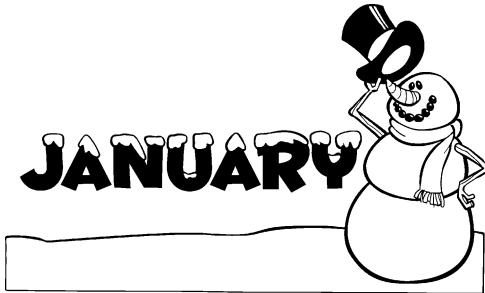


St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
626 Williams Grove Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
Phone: 717/766-7931

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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!***

January 1<sup>st</sup> – 1 service @ 10:30, no Sunday School

January 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School @ 9:15, Worship @ 10:30

Regular Sunday Worship Services returns 1/15/12 – 8:15 & 10:30 am, *Sunday School @ 9:15 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](mailto:stpaulstaff@verizon.net)  
Phone: 717/766-7931 John's email: [revjohnwd@verizon.net](mailto:revjohnwd@verizon.net)  
FAX: 717/766-7374 Allyssa's email: [allyssaboyer@verizon.net](mailto:allyssaboyer@verizon.net)  
Web Address: [www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org)

**FROM THE PASTOR**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

By the time you get to read this, we can say this without wondering what season we really are in, at least from a liturgical point of view. Up to Christmas Day, it has been the Season of Advent in which we prepare for the coming of God into the World, God With Us, Emmanuel. We are in the Season of Christmas from Christmas Day until Epiphany which falls on Thursday January 6<sup>th</sup> this year, and if you count the days, that would be the Twelve Days of Christmas.

There is a lot of creative advertising that goes on around Christmas. While some of it might make us laugh, some might make us cringe and some might actually make us think about the product being mentioned, as people of faith we should be as clear as we can about what actual season we are in and what we are encouraged to do and think about during those seasons.

The Twelve Days of Christmas are a time for celebration, a time for visiting and being with family and friends, hopefully in a more relaxing and intimate way than we are usually able to be. This is a time to reflect upon what we celebrated on Christmas Day, the birth of Jesus, God's coming into the world some two thousand years ago, and God's coming into the world again in our time. As people of faith we often find ourselves in these two time frames, considering what happened some time in the past and what is happening today, in our lives right now.

For our faith journeys to be fully alive, both individually and as a congregation, we need to consider how God is coming into our lives this year. It may be similar to the past or it may be very different. We need to pay attention to how God's Spirit is stirring our spirits, what tasks God is calling us to attend to, and to whom and with whom we are being asked to share our journey today. This is not idle reflection but rather mysterious and difficult work. Remember in the person of Jesus, God came to Mary, came into the world as a

vulnerable infant, resided first in a stable, and lived a life that was not at all expected. God did, does and will do surprising and unexpected things. We need to be open to all possibilities and believe that God can and will make use of us, as God seeks to make the world more like God has dreamed it can be.

Merry Christmas!!! Let us enjoy all the different kinds of gifts this season brings and may we all pay attention to the gift of God's Presence within us and what that means for our lives and the world.

Peace, John

**JANUARY LECTIONARY TEXTS**

**01 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Galatians 4:4-7
Psalm 148	Luke 2:22-40

**06 Epiphany**

Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12
Psalm 72:1-7,10-14	Matthew 2:1-12

**08 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Genesis 1:1-5	Acts 19:1-7
Psalm 29	Mark 1:4-11

**15 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)	1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	John 1:43-51

**22 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Jonah 3:1-5,10	1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Psalm 62:5-12	Mark 1:14-20

**29 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Psalm 111	Mark 1:21-28

In 2011 the total collected for three of the four UCC Special Mission Offerings was:

Neighbors in Need	\$ 908.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,296.00
Strengthen the Church	\$ 480.00

Thank you for your support of these offerings.

Will update you next month on The Christmas Fund after it is final.

## **Consistory Highlights – November 15th –**

**Treasurer's Report** – Income for the month of Oct was \$39,412.57. Total expenses for the month were \$28,858.01. Year-to-date Income less expenses is \$16,418.58 (Budget is negative \$2,753.) YTD regular envelope offerings are behind budget. The net proceeds from the Bazaar is \$11,560.04. This is over budget. Motion was made and approved to accept the treasurer's report.

