

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!

December 4th & 11th - Sunday Worship Services – 8:15 & 10:30 am, *Sunday School @ 9:15 am*

December 18th – *Sunday School program 9:00 am, Christmas Cantata @ 10:30*

Christmas Eve Services @ 4 & 10:45 PM, Christmas Day 1 service at 9 AM.

Childcare available @ 10:30 am service.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF

Pastor The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio
Administrative Assistant Terry Shaner
Interim Dir of Christian Ed/Youth Advisor Allyssa Boyer
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
Pastor Emeritus The Rev. Dr. Thomas Herrold
Ministers The Entire Congregation of St. Paul's

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 Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@verizon.net
Web Address: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

FROM THE PASTOR

During Advent we prepare for many things.

We prepare for the end of the calendar year (even though we begin the liturgical year on the last Sunday of November). There are all sorts of things we need to do in order to wrap up what has gone on in the previous eleven months. Perhaps we have tax questions; perhaps we need to get in a doctor's visit or two; perhaps we have to spend some money that is in a "yearly" account that will be "lost" if not used; perhaps we have to take some vacation time that likewise might be lost; we work to "close the books" in many different ways.

We prepare for the holiday Christmas, for all the things that has come to mean for us: getting together with family and friends; exchanging gifts; attending parties, concerts, the Nutcracker and/or plays; and maybe some time off from work. We look forward to sharing special traditions with friends and with family. These traditions are so ingrained that we do not even realize that we expect them or so look forward to them until something happens to change them. This is part of the reason that this time of year is so hard when a loved one has died, especially over the course of the last year or we have struggled through another type of major loss. We often most poignantly miss a mother or father, spouse or child as we go through these family traditions. Sometimes then our preparations include preparing for the grief we will be experiencing.

As a congregation we are preparing for all we do during Advent. The Sanctuary is decorated beautifully. We get ready to light the Advent Candles. We look forward to the Book Groups, the Family Advent Celebration, a special Children's program, the Cantata, Caroling, Candlelight Christmas Eve Services, the Christmas Carol and Hymn Sing Service.

As a congregation we are also preparing our budget for the coming year. We do our best to predict our expenses and income. We work at producing a balanced budget that

reflects our values and hopes as a congregation, as a part of the Body of Christ at work here. In order for us to do that as well as we can, we need to hear from everyone now, particularly those of you who are planning to pledge. Our hope is you have been meditating and praying about this and have discerned what you can offer God through your gifts to St. Paul's this year financially and with your time and talent. We have big hopes and dreams for what we can do together, and we need everyone to be generous, as generous as we each can be. Our choices, our offerings do make a difference.

Advent is ultimately about preparing for how God is uniquely coming into our lives again this year. At Christmas we remember, we celebrate God coming into the world in the baby Jesus. We do not believe however that God stopped coming into the world at that point, or coming into our lives. Rather we believe God continues to do that all the time. Advent and Christmas times are specific reminders to us of God's coming. We prepare ourselves, our minds, hearts and spirits, to receive God's in-breaking, God's incarnation in each of us. How will we, will we, become more of who God created us to be? What are God's hopes and dreams for us this year? These are huge questions to seek answers for and so we need to prepare, we need to choose to spend time, energy and focus on listening. All the other things we do during Advent can contribute to this preparation if we allow them to. By placing getting ready for God's coming into our lives at the center of what we do, everything else we attend to can contribute to that preparation. Let us close the books, rejoice in traditions, pledge our gifts and get our hearts, minds and spirits ready. God will come to us.

Hope, peace, love and joy, John

Chocolate Advent Calendars

We ordered our Chocolate Advent Calendars early enough from Serrv this year. We still have a number of these. They are a wonderful way to share the Christmas Story with the young people in your life (and once

they taste this chocolate, they will want to keep reading the story no matter how old they get). We will put a sign-up sheet in the Common Area. They cost \$10.00 and you can pick them up now; see Terry or John. Checks can be made payable to St. Paul's UCC. Any profit helps fund our Christian Education programs. If we sell out early we can try and buy more, but there is no guarantee we will be able to get any. Don't miss out again this year!!!



