

FRIENDLY NEWSCASTER

SEPTEMBER 2011
Volume 1, Issue 9

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Dear Friends,

My sabbatical time and the three vacation weeks surrounding it have flown by. In reality it was just a large portion of one summertime season. A person from the congregation remarked, "Now you know how us teachers feel!"

I was glad to have opportunities to travel and visit some friends and family members whom we would not see regularly. We traveled into New England and across upper New York State at the absolute height of the July heat wave; Wow! A little later we went south to Raleigh, North Carolina, and the climate was a little nicer than those other years in which we have traveled there.

I completed some study and preparation of the Old Testament stories from King David's life. I'll be glad to share them in some worship services over the next nine or ten months. I believe I wrote to you earlier about the intimate, detailed accounts of David's kingly life and David's family life which come to us from the books of First and Second Samuel. It is almost as if a diary is being written of those events, or as if a biographer is following the king and writing closely about the events in the king's household. When those events happened they were passed from one generation to another through the medium of story telling. It was my privilege to study more deeply in that art of story telling and to prepare messages that can connect our lives more closely with those Old Testament lives.

It is a delight to be called as pastor to a congregation who recognizes the importance of sabbatical days and who intentionally builds those opportunities into the covenant which is the foundation of our life together.

I am happy to be among you again.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Dennis



SEPTEMBER SPECIAL DAYS:

Birthdays

2 Sara Hartman
4 Caitlin Hoffman
7 Stacey Gingerich
7 Sterling Sauble*
8 Wesley Brooks
8 Kira Hull
10 Isaac Young
12 Michael Fake
12 Connie Clancy
12 Michael Senft
13 Larry Riddle
14 Drue Allison
18 Juanita Miller
21 Thatcher Stough
27 Joshua Brenneman
28 Kayce Gentzler

***over eighty**

Please help Sterling
celebrate his birthday:
Sterling Sauble
2030 Noss Rd
York Pa 17408

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Baptismal Birthdays

1 Braden Gobrecht
14 Leroy Slenker
14 Michelle Bankert
15 Steve Miller
19 Fay Herman
24 Maryann Brenneman
29 Tim Bankert
30 Haley Syester
30 Wesley Brooks



Wedding Anniversaries

9 Charlton & Stacey
Gingrich
13 Kelly & Jennifer Fritz
16 Tim & Michelle
Bankert
17 Steve & Jayne Harman
28 Donald & Mabelle Horick

Please remember the
following in your prayers:

Members

Bob & Deb Henry
John Slenker
Families in crisis

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
Jake Pate (civilian)
David Stricker Jr.
Benjamin White

Friends

Jo Feeser
Noah Wischhusen
Catharine Dubarow
Dave Glassmoyer

September Offerings:

Sunday School: Bell Socialization
Worship: September 18- Harvest Home-York Rescue Mission

Last night I watched the movie Marley and Me – the story of an incorrigible yellow Labrador retriever, who defied all attempts to become a civilized member of his family. The only thing harder than trying to train Marley, is training a beagle! As the story progresses, we see that what has been said about pets is true – they love you unconditionally! You may have had a lousy day, but your pet doesn't hold that against you. You may have had to scold them, but they forgive in a matter of minutes. When you emotionally invest yourself into relationships with them, their passing is felt as deeply as if they had been two-, rather than four-legged, companions. So, this month's column is dedicated to Marley, and all pets who love unconditionally.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the website, MayoClinic.com, pets offer numerous health benefits.

1. "Scientists have found that people who owned dogs were more likely to be alive, one year after suffering a heart attack than were people who didn't own dogs.
2. In comparisons of the heart rate and blood pressure of people without pets versus those of pet owners, people with pets had lower heart rates and blood pressure levels. An added benefit was that people with pets also had less increase in their heart rate and blood pressure when put under stress. Their blood pressure also dropped faster after a stressful event.
3. Studies of older adults have found that those who shared their lives with pets were less likely to experience depression, were better able to tolerate living alone, and were more active than their counterparts who didn't have pets."

Pets can increase your opportunities for exercise and outdoor activities, and your opportunities for socialization.

I'd like to share the following observations someone once made about life lessons from a dog ...

- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a ride with someone you love.
- On hot days, drink lots of water.
- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- Run, romp, and play daily.
- Allow the experience of fresh air and wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.
- If someone scolds you, forgive quickly.
- If something you want is buried, dig until you find it.
- Never pretend to be something you're not.
- Be loyal.

Will there be pets in heaven? I think so, and to them I believe God will also say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Well done!"

If you have recently lost a beloved pet, and are having some difficulty adjusting, here are a few books that may be helpful:

[Pet Loss: A Thoughtful Guide for Adults and Children](#) by A. Fischer & A.H. Nieburg.

[Joy in a Woolly Coat: Living with, Loving and Letting Go of Tressed Animal Friends](#) by J.A. Church. Good books for children, [The Tenth Good thing About Barney](#) by Judith Viorst, and [Mr. Roger's First Experience: When a Pet Dies](#) by Fred Rogers.

Debbie Best, RN, BSW, MHA

We return to regular schedule Sept. 4
Sunday School hour begins at 9:00 Worship begins at 10:15

Check this out

Summer Highs: Our first Sunday for the fall will be featuring the “Summer Highs” of our congregation. Everyone is invited/encouraged to share pictures and stories from their adventures over the past year. You’ll be sure to see some pictures from the Group Workcamp to Youngstown, vacations to Disney, as well as other special happenings. Be sure to have yours included by e-mailing items to Chip by Aug. 31st at chip08@aol.com. The more the merrier!!!