**Bazaar Committee** – The chairs made several suggestions as to how the money could be used: Pay budgeted benevolences, replace some of the Sunday school tables, property project for the parking lot, pastor's discretionary fund, put in savings for capital project. Consistory felt it appropriate to use all of the Bazaar profits to pay the benevolences already budgeted. Motion made and approved. Payments to be made in November.

**New Business – Flex Account** – The UCC Pension Board is offering a Flexible Benefit plan for employees. Employees can elect to contribute to the plan pre-tax to be used for health care and dependent expenses. There is a one time fee of \$100.00 that is to be paid to establish the plan. If an employee does not participate in the UCC Health plan, there is an additional charge of \$12 per month per employee. The Rev. does participate in the Health Plan. Motion made and passed to establish the Flexible Benefit Plan for the Pastor; if other employees are interested, consistory will consider expanding the option to them in the future. **Sabbatical** – In 2013, per his contract, Rev. John will be taking a 3 month sabbatical in addition to his normal 1 month vacation. He will most likely take this time from May through August. This time is too long to cover in the same way vacation is normally handled. Motion made and approved to put a line item in the 2012 budget for \$10,000 to begin saving, it will be funded if possible.

**MLC Parking Regulations** – New parking regulations were defined to be shared in a letter to MLC parents. **New Curtains** – MLC would like to purchase new curtains for classrooms 3 & 4. Approval was made to allow MLC to purchase new (neutral colors, no cartoons) curtains. **Congregational Dinner** – Brenda Kern has volunteered to chair the

dinner. Motion was made and approved to charge \$6.00 for Adults and \$3.00 for children to cover the cost of the dinner. Costs should be advertised in advance. **Budget review** – A special meeting has been set for November 29<sup>th</sup> to review the proposed budget prior to handing it out. The next regular meeting of Consistory will be held on Tuesday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

***“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.”***

**ST. PAUL'S COOKBOOK "SHARING OUR BEST"** makes a great gift of others and for yourself. 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.

### **From the Stewardship Council:**

Be on the lookout for the St. Paul's Spare Change Campaign jar to return to the Commons. Many people have asked if it would come back and we just wanted to wait until after the holidays. So keep (or start) saving those pennies and bring them into church whenever you can. We raised over \$200 the last time the jar was out - all proceeds go back to the church general fund for any/all kinds of expenses.



*If Bad Weather should occur on a day of Worship, please check out: CBS 21, CW 15 or [www.cbs21.com](http://www.cbs21.com) for closing information.*



**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); **Anna Burns & Family; Bryan** (friend Sabrina Dixon); **Sandy Buhrman** (friend of Kathy Williams); **Anna Burns & Family; Michaela Bushey** (friend of Sara Weaver); **Joanne & Janine Campbell** (relative of Kevin Allison's co-worker); **Kathy & Cassidy Carlis** (friend of Jean & Willard Jones); **Ed Charles**(Rushong); **Ruth Chronister** (Ron's Mother); **Kevin Clancy** (neighbor of Chronister's); **Pat Cleland; 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); **Cleason Coulsen** (Joan Shearer); **Woody Cox** (Joy Perry's BIL); **Alice and Bill Crouse; Bill Dietz** (friend of Chronisters); **Lou Donneway** (friend of Mike and Kathy Aumiller); **Jacque & Grace Drager; 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); **Merkel Fernbaugh**(Joan Shearer); **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; Betty Grove** (Martha Keith sister); **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; Bob Henry** (Carol Sizemore); **Clay Henry**(Mike Aumiller BIL); **Phyllis Hershey; Addison Holl** (Becky.Thompson); **Mary Hunter** (Mary Louise Miller's cousin); **Sharon Hutton and the entire family of Cleason Cromer; Betty Hyde; Joe** (Dar Murphy's brother); **Joanne Ingerson** (Anna Thompson); **Bill & Tammy Ingraham and Family; Scott Jackson** (Lee Jackson nephew); **Dan Jones** (Jean and Willard's son); **Jean and Willard Jones & daughter Sue Worley; Julia** (Rick Holtzapple's daughter); **Mobeen Kahn**(Runkle); **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; Mobeen Khan**(Runkle); **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); **Zachary Lazarus** (Alburger); **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; Shelby, Tammy Mullin & Family** (Allison); **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); **Rhoads Family; Kelly & Thomas Rice** (Eichman); **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); **Rynne**(Seiler); **Samantha** (Elizabeth Miller's niece); **Sandy** (Kinzer); **John Scott; Joyce Sealover** (Connie Sutton SIL); **Peg Seiler & Family; Grace Sennett** (Linda Alburger's Grandmother); **Robin Setcavage; 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); **Bud & Donna Sponsler; Sue Stada; Jack Steltzer** (Dundore); **Tom Stone; Clyde Stroock; Alex Szeles** (friend of Jean and Willard Jones); **Tamara** (friend of Rachele 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.**

## JANUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

### GREETERS

- 1/01 10:30 Cathy & Brandon Thomas  
1/08 10:30 Belva & Leo Garman  
1/15 8:15 Betty & Tom Olsen  
10:30 Victoria & Martin Velez  
1/22 8:15 Cindy & Dick Bensel  
10:30 Karen & Kevin Allison  
1/29 8:15 & 10:30 Youth Sunday

### LECTORS

- 1/01 10:30 Dennis Plymette  
1/08 10:30 Art Williams  
1/15 8:15 Mike Gray  
10:30 Victoria Velez  
1/22 8:15 Becky Thompson  
10:30 Bill Cashman  
1/29 8:15 & 10:30 Youth Sunday

### ACOLYTES

- 1/08 10:30 Jeff Dundore  
1/15 10:30 Becca Ward-Diorio  
1/22 10:30 Lily Ward-Diorio  
1/29 8:15 & 10:30 Youth Sunday

### Head Usher: Kathy Williams

- 1/01 10:30 Art & Kathy Williams  
1/08 10:30 Consistory  
1/15 8:15 Amanda & Scott Endy  
10:30 Karen & Kevin Allison  
Lois & Dave Ritter  
1/22 8:15 Glenn & Esther Kline  
10:30 Jonathan Nase & Christal  
Pike-Nase  
Ron & Susan Gabriel  
1/29 8:15 & 10:30 Youth Sunday

### FLOWER DELIVERY

- 1/01 Terry & Gene Shaner  
1/08 Butch & Belva Garman  
1/15 Joanne Miller  
1/22 Ron & Susan Gabriel  
1/29 Patty & Dave Scott

### COMMUNION PREP (Intinction)

- 1/08 Terry & Gene Shaner



- 04 – Wednesday Evening Choir Rehearsals return  
08 - 10:30 am Chancel Choir  
15 - 10:30 am Choristers @ Children's  
Message/ Hand Chimes @ Offertory  
22 - 10:30 am Chancel Choir  
29 - 8:15 & 10:30 am Youth Choir at both services  
for Youth Sunday



- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Mary Laughery     | 17 Peggy Seiler    |
| Sarah Myers          | Tyler Snow         |
| Erika Obrock         | 19 Bonnie Plymette |
| 02 Deb Cashman       | 20 Shirley Grammer |
| Barbara Chambers     | Ryan Miller        |
| 03 Don Wood          | 22 Paula Boyer     |
| 06 Shannon Sweeney   | Patrice Miller     |
| 07 Amanda Endy       | 24 Herbert Myers   |
| Lori Obrock          | 25 Marshall Bender |
| Charles Roland       | Matthew Miller     |
| Katherine Royer      | 27 Dave Hall       |
| 08 Angela Severs     | Chelsea Till       |
| 09 Carol Rhoads      | 30 Elizabeth Baine |
| 10 Devin Flickinger  | David Bensel       |
| 11 Mike Aumiller     | Tracy Nye          |
| 12 Andrew Hall       | Rhoda Rupp         |
| 13 Zachary Severs    | 31 Mason Elliott   |
| 17 Barbara Beistline |                    |



- 15 Sandra and Richard Kline  
20 Amy and Jim Paulus  
22 Lois and Dave Ritter  
26 Joanne and Charles Miller  
28 Donna and Ron Chronister  
30 Michele Motter

## Do you have a passion for helping others?



If your answer is yes, we would like to invite you to join a group of people who are already having fun helping residents within the communities of United Church of Christ Homes (UCC Homes) who volunteer their time and talents. Each of our communities is seeking energetic and fun-loving folks to volunteer in a variety of different programs.