Advent Book Study

We will be using *Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah* by Carol M. Bechtel and part of the Kerygma Bible Study program. For the first four Thursdays in December, beginning December 1st at 7:00 PM, we will study the pieces related to Advent and Christmas. During Lent in the Spring, we will have a six week study of the pieces related to Lent and Easter. We have a recording that we will listen to. Our choir will be doing pieces from Handel's Messiah for our Christmas Cantata (Sunday December 18th, one Service at 10:30 AM) this year and then possibly a Lent/Easter Cantata with the choir from Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church in the Spring. These studies will greatly enhance our enjoyment of Handel's beautiful and powerful pieces of music and add depth to our Advent and Lenten seasons. A sign-up sheet has been posted and we have ordered some books. We can order more as the need arises. The cost of the book will be \$20.00 which covers shipping and handling too. We will be using the one book for both Advent and Lent. It is possible some of the Adult Christian Education classes (many in Adult I signed up for a book) or studies might also use this during those seasons. Check with your instructors and leaders to see if they will be offering the study during other times. We should all be able to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" with even more enthusiasm this year.

Hearing Assistance Devices

As part of our sound system upgrade, we purchased four "Personal PAs." These are individual receivers with an "ear-bud" that amplify the sound coming through the sound system.

We will be placing the devices on the table with the large print bulletins. Please feel free to take one at the beginning of the Service.

There is a knob on top to turn the unit on and increase the volume. Please do that slowly. You can clip the unit on your belt (if you are wearing one) or place it on the pew next to you or hold on to it, whatever is most comfortable for you.

Please let us know if you have any difficulties with these devices. We may need to do a little tinkering to get them just right.

It is also possible for us to purchase a somewhat different device. For people who wear hearing aids in both ears, there is a "necklace" that we can purchase. You wear that and plug that cord into the receiver instead of the "ear-bud" cord. We can look into ordering one or two of those as well. Please let us know if that would be helpful for you.

If you have any difficulties with the devices, please let the head usher know and we will try and fix it, if not right away, in time for the following week's Service. We would appreciate your feedback on whether these devices are helpful or not. Thank you.

Peace, John

DECEMBER LECTIONARY TEXTS

04 2ND Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Mark 1:1-8

11 3RD Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Psalm 126 John 1:6-8, 19-28

18 4TH Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Romans 16:25-27
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Luke 1:26-38

25 Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
Psalm 98 John 1:1-14



January 1st 10:30 am One Worship Service (no Communion and no Sunday School)

January 8th 10:30 am One Worship Service, Holy Communion (Sunday School @ 9:15)
Noon - Congregational Meeting with dinner following.

Consistory Highlights – October 18 –

Treasurer’s Report – Income for the month of Sept was \$30,549.88. Total expenses for the month were \$29,209.26. Year-to-date Income less expenses is \$5,864.02 (Budget is negative \$16,944) Jim Kinzer shared what he has found so far during his on-going analysis of the fund accounts. Jim recommended that all Memorial Funds, unless specifically designated, should become part of the General Fund. Rename the Memorial Fund on the balance sheet to Restricted Memorial Fund. Motion was made and approved to make this change. **Property Committee – Dick Bensel** – We should review the developer’s storm water management plan for the neighboring development. The township may be liable if an inadequate plan was approved. Damage should be documented. **Called to Care – Jen Martek** – Another service of the committee is being developed “Helping Hands” This will focus on the elderly, disabled, single parents, new families and families of deployed military members. These individuals have many needs that can be met by volunteers such as help with errands, babysitting, simple household repairs, shoveling, leaf raking, etc. The intent is to provide a support network to all the individuals and families within St. Paul’s. This will be added to the 2012 Time & Talent Sheet. **Finance – Kevin Allison** – The committee is working on the budget with a goal of presenting it in December. **Old Business** – Mike is working a policy dictating password access and usage. **New Business** – The office computers are 5 years old and are starting to have issues. This will be reviewed further. Advertising – Do we want to be included in the collaborative holiday TV ads? Motion was made and approved to support the TV ad up to \$325.00. Congregational Dinner – The Chair for the Parish Ministry Committee still needs to be filled. The next regular meeting of

December 1st 7 pm Advent Discussion:
Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel’s Messiah

December 5th 8:15/10:30 am Worship Services/Holy Communion – Lighting of the second Advent Candle
Noon-2:00 pm Family Advent Celebration

December 8th 7 pm Advent Discussion

December 10th 2-6 pm Advent/Christmas Open House at the Ward-Diorio’s

December 11th 8:15/10:30 am
 Worship/Blessing of the Prayer Shawls – Lighting of the third Advent Candle.
 Polyanna’s Cookie Walk after both Services.
 Budget Meeting following second Service

December 15th 7 pm Advent Discussion

December 17th 9 am to Noon Handel’s Messiah Part 1 Cantata Rehearsal for Chancel and Youth choirs

December 18th 9:00 am C.E. Children’s Christmas Program in Fellowship Hall
10:30 am One Worship Service: Cantata: Handel’s Messiah Part 1 – Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle.