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Georgetown University
Washington, DC 20057-5365

Choir rehearsals will begin this month. The four groups meet on **Thursdays**. The Sonshine Singers (for ages 3 to 3rd grade) practice from 6:30 – 7:00 in the choir room downstairs and sing in worship a few times a year. The Yahweh Singers is the youth choir for 4th grade on up. They will practice at 7:00 and help sing with the Agape group. The Shalom Choir rehearses at 7:30 in the sanctuary. The Agape group leads music on the first Sunday of each month. They rehearse on the Thursday evening prior to the first Sunday – the band practices at 6:30 and the singers at 7:00. If you have questions or are interested in singing in any of these groups, or would like to play in the Agape band, or would consider helping with technology (preparing and/or projecting words and images) for the 1st Sunday of the month, please see Joy Gobrecht (225-0540)

Bible Study Coming!

The Bible Jesus Read (An exploration of our Old Testament) by Philip Yancy will be our Bible Study for Wednesday evenings this fall. When Jesus meditated on God’s word he used the Psalms, the Prophets and the Books of Moses; it’s where Jesus relationship with God was formed and nurtured. It is great for us to have several weeks in which we may become more comfortable in reading and interpreting these Old Testament scriptures.

We will meet each Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., beginning September 28, in the Narthex of the church. Include your name on the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex, no later than Sunday, September 18, so that we may order the appropriate number of study guides.

More Upcoming/Continuing Events...

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.

York Habitat For Humanity Blitz Building on Faith – Red Lion- Sept. 13 – Sept. 17

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

Looking Ahead: **Hartman Center Fall Festival** will be held October 15.

Harvest Home will be Sunday, September 18 will be our annual Harvest Home service. This year our gifts of food and money will go to support the York Rescue Mission. Please use the special offering envelope which is included in your numbered envelope set or you may use one of our special offering envelopes and mark it for Harvest Home. You may bring fresh or canned and non-perishable food items to the church in the week ahead OR you may bring them along to worship on Sunday morning. Thank you!

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.

St. Paul's receives requests for assistance when families incur hardships. These requests may be received when individuals have become unemployed, when fire or other disasters have destroyed homes or when illness has made it impossible to continue working on a regular basis. The Consistory has approved establishing an **Emergency Assistance Fund**. This fund is not part of our annual budget, but members can make donations through offering envelopes at anytime by just making a notation of the amount and designating it to the Emergency Assistance Fund or by using the envelopes designated for Special Offerings in the pew racks. The Officers of Consistory will be preparing guidelines for use of funds in the account and will evaluate requests to determine the level of assistance. A form will be available for members of the congregation to make confidential requests. Funds will not be given directly to individuals, but checks will be written and made payable to utilities, social services or other such organizations. Gift cards to grocery stores will be another option for helping when appropriate. You may, at anytime, contribute to the fund through offering envelopes. If you have any questions regarding this fund, please speak with a Consistory member.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION / SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

SKY GROUP NEWS--Youth - Come hungry and full of ideas as we plan for a new year of SKY group. Let's meet (and EAT) at 6:00 on Sunday, September 11.

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!

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 with Chip, there will be an adult discussion class. The First Place for Health class (see information below) will continue, led by Sally Kern and Jean Weidler. Even if you did not participate in this program last year, they are welcoming new members. See Sally or Jean for more information.

We will share in our annual celebration of "**Summer Highs**" on Sunday, September 4 at 9 am in the sanctuary. Be sure to email pictures of your summer adventures to Chip at chip08@aol.com to be included. It would be great to have every family represented and share in the fun! Regular Sunday School classes will begin on September 11 at 9 am.

Children's Worship will resume in September 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.

Please see any member of the Christian Education Committee if you have any questions about our Sunday School or Children's Worship program: Pastor Dennis, Tim Bankert, Darlene Hoover, Shannon Kern, Jen Miller, Nancy Miller, Terry Miller.

The **First Place For Health Class** will meet again this fall during the Sunday School hour. We are exploring materials to use for our weekly discussion which will focus 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 morning September 11.

LAY LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

During the month of September the **Council for Lay Life and Work** will be selling Greeting Cards and Christmas Cards. This helps to support our birthday card outreach to Homewood residents. There will be catalogues on the table in the narthex.

The Kitchen Committee will be preparing a meal for **Our Daily Bread** on Wednesday, September 28th. Please note change in date. We will be making turkey pot pie and are **asking for sheet cakes for dessert. All donations will be appreciated.**

Beginning Monday October 10 at 7:00 PM Lay Life will be 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. The first lesson is "Eve, Finding Lasting Contentment in the Truth". Everyone is welcome to attend as you are able the second Monday of each month.

Calling all cooks and bakers! We are in need of cookies and snacks for Saturday, September 17th as the Council for Lay Life and Work is participating in a fund raiser through St. Paul's (Dubs) Annual Craft and Flea Market. Sales begins at 9:00AM. We hope to sell many St. Paul's cookbooks along with cookies and snacks! Suggested items are small plates of fudge, cookies, whoopee pies, Rice Krispee treats and brownies. We appreciate items coming already packaged! Craft items would also be appreciated. Donations can be brought to the church Friday afternoon and evening. Proceeds will benefit the Faith Challenge.



Sept	Acolytes	Greeters	Lay Readers
4	Brandon Wherley	Bob & Maryann Brenneman	Sara Bare
11	Jena Hull	Wherley Family	Lindsay Beck
18	Skylar Chinault	Steve & Sally Kern	Cathy Bollinger
25	Lexi Hoffman	Bob & Deb Henry	Connie Clancy