God has blessed each of us with our own very special gifts and talents. Whatever your gift may be, it could help the ministry of UCC Homes enrich the lives of those we serve...our residents. The hours and commitment will be of your choosing based on your availability but the value will be long-lasting.

We value our covenantal relationship with the UCC congregations within Penn Central Conference who are our partners in this faith-based ministry. We want to work together with you and reach out with God's love to those in need. We are thankful for those of you who already volunteer and support UCC Homes and hope that others prayerfully consider taking this opportunity to join them in sharing gifts of time and talent.

On behalf of the residents, staff and Board of Directors, we thank you for your consideration. For more information on volunteering, please contact one of the UCC Homes' communities listed below.

### **Volunteer Opportunities at UCC Homes**

\*\*UCC Homes invites you to take the opportunity to join our ministry to the aging by sharing your time and talents in a variety of different ways.



Lead Bible Study (short term/long term)  
Assist staff on trips and outings  
Offer specialized programs (music, art, travel, etc.)  
Transport residents to and from events on campus  
Spend one-to-one time with residents  
Serve on the Auxiliary of UCC Homes  
Serve on sub-committees of the Board of Directors

- Building & Long Range Planning
- Finance
- Bylaws
- Nominating
- Personnel
- Quality Assurance
- Public Relations and Development
- Spiritual Life

*\*\*Volunteer orientation will be provided.*

**If you would like to share your time and talents with the residents of UCC Homes, please contact one of the following communities of UCC Homes:**

**The Lebanon Valley Home (Annville) 867-4467**  
**Thornwald Home (Carlisle) 249-4118**  
**Ephrata Manor (Ephrata) 738-4940**  
**Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home (Carlisle) 245-2187**  
**Kindred Place at Annville 867-5572**  
**Kindred Place at Harrisburg 657-7900**  
**Administrative Office (Camp Hill) 303-1502**

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration!



United Church of Christ Homes  
30 N. 31st Street  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
(717) 303-1502  
[www.ucc-homes.org](http://www.ucc-homes.org)

## Help Needed! From the Food Pantry Crew –

We need a few more dedicated volunteers who are willing to go with us to Messiah Lutheran Church in Harrisburg to help pack food once a month and give to those truly needing it. This has been a long enduring ministry of St. Paul's and returns so much to us as volunteers for the short time we give. If interested, please contact Betsy Rushong at [brushong@verizon.net](mailto:brushong@verizon.net) or call 691-0124. Please note: the time required is from 11:30 to 2:30 the first Tuesday of each month. Also required is being able to navigate the church's steep stairs as there is no elevator. We also could use more drivers. We meet at the Church or a central location and then carpool together to Messiah Lutheran as there is only 1 parking space allotted for us.

**The Local Food Banks** need our help. The need for their services has increased 40 % this year. Donations of non perishable items can be dropped off in the designated area in the commons for both New Hope Ministries (shopping cart) and the Ecumenical Food Pantry (shelving unit in the corner.) Thank you for helping others in need.



**Altar Flowers**

**THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2012 ALTAR FLOWERS** is on the bulletin board in the Common area. Please neatly fill in the information as you want it printed in the Worship Bulletin or call your information into the church office. The cost to sponsor altar flowers is \$32.00. Payment should be made no later than the Sunday you are sponsoring the Altar Flowers. Please make your check out to St. Paul's UCC or place the cash in an envelope with your name and altar flowers on it and place in offering plate or drop off in the Church office. Following worship these flowers are taken by volunteers to the ill, shut-in's or to other appropriate places. In this manner, the flowers continue their silent reminder of God's love. Thank you in advance for providing flowers for the Altar of St. Paul's.

