

FRIENDLY NEWSCASTER

January 2012
Volume 2, Issue 1

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“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of David his father, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his reign there will be no end.” -Luke 1:32-33

Dear Friends,

The above words are the magnificent promise the angel Gabriel shares with Mary as he announces the child whom she will bear. God is giving the world a most beautiful and powerful gift. The gift of Jesus is an everlasting influence upon our lives and upon the world in which we live. Our devotion, our desires, the best of the possibilities that might come forth from our lives are all being channeled toward this one act of God's grace in Jesus Christ.

I have been thinking back over the past several months of our life together; I have been considering the great and powerful ways God has been moving among us. Over our summer months God gave us a precious gift, Reverend Pat Mullen, who gladly accepted our invitation to lead us as a sabbatical-time pastor. Pat led us in graceful, confident ways during the time I was on sabbatical, and she has been called forward in some new and exciting ways by our Penn Central Conference and York Association since that time. God raises up fresh, exciting leadership to meet the needs of everyday in the church.

In mid-summer a strong contingent of participants departed Spring Grove to work at Youngstown, Ohio, with a Group Workcamp Project. I have heard positive and deep-running accounts of the memorable experiences and the spiritual growth which took place in our young people and their adult mentors. God is making new life possible in our midst.

In the middle of autumn, just past, several of our young people began to seriously consider their traveling to and participating in the National Youth Event of the United Church of Christ, July of 2012. Fresh, new, surprising understandings about our lives and our faith journeys are open to persons who experience such an event. God is guiding us toward these times of deeper devotions and stronger commitments in the life of faith.

God moved mightily again during our Advent and Christmas worship and fellowship time. A number of leaders of our congregation shared a powerful Christmas Carol sing at the home of John Slenker, who shortly afterward was received into the arms of the heavenly Father. Our Christmas weekend services were shared by many guests who were with us. God's Word in Jesus was moving deeply and brightening our hearts. And...after sharing in the Sunday School Christmas program who will ever look upon Starshine, Donkeys, Angels, Paper-bag Puppets or Movie Making the same way as before?!!

God's overarching plan is to bring forth new possibilities for this earth and for all persons on it. God calls forward the best of our devotion, dreams, hopes and talents to make it happen in partnership with God. The gift of Jesus is given to us with all this in mind.

Thanks Be To God For All God's Inexpressible Gifts,

Pastor Dennis



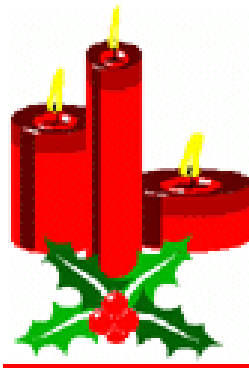
JANUARY SPECIAL DAYS:

Birthdays

1 Whitney Stover
3 Grace Lauer
7 Dan Fake
10 Judy Klinedinst
12 Rick Beck
15 Sara Bare
19 Jacquie Young
20 Kathryn Young
20 Patrice Joseph
24 Cathy Bollinger
26 Jordana Hartman
27 Robert Hilker
27 Darcey Hull
30 Cole Sterrett

Baptismal Birthdays

11 Grant Kern
16 Lindsay Beck
21 Grace Lauer
22 Jane Bankert
24 Kim Henry
24 Brook Senft
25 Kira Hull
26 Robert Dubbs Jr
27 Drue Allison
28 Robert Breneman



Wedding Anniversaries

14 John & Kecia Lau Jr
20 Gerald & Lois Gentzler
31 Austin & Arlene Chinault

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Members

Arlene Chinault
Bob & Deb Henry
Mabelle Horick
Blaine & Sharon Smith
Sterling Sauble

Members & Friends in assisted living and nursing homes

Janet Booz
Gerry Gentzler
Grace Gladfelter
John and Rachel Lau
Lester Miller
Jeannie Wallick
June Whitecomb

Members of the military and their families

Eric Brown
Chris Glass (Husband of Sarah Glass)
Matthew Mitzel
David Stricker Jr.
Benjamin White

Friends

Jo Feeser
Noah Wischhusen
Jackson Salemme



Leroy "John" Slenker, Sr. entered the church triumphant, 19 December 2011. The prayers and the sympathy of this community go out to the members of John's family and loved ones.

"For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands which is eternal in the heavens."

