

FRIENDLY NEWSCASTER

NOVEMBER 2011
Volume 1, Issue 11

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"I will thank you Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done.

I will be filled with joy because of you, I will sing praises to your name, O Most High." - Psalm 9:1-2 NLT

Dear Friends,

It seems to me these autumn days are flying by. I believe now is the time to step back, to pause for a moment, to take a deep breath and to look at the bigger picture of events that have happened and are happening among us.

Firstly, we give a hearty welcome to Matthias Ratz, Vicar of the UEK Church of Germany. Matthias arrived on October 3, and he is residing with Reverend Austin and Diane Chinault. We have been blessed in many ways by the brief time he has been among us. A Fall Social event the evening of November 6 will be a great time to meet and speak more informally with Matthias.

He is relating to the Trinity/Cashtown and St. John's/McKnightstown congregations of the United Church of Christ as well as to our own; Matthias also is making many new friends at Homewood Home, Hanover, where Austin is part-time Chaplain. We are glad that Matthias will be participating with our Agape Band the First Sunday of the month, and we look forward to his preaching the sermon on Sunday, November 20. What fresh, wonderful ways God is providing for us, helping us see what is happening in the church's life on the European continent.

Secondly, we are planning right now for the "Mission 1" emphasis being shared across the entire United Church of Christ. November 1, 2011 through November 11, 2011 we are making a concerted effort to alleviate hunger and distress experienced by so much of our nation's and the world's populations. Mission 1 invites us to contribute generously to the Shopping Cart ministry of our congregation, especially in that eleven day period of time. Also, if you are a person who enjoys writing, you may consider writing your Congressmen or Senators to lift up the need for U.S. foreign assistance that more effectively benefits poor and hungry people worldwide. God gives us multiple ways to respond to the needs of the neighbors in our community and our world. Show everyone you have the desire to make a difference.

Finally, take that deep breath and quietly count it as the beginning of your grand Thanksgiving celebration for this year. God's hands are always open to us. We find our lives positioned securely, confidently, within those hands and those arms of a care-full, loving, most generous God. This is our deepest reason for giving thanks. It is the reason why we join our voices to the psalmist's voice when she sings, "I will thank you Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done.

I and Jean pray for you a blessed Thanksgiving Holiday.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Dennis



NOVEMBER SPECIAL DAYS:



Birthdays

1 Lexi Hoffman
3 Deborah Henry
3 Steven Harman
7 Larry Thoman
10 Russell Foye*
11 Leon Douglas Jr
12 Thomas Loesch
14 Nancy Miller
15 Art Welliver
15 Doris Harrold
19 Steve Kern
22 Lindsay Beck
24 Robert Brenneman
24 Deb Hoke
25 Jason Gruver
28 Millard Myers
29 Rylan Borys

*Help Russell celebrate his birthday
Russell Foye
1030 Forrest Rd
York Pa 17408

November Offerings:

Sunday School: Salvation Army
Worship: Hoffman Homes for Youth

Baptismal Birthdays

3 Arlene Chinault
16 Jayne Harman
30 Joy Gobrecht
12 Sally Kern

Wedding Anniversaries

1 Stephen & Karen Brooks
4 Larry & Janice Thoman Jr.
18 Matt & Joy Gobrecht
21 William & Melissa Welsby
25 Sterling & Mary Sauble
25 Travis & Jessica Hoffman



Please remember the following in your prayers:

Members

Bob & Deb Henry
John Slenker
Blaine & Sharon Smith

Members & Friends in assisted living and nursing homes

Janet Booz
Gerry Gentzler
Grace Gladfelter
Mildred Gobrecht
John and Rachel Lau
Anna Smith
Jeannie Wallick
June Whitecomb

Members of the military and their families

Eric Brown
Chris Glass (Husband of Sarah Glass)
Matthew Mitzel
Brian Miller
Jake Pate (civilian)
David Stricker Jr.
Benjamin White

Friends

Jo Feeser
Noah Wischhusen
Catharine Dubarow
Janet Zeigler
Kristen Shank

Please contact the church office (stpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net , 225-6357) or Nancy at 225-4443 to make corrections or additions to the newsletter contents.

Grocery cards may be purchased following worship each week. This program is an easy way for us to increase funds for our budgetary needs. See Maryann Brenneman or Joyce Kain if you have questions about how to get started.

Remember to help fill our **Food Pantry** cart. In addition to food items, paper and cleaning products are also accepted.

Nurse Notes – be sure to review the Nurse Notes pages that accompany the newsletter mailing. Suggestions for holiday greetings, benefits of hot tea/coffee, low-fat pumpkin pie, and left-over turkey are there.

Choir rehearsals (Thursday evenings):

- + **Sonshine Singers** (for ages 3 to 3rd grade) 6:30 – 7:00
- + **Yahweh Singers** (4th grade on up) 7:00
- + **Shalom Choir** (High School on up) 7:30
- + **The Agape group** rehearse on the Thursday evening prior to the first Sunday each month– the band practices at 6:30 and the singers at 7:00

Contact Joy Gobrecht (225-0540) for more information.