December 22th 7:00 pm Advent Discussion

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 25th 9:00 am One Worship Service Christmas Carol and Hymn Sing (no Sunday School)

Consistory will be held on Tuesday, Nov 15th at 7 PM. Meeting adjoined at 9:00pm.

“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.”

ADVENT OFFERING ENVELOPES:

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. We have kept a very close eye on our spending and have looked for ways to cut costs. We have also worked on an additional fundraiser or two, and are looking for more in the future. Your additional donations will allow for more timely benevolence payments, some much needed capital improvements or repairs, and some other projects we are looking into. 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!!!

Mission 1 Update and Thank You: One, two, three, four.....six hundred and one; six hundred and two, six hundred and three....one thousand one hundred eleven and there is still more food to count. Each day that we counted food for Mission 1: we were reminded of the caring hearts at St. Paul's. We exceeded ALL goals we set for ourselves. Over 111 letters were forwarded to Congress. Over 1,111 food and household items were delivered to three local food pantries. We increased our understanding of local poverty. Our public demonstration was forwarded to local news agencies, Penn Central Conference and to the UCC website. Thank you to all who in one way or another, helped make a dent in hunger. Well done St. Paul's!

MISSION: 1 NATIONAL UCC & ST. PAUL’S TOTE BOARD:

ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD DONATED:

Total UCC Goal 1,000,000
Goal Exceeded 11/10 – 1,396,673
St. Paul’s Goal 1,111
Goal exceeded 11/11- 1,111 plus

Letters mailed to Congress:

Total UCC Goal 11,111
Goal Exceeded 11/06 – 37,080
St. Paul’s Goal 111
Goal exceeded 11/11- 132

Money Donated to NIN Hunger Related Ministries:

Total UCC Goal \$111,111
Current Giving – \$109,838
St. Paul’s Giving – \$100

St. Paul’s annual Neighbor’s in Need Special Mission Offering was \$908.00.

Money Donated to East Africa Famine Relief:

Total UCC Goal \$111,111
Current Giving – \$106,144
St. Paul’s Giving - \$100



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.

The **St. Paul’s HANDCHIME CHOIR** is looking for a few more ringers! Rehearsals are Wednesday nights from 6 to 6:30. All are welcome; no prior musical experience is needed...only a willingness to learn and have fun! If interested, contact Mark Dundore at 717-460-8345 or DundoreMusik@aol.com.



THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER: Darlene & Mitch Adams; Tom Alburger; Kimberly Alleman (Anna Thompson); Kevin Allison; Dee Bachman (Murphy); Mr. Beam (Zach Davinroy's HR Teacher); Peggy Baum; Nancy & Wes Bear (Murphy); Barbara