-2 Corinthians 5:1, paraphrase

January Offerings:

Sunday School: Rescue Mission
Worship: Our Daily Bread

Grocery cards may be purchased following worship each week. Giant, Weis and Kennies cards are available in amounts varying from \$10.00 to \$100.00. Remember the church receives 5% on every card toward our Faith Challenge. See Maryann Brenneman or Joyce Kain if you have questions about how to get started.

Remember to continue 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. “Power of silence” is evident throughout the page. As you read you’ll find the imagery of the flour sifter.

St. Paul's cookbook, "Pleasures from the Good Earth" is still available for the sale price of \$10 per copy. All money goes to our Faith Challenge.

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.

ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS:

At the Annual Congregational Meeting held on December 11, 2011, the following persons were elected to offices at St. Paul's United Church of Christ:

Elder – Michele Wherley

Deacon – Steve Miller

Deacon – John Brenneman

Representative to the **Planned Giving Committee** – Steve Miller

The following delegates were also elected at the annual Congregational Meeting:

Delegates to the **York Association** – Maryann Brenneman and Jean Weidler

Penn Central Conference Delegates – Michele Wherley and Brandon Wherley

At the same meeting, the **2012 Budget** was approved. 90% of the votes cast were “yes” to approve the budget, 6% were “no”, and 4% were abstentions.

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 Christian Education committee is excited to welcome everyone to join a Sunday School class! This curriculum is based on the weekly scriptures shared during the worship service. **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 in new year.

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.

A new **Family Education Series** is coming to Dallastown Nursing Center. Every 3rd Wednesday evening in 2012, February through October, we will offer a FREE education series. The public is invited to attend. Presentations will begin at 7 pm, and last about an hour. Contact Ann Lucille Kollasweh, Community Liaison for more information. Reach her at 717-244-9574 or by email to: annlucille@dallastownnursingcenter.com

The Christmas program **Nativity: Lights! Camera! Action!**, that was held on Sunday, December 11 was quite a fun evening. Thank you to all who contributed to the evening! Pictures of the evening can be found here: <http://bit.ly/uWQWE4> (You might have to copy and paste the link information.)

Contact Information for **Matthias Ratz**: email to matz.ratz@gmx.de or call (717) 881 5900.

St Paul's Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=110355308305&v=wall>

ANNOUNCEMENTS / LAY HELPERS

The **Winter Banquet** hosted by the Council for Lay Life and Work will be held on Saturday, January 21st. We will gather for music by Jim Kain at 5:15 pm and eat at 5:30 pm. Our theme is "Together in Love." The menu includes fruit cup, roast turkey with filling, baked lasagna, fresh vegetable medley, candied sweet potatoes and pie. Cost is \$11.50 for adults, \$5.75 for children 6-11 and five and under free. Matthias Ratz will present a program on Germany. Deadline is January 8th.

Annual York Association Leadership Banquet 2012 will be February 12, 2012 at The Valencia Ballroom, York. Doors will open at 12:30 pm Approximate ending time is 3:15 pm, The cost is \$14 per person. The menu choices consist of sautéed boneless chicken breast with julienne vegetables or pork loin or garden fusilli paste (vegetarian). Dessert is Chocolate mousse pie and apple crisp. Rev. Dr. Laurene Bowers – Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Life and Vitality will be the keynote speaker. See Sally Kern to register for this special event by Sunday, February 5, 2012.

We will be attending the **Hershey Bears** Hockey Game on Saturday, February, 25, 2012. Cost is \$15.50 per ticket. Money is due by January 15th.

The **4 Our Church** fund continues to approach the goal of \$40,000. As of December 25th, 2011, we have received \$6,175.41 in this calendar year. For 2011, \$6,000 has also been designated for matching gifts from Special Gifts. In the three years, beginning in 2009, we've participated in this campaign to support Hartman Center, along with other wider church initiatives, and have contributed over \$34,000. Contributions can be made at any time using the green thermometer envelopes available in the pew racks



Jan	Acolytes	Greeters	Lay Readers	Nursery
1	Ryan Bankert	The Gobrecht's	Joyce Kain	Matt Gobrecht
8	Caitlin Hoffman	Nevin Gentzler Family	Matthias Ratz	Jen Fritz
15	Jena Hull	Jane & Bill Bankert	Darcey Hull	Shannon Kern
22	Cole Sterrett	The Hoffman's	Matthias Ratz	Kayla Bankert
29	Lexi Hoffman	Roxanne & Leon Douglas	Joy Gobrecht	Maryann Brenneman