If you have hugs to spare, consider **sponsoring a child** through the Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program, a global children's ministry of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). **THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2012 CHILD SPONSORSHIPS** and the pictures of the children we currently sponsor are on the bulletin board outside of the youth room in the commons. The cost to sponsor a child in 2012 is \$30.00 child per month. Payment should be made no later than the month you are sponsoring the child. Please make your check out to St. Paul's UCC or place the cash in an envelope with your name and child sponsorship on it and place in offering plate or drop off in the Church office. The children like to receive letters. If you would like to write to the child you sponsor, ask Terry for their address. Thank you in advance for sponsoring a child who has so little.



**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 for the meeting and then come and enjoy a wonderful meal in Fellowship Hall. **We will be honoring our members with 50 or more years at this dinner.** 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.**



**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held in the Parlor on Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. The Shawls will be blessed at both services on Sunday, January 15th.

**Called to Care Team** – Plan now to attend our meeting on Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup> after the 10:30 worship service in room 11/12.

**Helpers Needed to prepare Communion –**

What does this entail? We like to pair two people up for each communion. Communion preparer's provide the bread while the wine, juice and gluten free crackers are provided. **On Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 AM, we will hold a training session for anyone interested.** Please let Terry Shaner know @ 766-7931, 697-8329 or [stpaulstaff@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulstaff@verizon.net) if you are interested in helping and if you can attend this training. If this time is not good for you, let us know and we will arrange a time to show you what's involved. We hope to get enough helpers so each person only prepares communion once or twice a year.



**The NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT 2012 will be held at Purdue University, July 10-14.** NYE is a UCC gathering held every four years, providing an opportunity for 3,000 youth to get together for four days

of worship, workshops, faith, fun and fellowship. It is for youth ages 13-18 (and their advisors and chaperones). **To learn more about cost, transportation, and other important information, or if you'd like to volunteer as a chaperone, please come to the NYE Information Meeting on Sunday, February 5 at 7:30 (immediately following Youth Group).**

**SAVE THE DATES** – 2012 Vacation Bible School will be held July 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.



On October 30th, we welcomed 3 new members here at St. Paul's. **OUR THANKS** go out to their Sponsors: Paula Boyer, Randy, Dar and Sarah Murphy

**Ann Boyer:** I'd like for you to join me in welcoming into our church community my sister-in-law, Ann Boyer. Ann is accustomed to the United Church of Christ having grown up in Trinity UCC, Hanover, Pennsylvania. After graduating from Shippensburg University, Ann relocated to a variety of states before settling in Norfolk, VA, where she lived for the past 17 years. While in Virginia Ann found a faith community within the Presbyterian Church. She has had a 25-year career in food processing quality control and is currently looking for local permanent employment.

Aunt Ann began attending our church this past summer, where she has actively participated in many church events, including this year's Pride Fest celebrations. While in Virginia, Aunt Ann discovered yoga and continues to practice it here at St. Paul's. Her other interests include long walks and watching "Jeopardy" with her family. I've known Aunt Ann for nearly 40 years and I can attest to her true character. Aunt Ann is a friendly, fun-loving, thoughtful, and most joyful person. I've been blessed to have Aunt Ann as part of my family, and I'm delighted to welcome her into our larger church family. By Paula Boyer.

**Megan & Aaron Riesmeyer, Daughters; Elsa - 4 years old & Mia born 10/14/11** - Megan grew up in Gettysburg, PA and has been a member of the United Church of Christ community since she was eight. Megan works in Carlisle as a Clinical Attorney (teacher) at Dickinson Law School. Her specialty is Family Disability Law and currently lives in Mechanicsburg. One of the many things that drew them to St Paul's was that we are an Open and Affirming Congregation.

Aaron grew up in Mars, PA (Pittsburgh portion of the state.) Megan likes to tell folks her husband is from Mars. Aaron works for the Commonwealth in the Dept of Labor & Industry for the Bureau of Disability Determination. Two things that Aaron mentions that drew him to St Paul's was that we are an Open and Affirming Congregation; and his desire to volunteer and give more time to community efforts.