Bell (Patty Scott's mom); Lisa Benoist (Dave Ritter relative); Mary Bensel (Dick's mother); Betsy (Friend of Dar Murphy); Geoffrey Biringer (friend of Velez's); Diana Bitting (friend MacKinnons); Pamela Bower (friend of Ruth Wrightstone); Jim Bowers (Tina's dad); John & Karen Bradshaw (Gabriel); Betty & Charles Breon (Sue Miller); Dave & Marie Briner (Westhafer friend); Bryan (friend Sabrina Dixon); Sandy Buhrman (friend of Kathy Williams); Michaela Bushey (friend of Sara Weaver); Joanne & Janine Campbell (relative of Kevin Allison's co-worker); Kathy & Cassidy Carlis (friend of Jean & Willard Jones); Wayne Chapman Sr. (Valerie Lill's Father); Ruth Chronister (Ron's Mother); Kevin Clancy (neighbor of Chronister's); Clement (Peg Wightman Neighbor); Shannon Collins (Donna and Ron Chronister's niece); Kevin, Bill & Pauline Conwell & Family (Rev. John); Jim Coons-Torn; The Corman Family (Alburger friends); Catherine Cotton (Cheryl's grandmother); Woody Cox (Joy Perry's BIL); Cleason Cromer; Alice and Bill Crouse; Bill Dietz (friend of Chronisters); Jacque & Grace Drager; Lou Donneway (friend of Mike and Kathy Aumiller); Edna Dreibelbis (Anna Burn's mother); Duane (Brian Medkeff-Rose); Pat Dundore; Duriske Family (Katelyn Chamberlain's Uncle and Family); Pat Eakin; Stewart Emery (Sandi Ritter-Butz's father); Kathy Eppley (friend of Stone Family); Ferdinand Fromholz (Allison Co-Worker); Don and Roseanne Frymoyer (Allison); Debbie and Joe Gartland; Heather Geraghty (Linda Alburger's niece); Nancy Girard (sister of Belva Garman); Bob & Liane Gladwin; Lynn Goldstine (Friend of Stones); Floyd Gouse; Shirley & Tom Grammer; Richard Gray; Dave Hall; Ron Hannon (friend of Tom Stone); Melissa Havens & Family (Gabriel); Colin Hayes & Family (MacKinnon Friends); Paul Heaney, Sr. (Dar Murphy's dad); Bob Heisler; Clay Henry (Mike Aumiller BIL); Phyllis Hershey; Addison Holl (Becky Thompson); Mary Hunter (Mary Louise Miller's cousin); Betty Hyde; Joe (Dar Murphy's brother); Scott Jackson (Lee Jackson nephew); Jonathan Jehley (Sizemore); Dan Jones (Jean and Willard's son); Jean and Willard Jones & daughter Sue Worley; Julia (Rick Holtzapple's daughter); Connie & Bob Kayer (Kris Amtower's parents); Brian Keefer (high-school classmate of Christy Aumiller); Nancy Keith (Martha and Gene's daughter); Steven Keith (Martha and Gene's son); Megan Kern; Mary Kilgore (Murphy); Susan Kinzer (Jim & Dot's niece); Rev. George Klinefelter (former pastor of St. Paul's); Shirley Knisely; Emily Koontz (great niece of Donna & Bud Sponsler); Mateusz Kott & Family (Moyer); Carrie Kramer (Rochelle Rhoads grandmother); Lynn Lawler (Peg Wightman's cousin); Madison Lewis (Runkle); Rev. Fred Lewis (Medkeff-Rose); Cindy Long (Sue Mullin); Barbara Lumby (Betsy Rushong); Bob Madden (Kern); Kim Martin (Leann Davinroy); Jerry

McCartney (Jen Martek's dad); Shawn McClintic (friend of Brian Medkeff-Rose); Jack Mellinger (Gabriel); Melodie (colleague of Randy Murphy's); Adrienne Miller (Trout); Patrice Miller; Sue Miller & Family; Treva Miller; Steve Mitchell; Charles Mowery (Betsy Rushog son-in-law); Ally, Erin, Joan & Ernie Moyer; Tyler, Hayden & Stacy Mustico (Layne Thompson's cousin); Jean Myers; Patricia Nalepka (Jon Nalepka); Nancy (Chronister); Nancy (Dave Ritter sister); Raymond "Lee" Negley (MLC); Bob Neis (Anna Thompson friend); Virginia O'Connell (Elizabeth Miller's aunt); Josh Oxford (friend of Sara Weaver); Julia Paroda & Family (Gates Family); Ann Patch (friend of Ruth Wrightstone); Al Perreault & Family (Murphy); Donna Perry (Friend of Lois Ritter); Kristen Pike (Pike-Nase); Mel Pike (Friend of Tom & Cindy Stone); Emily Rieger & Bill & Judi Grove (Patrice Miller); Guy Romito (friend of Craig Martek); Lynn & Bea Row (Sue Miller's parents); Tom Row (Sue's brother); Candice Rush (friend of Phyllis Hershey); Jere Rutherford; Rynne (Seiler); Samantha (Elizabeth Miller's niece); Judy Saurer (Rushong); John Scott; Joyce Sealover (Connie Sutton SIL); Don and Peggy Seiler; Grace Sennett (Linda Alburger's Grandmother); Pete & Linda Shea; Tom Shrawder (friend of Kathy & Mike Aumiller); Rev. Thomas C. & Lorna Simcox (Brenda Kern); Gracie Simpson; Clara Sizemore (Bill's mom); James Sowell (Sandy Kline); Sue Stada; Tom Stone; Alex Szeles (friend of Jean and Willard Jones); Tamara (friend of Rachelle Rhoads); Bob & Carol Torpey (Kathy Aumiller cousin); Phoenix, Eric & Shannon Trout; Debra Urich (friend of Dot and Jim Kinzer); Rosalie Utley (Paula Boyer's cousin); Leah van Olden; Judy Ward (Sue's mom); Doris Washam (Sandy Kline's sister); Danny Watts (Shaner); Wayne & Sandy (Friends of Kinzers); Brian Wickard (brother of co-worker of Leann Davinroy); Lucas Wissinger (Elizabeth Miller Friend); Ruth Wrightstone; Ruth Wunderly (friend of Bonnie Plymette's daughter); Angie Young & Family (friend of co-worker of Becky Lingenfelter); All in the military and their families and all affected by lost jobs & the economy.