Nancy's church **office hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Bulletin information must be in on Wednesday as they are printed on Thursday.

What gifts can you share?

The committees of our church are an important part of our church's mission as each make decisions and follow through with actions about how our church serves God, its members, and a much larger community. Serving on a committee is one way to share your time and ideas for the good of our congregation, and it's also a chance to learn about the workings of this and the wider church. The following committees are in need of members willing to serve a 2-year term: Worship, Outreach and Fellowship, Stewardship, and Christian Education. We will also need to elect individuals to Consistory and appoint members to Pastor-Parish Relations for 3-year terms. Additionally, our congregation is part of the York Association and Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ. We send representatives to meetings of these groups – both adult and youth. If you are interested in sharing your gifts in any of these ways, please talk to Matt Gobrecht.

Upcoming/Continuing Needs...

Thanksgiving Baskets--The West York Church of the Brethren will be preparing Thanksgiving baskets for those in need once again this year. If you could, please place any of the following items in the church grocery cart (turkeys can be placed in the kitchen freezer) by **October 31**: Frozen Turkeys, Canned Turkey gravy, Canned Fruit Cocktail, Canned Cranberry Sauce --Joyce Kain (225-9177) is coordinating this effort and would accept names of those who might be in need of a Thanksgiving basket.

“Sunshine Box”--There will be a ‘Sunshine Box’ for Liz Chubb in the narthex until **November 6** for collecting items to brighten her days as she recovers from a frozen shoulder and the therapy she has been receiving 5 days a week. Liz enjoys word searches, books about Amish and Nascar, and books by Danielle Steele. Feel free to drop Liz a card at 2827 Olde Field Dr., York Pa 17408

Winter is coming! To keep ahead of the cold the Stewardship Committee is organizing a **sock and mitten tree** during the month of November. Gifts of socks, gloves, scarves, mittens, ear muffs, and caps will cover our Christmas tree in the narthex. Gifts will be given to York area agencies that help persons who may be struggling to stay warm. Please think about this project as you do your own holiday shopping!



Tupperware anyone? The Outreach and Fellowship Committee will be coordinating a Faith Challenge fund-raiser by having Tupperware brochures available from mid-October through mid-November. Christmas is just around the corner and the containers and gadgets may be just the things to make cooking, baking, and storing much better. Many other items for general home use are available for purchase.

Mission 1: November 1 through 11 are 11 days of emphasis in the United Church of Christ.

We are asking everyone to bring canned goods, cleaning products, or paper products to fill the grocery cart to overflowing on November 6!

--Stewardship Committee

The **4 Our Church** fund is growing! In the three years we've participated in this campaign, members have contributed over \$16,000. Combined with special gifts matching funds of nearly \$14,000, we are nearing \$30,000. For the year 2011, \$6,000 has been designated for matching gifts. As of September 30, 2011, we have received \$4,040.41 in this calendar year which leaves \$1959.59 still available for matching gifts. Contributions can be made using the green thermometer envelopes available in the pew racks. Then check out the thermometer in the church narthex and watch it rise!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION / SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

SKY GROUP NEWS—Check out the web site page devoted to Christian Education information (http://stpaulsstoverstown.org/MAIN_PAGES/christian_ed.htm) for upcoming events.

The Youth group will be holding a Progressive Dinner again this year on **Saturday, December 3**. Please plan to attend and support them in this fundraiser. If you would like to host one of the courses (appetizer, salad, main course, dessert) please let one of the youth, Michele Wherley, or Joy Gobrecht know.



The last of the workcamp fundraisers was a Rutter's Coupon sale. About 50 coupons are still available. For \$4 you get a coupon for a free small fountain drink and a sub or sausage or hotdog. They would make great stocking stuffers! See a youth group member or Joy Gobrecht to make a purchase



The Christian Education committee is excited to welcome everyone to join a Sunday School class! This fall the classes for children and youth, and adult class led by Chip Hoover will all be using a **brand new curriculum**. This curriculum is based on the weekly scriptures shared during the worship service and the teachers are excited to try it with their students!

Sunday School Classes will be divided for PreKindergarten and Kindergarten, students grades 1-4 and youth (fifth grade on up). In addition to the Willing Workers class, there will be an adult discussion class. The First Place for Health class (see information below) will continue. Please consider making Sunday School part of your faith journey.

Children's Worship will continue during the 10:15 am Worship Services as well. This year, we will be splitting our children into two different age groups - children age 4 through Kindergarten and children in grades 1 -4. Dates are listed on the calendar.

The **First Place For Health Class** is meeting during the Sunday School hour and are exploring materials to use for our weekly discussion focusing on total body wholeness – heart, soul, body and mind. In addition to meeting on Sunday morning, several members gather to walk one night a week and also to do aerobic exercise one night a week. If you are interested in learning more about this class or the exercise time, please talk to Jean Weidler or Sally Kern or join us on Sunday mornings.