Please join me in welcoming Megan, Aaron and Family to our Church – Randy Murphy.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES:

### New Member Info:

Ann Boyer  
13 Shoff Court  
Mechanicsburg PA 17055  
ann.boyer2@gmail.com

### Change of Address

Ed & Susan Thorn  
32 Cumberland Estates Dr  
Mechanicsburg PA 17050

### Change of Name and Address

Kathy Witmer to Kathy Wolford Toth  
113 Bluebell Dr  
Mechanicsburg PA 17050

### Change of Address

Frances M. Wolford  
113 Bluebell Dr  
Mechanicsburg PA 17050



**Thank you to all** who gave me bulbs & money to purchase bulbs. I have planted them around the Church property – Floyd Gouse.

**To Pastor John & Friends at U.C.C.** – Thank you very much for the flowers, well-wishes and prayers. Your kindness sustained me during my period of recovery. Jere Rutherford.

**Dear Members of St. Paul's** – I want to thank you on Tom's behalf for the beautiful altar flowers. Tom wanted to share the flowers with the other residents so everyone got to enjoy them. Thanks again and God Bless you all. Shirley Grammer.

**Dearest St. Paul's** – How can I thank you all for everything you did – especially with me on our day. Don was so special, I'll miss him forever – Thanks all and I need you now – Hugs, Peggy Seiler.

**A big THANK YOU** to all who participated in the **St. Paul's Youth Fellowship fundraiser at Hoss's Steak and Sea Restaurant** on November 8, 2011. Thanks to you, and your appetites, we were able to raise \$126 for the Youth Group! The evening was a great success, filled with good food and a lot of fun. Thank you for your loving support and commitment to our young people.

**College Care Package update:** 16 college care packages filled with Candy, Popcorn, Fresh Baked Cookies, crackers and other goodies were sent out on 12/6. **Thank you for the many donations of treats and postage money!** There were more than 10 youth who baked cookies, assembled boxes and packaged the goodies. We had a great time and most of the cookies and goodies made it into the boxes. (Some of the nice warm cookies needed to be tested for quality control purposes, of course). Thanks go out to the following Youth and Adult helpers: **Jeff Dundore, Jonne Dundore, Ben Eichman, Erin Moyer, Christian Nase, Nick Nase, Clayton Pirtle, Jim Pirtle, Jim Pirtle, Liz Royer, Kaitlin Rudisill, Kevin Rudisill, Audrey Runkle, Mary Runkle and Cassidy Westbrook.**

From the American Cancer Society Newsletter: **St. Pauls on a Mission Team** was #7 this year, raising 9,507.52, last year we were #10. Tracy Nye was #25 in individual fund raising, raising \$2,528.52. WAY TO DO TEAM!!!!

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pollyanna's Cookie Walk** was a huge success with a profit of \$676.00. The Pollyanna's want to thank all who participated in this effort by baking and buying the cookies. We will be making a donation to the Church with 50 % to be used to replace some worn Sunday School tables and the other 50% to be applied against the cost of adding additional handicapped parking spaces.





Our Sanctuary is decorated so beautifully for Christmas. Thanks go out to the **Pirtles** for donating the tree, to **Jonne & Jeff Dundore** for getting the decorations out and ready to go and to all who came in and decorated: **Linda Alburger, Cindy Bensel, Deb & Bill Cashman, Amanda & Scott Endy, Jenn Martek, Randy & Sarah Murphy, Chris Royer, Rhoda Rupp and Dave Scott.**

**Our thanks go out to all who responded so generously to the appeal for gifts for New Hope's Christmas Express** for families in need. Thanks to all of you, St. Paul's donated over 300 lbs of gifts. Our Thanks go out to Pat Eakin, Karen and Kevin Allison & Dar Murphy for delivering all the gifts to New Hope. In an email from New Hope -- This December, each New Hope center welcomed clients to our gift-giving experience called Christmas Blessings Express. More than 500 families received gifts for their families and food for Christmas dinner!