Please notify Rev. John or the Church Office about any additions or deletions to the above list.



- 04 - 8:15 am Youth Choir
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11 - 8:15 am Chancel Choir
- 10:30 am Choristers @ Children's Message/Youth Choir @ Offertory
- 18 - 10:30 am Christmas Musicale Program Chancel & Youth Choirs
- 24 - 4:00 pm Choristers
- 10:45 pm Chancel Choir
- 28 - Caroling at Sarah Todd & Thornwald Nursing Homes

DECEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

GREETERS

- 12/04 8:15 Joanne Miller & Phyllis Hershey
10:30 Deborah & Noel Sufrin
12/11 8:15 Connie & Herb Sutton
10:30 Pam & Allan MacKinnon
12/18 8:15 Bonnie & Dennis Plymette
12/24 4:00 pm Bonnie & Dennis Plymette
10:45 pm Deb & Bill Cashman
12/25 9:00 am Mary Louise Miller

LECTORS

- 12/04 8:15 Ron Chronister
10:30 Kevin Allison
12/11 8:15 Ruth Wrightstone
10:30 Lois Ritter
12/18 10:30 Terry Shaner
12/25 9:00 Patty Scott

ACOLYTES

- 12/04 8:15 Jeff Dundore
12/11 10:30 Becca Ward-Diorio
12/18 10:30 Lily Ward-Diorio
12/24 4:00 pm Slater Ward-Diorio

WORD FOR THE YOUNG

- 12/11 Choristers

Head Usher: Dave Scott

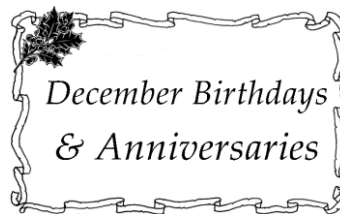
- 12/04 Communion-Consistory
12/11 8:15 Betty & Tom Olsen
10:30 Christal & Jonathan Nase
Chris & Dave Grice
12/18 10:30 Mike Aumiller & Tim Kern
Joan & Ernie Moyer
12/24 Communion-Consistory
12/25 9:00 Sue & Dayne Miller
Patty & Dave Scott

FLOWER DELIVERY

- 12/04 Cathy & Brandon Thomas
12/11 Merikay & Don Wood
12/18 Sue & Dayne Miller

COMMUNION PREP (Pew)

- 12/04 Donna Sterner & Nancy Steck
12/24 4 PM Terry & Gene Shaner



- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Doris Albrecht | 13 Richard Startzel |
| Raymond Krouch | 14 Roland Parthree |
| 02 Devon Miller | Sandy Ritter-Butz |
| John White | 15 Thomas Amtower |
| 03 Ralph Miller | 16 Jean Jones |
| 05 Skip Kline | Tina Kless |
| Lindsay McCorkel | 17 Vic Brown |
| 07 Pat Cleland | 18 Maddie Simpson |
| 08 John Scott | 20 Carol Flory |
| Kathy Witmer | 21 Dale Thorpe |
| 10 Nathan Brymesser | 23 Kevin Laughery |
| 11 Ann Boyer | 26 Elaine Charles |
| 12 Donna Chronister | James Haas |
| Willard Jones | Gene Shaner |
| Alexx Miller | Merikay Wood |
| Maxx Miller | 27 Kateri Grice |
| Shane Morell | Joseph Simpson |
| 13 Dale Burns | 28 Jean Myers |
| Matthew Morell | 29 Michele Motter |



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|--|
| 02 Sue and Bill Mullin |
| 03 Rhoda and Ned Rupp |
| 06 Sam & Tim Kiner |
| 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 |



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held in the Parlor on Sunday December 4th starting at 9:15 during the Sunday School hour. The Shawls will be blessed at both services on Sunday, December 11th.

FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION---- Sunday, December 4th; 12:00 – 2:00

The Council for Christian Education invites you to make plans now to attend the Family Advent Celebration on Sunday, December 4th following the 10:30 service. We will share a light lunch as part of Fellowship Hour and there will be crafts/projects for all ages to help us prepare for the Advent/Christmas seasons for our homes and for our church. If your family does not currently have an Advent Wreath, you will have the opportunity to make one. Gift cards for Heifer Project will also be available for purchase at this event. Everyone is Invited--- Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions or would like to help with the event, please contact Patty Scott, 737-3139.