2011 Congregational Survey

The Parish/Pastor Relations Committee (PPRC) would like to thank everyone who took the time to submit a congregational survey earlier this year. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and is of immense importance to our Church Leaders.

More members participated in this year's survey than the previous two surveys:

2011 Survey: 33 responses

2005 Survey: 29 responses

2002 Survey: 21 responses

The survey results have been shared with Consistory, the Committee Chairs, and the Pastor, in order that they can be used to better provide for the spiritual needs of our church community.

The PPRC intends to perform a similar congregational survey every 3 years to capture the state of our members and provide feedback to our Church Leaders and Pastor.

We also extend a special thanks to Jim Kain for his time in compiling and presenting the results in a well organized, easily readable, format.

Thanks again for your time and please feel free to contact any member of the PPRC regarding any issues that you feel are important. Please do not think that you have to wait for the next survey to voice your concerns.

Sincerely,

The Parish/Pastor Relations Committee

Members: G. Thoman, D. Henry, J. Senft, J. Brenneman, M. Bollinger, M. Sterrett

This year the Outreach and Fellowship Committee is coordinating a **Christmas outreach** through the Southern Community Services. We have been given a mother and two boys ages 4 and 6. They are asking that we dress the children from inside to out. The wish list for each child will be on a small tree in the narthex starting November 6th.

All gifts should be at the church by **Sunday December 11th**. You may provide wrapping paper and ribbon if you wish. Grocery cards to Giant and gas cards are greatly appreciated. If you want to contribute to utilities you can make your check payable to Southern Community Services. If you have any questions see Maryann.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS / LAY HELPERS

November 6 is our “bring a guest Sunday”. Please encourage a friend, neighbor, or relative to come to our Fall Covered Dish Social which will begin at 5 p.m. Drinks are provided, games coordinated by the SKY Group, and our German exchange minister, Matthias Ratz will be present. Outreach and Fellowship Committee

Our Lay Life is sponsoring a **Bible study** series titled, “Real Women, Real Faith”, life-changing stories from the Bible for women today. The short DVD will be followed by a time of discussion. Everyone is welcome to attend as you are able the second Monday of each month.

Santa’s List for residents of Homewood at Plum Creek. Please consider providing a \$5.00 (approximate) give as part of the Santa’s List. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. **November 6** is the deadline. See Darlene Hoover for more information.

Sunday November 13th is our **Stewardship Sunday**. Following worship the proposed budget for 2012 will be presented and discussed. Light refreshments will be provided. All members are encouraged to attend.

The **Thanksgiving Eve Service** will be held on Wednesday, **November 23** at St. Paul's Lutheran, Stoverstown at 7:30. Pastor Dennis will be preaching and the Shalom choir will be singing an anthem along with the Lutheran choir. Choir members should meet in the sanctuary at 6:45 for rehearsal prior to worship.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC --The Shalom Choir invites you to join them in singing on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day. Three anthems have been chosen and the first rehearsal is set for **November 17** at 7:30. The remaining rehearsals will be on Thursdays in December. While the St. Paul's Players will not be playing together this Christmas, we are seeking special music for prelude times on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Nov	Acolytes	Greeters	Lay Readers	Nursery
6	Ashlyn Fritz	Gary & Sue Miller	Darlene Hoover	Maryann Brenneman
13	Braden Gobrecht	Jackie & Mike Senft	Darcey Hull	Shannon Kern
20	Ryan Bankert	Travis Hoffman Family	Eric Kern	Kathy Sterrett
27	Ashlyn Fritz	Skip & Connie Clancy	Jen Miller	Diane Klinedinst



York Association Road Rally Scavenger Hunt

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ and the Parish Life Team of the York Association invite **ALL** York Association churches to participate in a Road Rally Scavenger Hunt on **Saturday, November 12th** from 8:30 AM-1PM.

Churches are invited to register teams (car loads) of people for a little friendly competition! There is a question to be answered about each of the 29 churches in the York Association. Each car will have one goal: to answer the most questions or get the most amount of points, by visiting the York Association churches to get their answers! Each church can register as many cars as they would like! The Car that wins receives a trophy and the Church that the winning car is from will receive a donation in their name towards the York Association's 18th Trust Bank for Opportunity International. Here's the schedule of the day...

8:30-9:30 –Registration (parking lot of Mt. Zion UCC, York)

9:30-10:00 – The Rules of the Road (get your packet, hear the rules of competition)

10:00 AM-12:00 PM – Let the Games Begin! (Safety start gathering your answers and points!)

12:00-1:00 PM – Lunch, Fellowship, and the Crowning of the Road Rally Champ!

When Grief Colors The Holidays – How to Manage the Absence of a Loved One During Festive Season

A free program offered by The Pastoral Care Department of WellSpan Health presented by Rev. Dr. Ted L. Trout-Landen

Monday, **November 28**, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. @ Human Resource Multi-Purpose Room 148 Suite 101

@ Edgar Square 1101 S. Edgar St., York

Please call: 812-3039 for reservations