Thanks go out to all who helped and donated food for the reception following Don Seiler's Memorial Service. Again our members responded in overwhelming numbers. Thanks go out to those who assisted in the Kitchen: **Donna Chronister, Tim Davinroy, Gene & Martha Keith, Joanne Miller, Sue Mullin, Bonnie Plymette, Betsy Rushong and Dave Scott.** And thanks go out to all who donated towards the luncheon: **Karen Allison, Judy Aumiller, Melissa Cawley, Donna Chronister, Leann Davinroy, Amanda Endy, Jane Hall, Phyllis Hershey, Mary Jane Huebner, Martha Keith, Brenda Kern, Sandy Kline, Greg Knox, Jenn Martek, Joanne Miller, Mary Louise Miller, Patrice Miller, Sue Mullin, Sarah Myers, Amy Paulus, Bonnie Plymette, Mary Runkle, Rhoda Rupp, Betsy Rushong, Patty Scott, Carol Sizemore, Anna Thompson, Becky**

**Thompson, Peg Wightman and Eleanor Witt.** I apologize if I missed anyone as you can see the list is quite extensive. Thanks again, Terry Shaner.

**Thanks to all who donated Christmas gifts** for the residents of Sarah Todd and Thornwald UCC homes and to **Donna Sponsler** for delivering them to the homes.

**Our Thanks to Patty & Dave Scott, Sue Ward-Diorio, Allyssa Boyer, Jim Boyer, Jonne Dundore, Brenda Kern, Dar Murphy, Amy Paulus, Mary Runkle, Dar Murphy & the CE Committee** for the Family Advent Celebration held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday December 4th. A good time was had by all who attended as we enjoyed lunch together and then made crafts for the Advent Season.

**Thank You** to the following for coming out on Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup> for the property clean-up day - **Floyd Gouse, Pat Eakin, Bill Mullins, Dave Scott & Don Wood.** We picked up branches and did a complete cleaning of the shed on Saturday December 11th.

Thanks go out **Sue Mullin and Betsy Rushong** for making and delivering Christmas arrangements to some of our members on our prayer list. Thanks also to **Bill Mullin** who also helped with the delivery.



We are incredibly grateful to our **Guest Soloists and Instrumentalists, our expanded Chancel Choir, Sarah Myers** and to **Eric Dundore** for all the hard work and time that went into offering the challenging and beautiful piece of music "Handel's Messiah" at the Christmas Musicales on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Our Thanks go out to **Mary Runkle** for coordinating the Advent Candle lighters and to **Shawna Simpson** for coordinating the Christmas Eve Driveway Luminary Candles. Thanks also to all their volunteers who assisted in both of these areas this Advent Season.



**A BIG THANK YOU** goes out to all of you who helped to make the **Sunday School Christmas Program** that was held on **Sunday December 18th** a success!

From the **C.E. Committee** for planning this event...**the Simpson family's** gathering of the materials for the luminaries to **Dave Scott** who offered technical assistance (raising basketball hoops and lowering projector screens)...**Sue Ward-Diorio, Amy Paulus, and Becky Thompson** who came prepared for making cards, to **Erin Moyer and Audrey Runkle** for reading stories, to **Jonne Dundore** for leading the kids in song ("Friendly Beasts" was a hoot!)...to **Amy Paulus, Becky Thompson, and Shawna Simpson** for providing snacks, drinks, and paper products...to **Jim Boyer, Dave Simpson, Dar Murphy, Sue W-D** and everyone else who helped with the luminaria project (especially when holes were discovered in the corners of the bags)...to **Randy Murphy** for providing us with extra sand and assistance wherever it was needed...and to the **Paulus family** for bringing real Christmas magic to both the kids and adults in the forms of a much-petted goat and donkey. Thank you to all of the **Sunday School teachers**: your dedication to your students and your service to our congregation in the name of Christ is so much appreciated that there are no words for it. You are a blessing. And finally (last but not most certainly not least) thank you to all of the **parents who bring their children to Sunday School** and actively encourage and support their involvement in St. Paul's. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to a great 2012 Sunday School year! - Allyssa Boyer.



And **Thank You to Allyssa Boyer** for leading the Sunday School Program!