Our next leaf raking day will be **Saturday December 10th, starting at 10 AM (weather permitting.)** Bring your favorite rake and if you have a tarp, bring that too. Thanks in advance for your help!



At the Ward-Diorio's

Christmas/Advent OPEN HOUSE

We would like to invite each and every one of you to our home for our fourth annual Advent/Christmas Open-House on **Saturday December 10 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 (I got a new Peter Mayer CD-“Midwinter”). 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, Sue, Slater, Lily, Becca and Titan.



Cookie Walk

THE POLLYANNAS will be having their 4th annual **COOKIE WALK** in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 11th after both services. In the past the proceeds have gone towards the purchase of the new choir robes, bell tables and the roof fund. We invite everyone to participate by either baking cookies or purchasing them. This is a fun way to support your Church. Please pack your cookies in baggies priced to sell at \$1.00 per bag and drop off in classroom # 11/12 on Saturday morning, December 10th. Thank You.



A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on **December 11th** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to hold a discussion and vote on the 2012 budget. Please plan now to attend.



Presents

Wondrous Mystery

A Christmas Concert with Choral Music and Classical Guitar

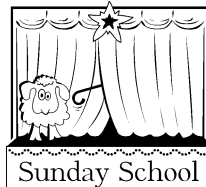
Sunday, December 11, 2011 3:00 p.m.

Camp Hill United Methodist Church
417 South 22nd Street,
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Tickets: \$15.00

Oasis Ministries, providing contemplative community since 1988, presents the **Lancaster Chamber Singers in a holiday concert, "Wondrous Mystery,"** directed by Jay W. Risser of Harrisburg and featuring Harrisburg guitarist, Anthony Derrico. The concert will feature Jeffrey Van's carols for choir and classical guitar along with works by Poulenc, Sweelink, Rutter, and others. Tickets: \$15 (group rates available), can be purchased by calling 717-737-8222 or visiting www.OasisMin.org/BenefitConcert.html.

Doors open at 2:30pm - Join us before the concert to view and purchase artwork from within the Oasis Community. Items include holding crosses, prayer beads, and original paintings.



Christmas Program

The Sunday School classes would like to invite you to come and join in the holiday fun of the **Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18 from 9:00-10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.** We'll sing

songs, get creative with crafts, play a game, and hear an inspired retelling of the Christmas story from a different point of view. **All are invited!**

After the Sunday School Christmas program, we hope you will join us in the Sanctuary for our one worship service @ 10:30 for **The Christmas Musicale Program – "Handel's Messiah Part 1"** featuring the Youth & Chancel Choirs with soloists and orchestra.



Mechanicsburg Area Senior High Annual Holiday Concert, Sunday December 18th, 2 pm in the MASH Auditorium. Mash musical groups present music of the season. All kinds of holiday offerings will be performed to help make your season bright. Come and sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" with us at the end of the program. Admission is free.



POLLYANNA'S will be having their annual Christmas luncheon on Tuesday December 20th at 12 noon. Mary Louise Miller will be hosting. Any questions, call Mary Louise at 766-6615.



O Come All Ye Faithful...to Youth Fellowship Christmas Caroling! All youth are invited as we spread the Christmas spirit on Friday, December 23rd.

Also invited: adult volunteers who are willing to drive. All singing abilities are welcome. Just bring warm clothes and a joyful spirit. Afterward, warm up with hotdogs, s'mores, and hot cocoa at the Keith family's house. If you'd like to join us, please contact Allyssa Boyer.



If you ordered Poinsettias, you may start to pick them up after the 4:00 or 10:45 Christmas Eve Services. Thank you for purchasing the flowers that will help beautify the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

Poinsettia's that are not picked up by Monday afternoon December 26th will be delivered to the residents at the area 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.



On Wednesday, December 28th, folks of St. Paul's choirs, congregation and friends will be making our annual trip to share the music of the Christmas Season with the residents at both Thornwald Home and The Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home. We will meet at Thornwald to sing with the residents at the

10:30 service, then have lunch somewhere in Carlisle and then travel to Sarah Todd for the 2:00 service. These times include a short meditation, lots of carols and then segue into the beloved secular songs of the Christmas season (including the always requested Rudolf and The Twelve Days of Christmas!). The residents of both communities look forward to this special time of music, memories and joy. Everyone is welcome to join us. Watch the worship bulletin for more information on this event. Questions please see Eric Dundore or Anna Thompson.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS for St. Paul's Annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner on Sunday, January 8, 2012. 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. To help cover the cost of the meal, there will be a charge of \$3.00 for ages 5 – 12 and \$6.00 for ages 13 & up. Ages 4 and under are free. **Please sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the common area so we have a count on the # to plan for.**

Looking for donations of 9 x 13 sheet cakes for the Congregational Dinner on Sunday January 8th. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the common area if you are willing to bring a cake.

