor's Report – Rev. John and Kathy Williams attended OWL training; will start in January to grades 9 – 12; Holly's resignation; Sunday, Oct 31 there will be a recognition of Holly's work; what are we going to do in the interim? Paid position? As a result, there won't be a confirmation class in 2011. There may not be an alternative giving market this year. Mercersburg Fall Association meeting upcoming; scheduling new member meetings 1st and 3rd Sundays of Nov; new members will be received on Dec. 12. **New Business: OCWM** – letter from our Mercersburg delegate about our pledge obligations and wants to know where St. Paul's stands. Kevin stated that we know what our commitment is; and we know what our budget is – how do we want to address with congregation? Motion was made and approved to pay two quarters and if need be take it from the money management account. **Authorization for Search Committee** –need to accept Holly's resignation, her last day is November 5th. Accept with regret, we all appreciated her work in the short time she was with us; we wish her and her family well in their new assignment. Motion was made and approved to set up a search committee. **Back Up system for Church Computers** – Hard drive is turning off for no apparent reason; an anonymous member has volunteered to pay for replacement. Consistory thanks them for their generosity. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM. The next regular meeting of Consistory will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at 7 PM.

“St. Paul's UCC aims to be a fully accessible congregation. Folks having an issue related to accessibility in the church building or a church program should contact the church office or contact a head usher on Sunday mornings.”



Tis the Season! If Bad Weather should occur on a day of Worship, please check out: CBS 21, CW 15 or www.cbs21.com for closing information.

GIFT WRAP EVENT POSTER



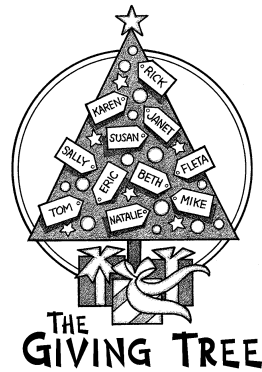
Need a way to take the beauty of our church home or want to share it with others? **Note cards are now on sale, just in time for the holiday season.**

Twelve note cards showcase the beauty of the 12 stained glass windows in our church sanctuary.

The back of each card includes the name and the meaning of each window. **Get cards for holiday giving or brighten someone's day with a photo of our beautiful church.** Each set of 12 cards is \$10.00. The note cards will be available on the table in the common area during Sunday worship or see Terry in the Church Office during the week. **Payment for note cards picked up on Sunday can be made either by check (payable to St. Paul's UCC) or cash and can be put in the offering plate or dropped off in the secretary mailbox in the church office (please make sure you put note cards on it).**



If you ordered Poinsettias, you may start to pick them up after the 4:00 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 26th 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 26th, please let Terry in the Church Office know and we will hold it for you.



Looking for a way to spread your holiday cheer?

The Council for Extended Ministries are asking for your support of our annual project in support of New Hope Ministries. St. Paul's will be providing Christmas gifts to 10 persons who will

not receive Christmas Gifts without our help. Please see the bulletin board in the common area for ornaments with individuals' names on them and a gift they **have** requested (through New Hope.) **Please return your wrapped gift to the Church no later than Sunday, December 12th, with the ornament tag securely attached to it.** Your support of this project will enable us to provide a wonderful Christmas to some deserving families this holiday season.

The **American Red Cross is holding a blood drive**, Friday December 3rd at Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church, 5000 Simpson Ferry Rd, Mechanicsburg, from noon to 6 PM. If donating, please bring your Red Cross donor card, photo ID, or two other forms of ID to the donor site. The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine.



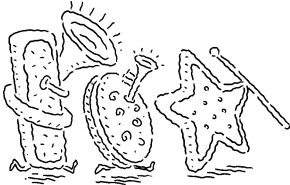
Katelyn Chamberlain, Jeff Dundore, Ally Moyer, Erin Moyer, Clayton Pirtle, Beth Pirtle and Audrey Runkle joined other youth from area Churches in sleeping out Thanksgiving Eve to help raise money for New Hope Ministries. What a great way to celebrate the meaning of the season by helping those in need.



St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

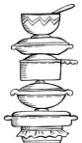
The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held Sunday December 5th during the Sunday School Hour in Fellowship Hall. The Shawls will be blessed during worship on the following Sunday, December 12th during both services



Cookie Walk

THE POLLYANNAS are having their third annual **COOKIE WALK** in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 12th after both services.

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 "I Spy Youth Classroom" on Saturday morning December 11 from 9:30 to 11:30 am. The money raised at last year's cookie walk went toward the purchase of the Bell Tables.



Covered Dish Luncheon

Pollyanna's – will be meeting Noon on Tuesday, December 21st at Mary Louise Miller's home for a covered dish luncheon. Please bring a dish to share. Any questions, call Mary Louise at 766-6615.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on **December 12th** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to hold a discussion and vote on the 2010 budget. Please plan now to attend.

HERSHEY BEARS HOCKEY GAME-

Everyone is welcome to join the Youth at a Hershey Bears Hockey game on Saturday, 1/15/11 at 7 PM. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Commons. **Please sign up and pay for your tickets by Sunday, 12/12/10.** If you have any questions, please email Martha Brown at vbrown5325@aol.com. We hope to see you there



MARK YOUR CALENDARS for St.

Paul's Annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner on Sunday, January 16, 2011. 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 sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the commons so we have a count for the food.



Dear St. Paul's Family,

There aren't enough words to thank you properly for all the support you have given to me and my family.

Thank you for all the cards, calls, visits, prayers, and prayers shawls that have comforted us and helped us through each day.

Thank you to everyone who provided food for family and our gathering after Bill's memorial service. We have been well taken care of.

I am blessed to be a part of the St. Paul's family. Thank you again.

Carol Sizemore and Family.

Dear Friends,

The past three months have been quite an adventure for us. With this latest hospitalization and discharge we feel that Dave is now on the road to recovery. Words fail to try to thank all of you for the prayers, cards, calls, flowers, visits, and prayer shawls. We have felt enveloped in your love and caring. We'll be taking this winter to cocoon and recover. Hopefully, by the time the daffodils bloom Dave will be back working in the garden. Keep us on your prayer list.

Dave and Jane Hall.