



THE PRESS...BYTERIAN

A Publication of the Presbyterian Congregation
Union and Water Streets
Middletown, PA 17057

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Church School and
Adult Forum-
Sundays at 9:15 A.M.

Worship Service-
Sundays at 10:30 A.M.

Rev. Donald E. Potter, Minister

Rev. and Mrs. Caleb Johnson
Kykotsmovi, Arizona
Personal Interest Partnership

July/August, 2007

Greeters:

- July 1** John and Stephany Davidson
July 8 Diane Baldwin and John Quinn
July 15 Jay and Susan Burns
July 22 Mikel, Jody, Austin and Brandon Coble
July 29 Ann Francis and Kay Smith
Aug 5 Marilyn Pearce and Louise Teats
Aug 12 Nicholas Miller and Jamie Thomas
Aug 19 Atah, Suson, Hayli Grace and Alton Akakpo-Martin
Aug 26 Tim, Beth, Kristin and Collin Swartz

Ushers (July): Frank Waple, Warren Dodson, John McDonald, Stephen Frommell.

Ushers (August): Gary and Nancy Shank, Jay and Susie Burns

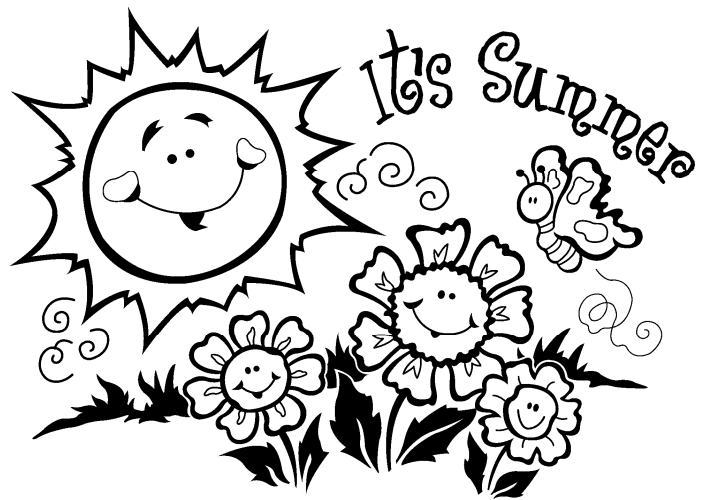
Nursery Duty:

- July 1** Sheila and Matt Wynn
July 8 Karen and Tony Potter
July 15 Judy Packheiser and Patrice Stillwell
July 22 Ron and Sandra Sweigert
July 29 Lori and Brian Yeich
Aug 5 Sheila and Matt Wynn
Aug 12 Suson and Atah Akakpo-Martin
Aug 19 Lori and Brian Yeich
Aug 26 Jamie Thomas and Jody Coble

Food Pantry Collection Sundays are **July 1 and August 5**. Please bring a non-perishable food item to the worship service that day and the Deacons will see that it gets donated to the Middletown Food Pantry. THANKS!!

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ADULT FORUM * September, 2007

You are invited!

Sunday mornings before worship in Fellowship Hall *
9:15-10:15 a.m.

If nursery is needed, please call Erika Lauffer at
944-4713 a week in advance.

Theme: *"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."* (Jesus speaking to his disciples on what constitutes true greatness as recorded in Mt. 18:5)

Welcoming orphans from Guatemala

Sept. 16 - Safe Passage. *Brian Yeich will introduce us to Safe Passage, a non-profit organization headquartered in Maine, which since 1999 has been bringing hope and assistance to children of the Guatemala City dump. A DVD entitled "Recycled Life" will help to tell this moving story.*

Sept. 23 - Orphan Resources International (ORI). *Lawrence and Trina Martin will share stories from ORI, an Ephrata based Christian organization which feels God's call to work with 40+ of the 215 registered orphanages in Guatemala. Some of these children will be helped by the more than \$300 and the baby, health and school necessities given by members of our congregation during last May's service project inspired by the Yeich's adoption of Olivia and sponsored by Adult Forum.*

Welcoming abandoned children worldwide

Sept. 30 - Brittany's Hope. *Candy Abel of Elizabethtown advocates for abandoned children around the world through Brittany's Hope Foundation. Come meet this remarkable woman who with her husband David has herself adopted 9 such children while at the same time helping waiting children connect with potential adoptive families.*

* * * * *

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated Sunday, July 1 and Sunday, August 5 at 10:30 AM. Do plan to be in worship as we gather at the table of our Lord for summer communion. All baptized persons are welcome to commune and we look forward to seeing you. August 5 communion will be by intinction - those receiving communion come forward and take a piece of broken bread and dip it in the chalice. Persons unable to come forward will be served in the pew, if they wish.