JUST IN TIME FOR HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING! ST. PAUL'S COOKBOOK "SHARING OUR BEST" is available for purchase. This 200+ recipe cookbook has recipes from past cookbooks as well as new recipes. The cost is only \$10.00. Half the proceeds go to our church and the other half to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. See Brenda Kern or Terry in the Church office to purchase yours.



Need a way to take the beauty of our church home or want to share it with others? 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. **These beautiful sets of 12 cards each are now sale priced at \$7.00 each or 2 sets for \$12.00.** 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.

The American Red Cross is holding blood drives in the Mechanicsburg and Camp Hill area in the next few months and would like your help in publicizing it to donors. The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine. People in your community are depending on people like you to share the gift of life.

Friday, December 2nd
12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church
 5000 Simpson Ferry Road, Mechanicsburg

Wednesday, December 21st
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Bible Baptist Church
 201 West Main Street, Shiremanstown

Saturday, January 28th
9:30 am – 1:30 pm
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 2000 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill

Saturday, January 28th
9:30 am – 2:30 pm
St. Joseph Parish
 410 E. Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

Individuals who are in generally good health, are age 17 or older (in Pennsylvania 16 year olds may donate with a signed parental consent form), and weigh at least 110 pounds may be eligible to donate blood. Most people can safely donate every 56 days. Donors should call 1-866-326-3276 if they have any eligibility questions.

For up to date blood drive information or to schedule an appointment for a blood drive in your area, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800 Red Cross. Individuals should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID, or two other forms of identification to the donor site. Thank you for helping saving lives.

MEMBER UPDATES:

Change of Address:
 Karen & Kevin Allison
 39 Stone Run Drive
 Mechanicsburg PA 17050

On Sunday, October 30th, we welcomed **Ann Boyer**, and **Megan & Aaron Riesmeyer** into our Church Family. Check out the January Epistle for “Get to Know” information on our new members.



Mia Ann Riesmeyer was born on Friday October 14th. Mia was 8 lbs 10 oz and 20 inches long. Our congratulations go out to the proud parents: Megan and Aaron Riesmeyer and big sister Elsa.

It's a Girl!

WOW - St. Paul's on the Mission Update:
 Congratulations go out to Team Captains, Brenda Kern & Sarah Myers and the entire St. Paul's on a Mission Team who raised \$9,507.52 in the 2011 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. This is \$514.52 more than they raised last year. In the 9 years since they first formed the team of St. Paul's on a Mission, they have raised a grand total of \$41,496.77!



Dear Members of St. Paul's, We would like to thank our church family for the expressions of sympathy extended to us upon the death of my mother, Mamie Alfano. During her illness she was wrapped in the love of a prayer shawl from St. Paul's. She felt blessed by the gift of the shawl and often sought its warmth. We appreciate the cards sent to her during her lengthy illness as well as the prayers, sympathy cards and altar flowers. Sincerely, Paula Boyer and Family.

To the Congregation of St. Paul's UCC, Thank you so much for all of your thoughtfulness and prayers during my grandmother's lengthy illness and following her death. It is during difficult times such as this that one realizes what it truly means to belong to a community of faith. It is a blessing to belong to such a loving and compassionate family. Thank you and God Bless! Love, Allyssa Boyer.

Dear St. Paul's Friends, Thank you so much for the beautiful altar flowers and for all your love and encouragement. Cancer is a journey and as I travel through it, the support of friends and family is what helps to keep me strong. Keep those positive thoughts and prayers coming – please!!! Love, Pat Miller.

Thank you for the beautiful fall flowers. I was so excited to realize I was getting the altar flowers. It is such a blessing to be part of a loving congregation - Shirley Keith Knox



Have you gotten your copy of St. Paul's newest cookbook? Don't miss out. **Our thanks go out to all** the wonderful cooks who contributed recipes and also to **Brenda Kern** for the many hours she spent putting it together.

Our Thanks go out to **Anna Thompson** and **Ron & Donna Chronister** for taking care of the refreshments for the Mercersburg Fall Meeting that was held at St. Paul's on Sunday November 6th. Thanks also to **all** who donated refreshments for the event.

Thanks go out to **Shirley Keith Knox, Allyssa Boyer** and **Kathy Aumiller** for coordinating the Mission: 1 effort here at St. Paul's. Thanks go out to our video and camera operators: **Linda Alburger & Craig Martek**. Thanks also to those who delivered the food to the local food banks: **Pat Eakin, Betsy & Frank Rushong** and **Tim Davinroy & Rev. John**.

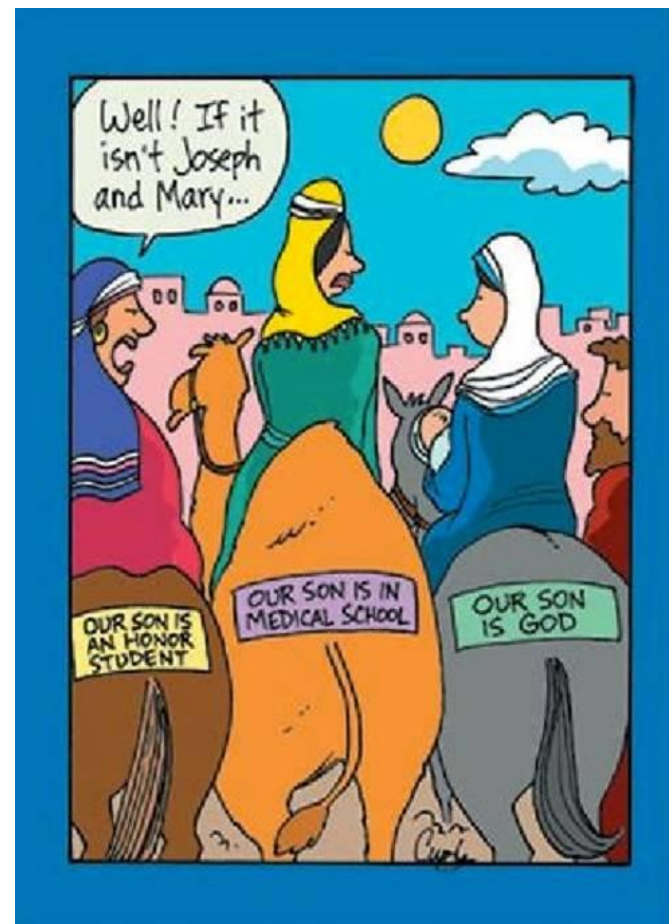
A big thank you to all who helped on Saturday November 13th...Leaf clean-up day - **Ernie Moyer, Dave Scott, Kathy & Mike Aumiller, Kathy & Art Williams, Sarah Myers, Floyd Gouse,** and **Merikay & Don Wood**. Thanks also to **Dave Scott & Art Williams** for changing the light bulbs in the Sanctuary.

Our Thanks go out to all our Worship Participants all year long; **Acolyte's, Greeters, Lectors, Ushers,** those who give the **Children's Message, the Altar Flower Deliverer's** and to the **Communion Preparers**. **Thanks go out** to those who schedule our Worship Participants each month: **Karen Allison** for Lectors, **Pam MacKinnon** for Acolytes, **Bonnie Plymette** for Greeters, **Donna Chronister** for Altar Flower deliverers, **Donna Sterner** for communion preparer's, **Allyssa Boyer** for Children's Message and all of the **Head Ushers**. **Thanks go out** to **Ron & Susan Gabriel** who prepare the Altar Flowers each week for delivery, to **Paula Boyer** for changing the paraments and to **Linda Alburger** and to **all who serve as nursery attendants**. **Thanks go out** to our many Choirs: **Chancel, Youth, Choristers** and **Hand Chimes** for the beautiful music we listen to on Sundays and to their directors: **Eric,**

Jonne & Mark Dundore and to our organists:
Sarah Myers and Patrice Miller.

As we close out the year, we also want to Thank all of the leaders and members of our committees: Bazaar; Called to Care and all of the members who give rides, make meals and assist our members in need; Christian Ed and all the Sunday School Teachers; Consistory Extended Ministries; everyone who has stepped in and filled the needs of the Parish Ministry committee; Pastor Parrish Relations; Prayer Shawl Ministry; Property; Stewardship and the Worship/Chancel committees.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the year 2011 must be in the church office by **December 30, 2011**. If you have any questions on your 2011 contributions, please see Terry in the Church Office. **Monies** received after the start of **2012** will be booked as a 2012 contribution.



Merry
Christmas

&

Happy
New
Year

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