News From Mary's Circle...

The All Daughter's Banquet on May 5th went very well. We had good food and great entertainment. The ladies want to thank all the men who set up, cooked, served and cleaned up. Their services were very much appreciated!!! The entertainers, called "Seasons", were two young people, 18 and 16 years old, who played the harp and hammered dulcimer, from Johnny Cash's *Walk the Line*, all the way to *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*. They were quite talented and entertaining. As a matter of fact, they gave us one of their CD's and if anyone wishes to borrow it, please call Judy Packheiser at 657-2535.

The ladies want everyone to know what happened to all of the money from the Yard Sale, since without everyone's help, we could not carry off the Yard and Bake Sale. We feel very fortunate to have been able to help so many people, and here is a rundown: \$700 to the Church's General Fund, \$100 each to Valerie Dodson and Hannah Sours towards their week at Purdue University in Indiana for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, \$100 gift to Meg Shoeman as a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, \$100 to the Guatemala orphans, \$100 to "Communities That Care" in Middletown, \$150 towards a Palestinian Christian Child school support, and \$50 to the church in the name of the Men's Group who handled our banquet. Many, many thanks again to all of you in the church who made it possible for us to reach out and touch so many others in our community and the world.

Thank you to all the ladies who helped April 18 at the Frey Village birthday party: Glenice Marsala, Jody Coble, Helen Oldt, Margo Mathias and Judy Packheiser.

Thank you to Carol Waple who provided and delivered the birthday cake and ice cream for the Adult Day Care in Middletown on May 25!!

The next Circle meeting is July 17 at Frey Village - second floor. Kay Smith and Ann Francis will be hostesses. Remember, all the ladies of our church are welcome to come, and we hope to see you there. All lady members of the church are automatic members of the Circle, which is just a small part of the Presbyterian Women's Association. See you there!

Looking ahead to Saturday, October 20, at the Market Square Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg - there will be a "Gathering" of all the Circles in the Presbytery, and there will be a special display of a quilt you do not want to miss! A minister in Oregon quilted all the patches sent by women of all the Presbyterian Churches domestically and internationally! What is so special is that on each patch are the names of each church's first female elder and deacon, and the dates they first served! Another big moment in history, when women were finally able to serve in both capacities. FYI - Ann Francis made our patches!! Thank you again, Ann. So the quilts are on tour and this is the one and only time we know they will be in our area. The Fall Gathering is usually about 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM, with lunch included by the host church. Mark your calendars for October 20!

Music Notes...

SUMMERCHOIR begins Sunday, July 1, and continues through July 29. Sopranos, altos, tenors, basses of all ages and ability are welcome to join for one Sunday, or all of them. Simply come to the music room at 10:00 to prepare the anthem for 10:30 worship. The anthems will be hymns from the Presbyterian Hymnal:

July 1 #314	July 8 #297
July 15 #192	July 22 #273
July 29 #279	

ALSO - plan to come and hear the Vacation Bible School Singers on July 29 during the 10:30 A.M. worship service. They're always a fun and energetic group to watch - don't miss it!!

* * * * *

A FEW REMINDERS:

Please send payments for Chancel Flowers to the church office. Make checks payable to The Presbyterian Congregation. THE COST OF CHANCEL FLOWERS IS \$22.50 PER ORDER. THANK YOU!

Deadline for articles for the SEPTEMBER issue of the Press...byterian is AUGUST 21. Please place your articles or information either in the offering plate (mark it "newsletter"), in the church mailbox marked Newsletter, or Email patricestillwell@hotmail.com.

* * * * *

DON'T FORGET...to attend worship throughout the summer, and we urge you to keep your stewardship commitment current. Summer expenses continue and your support is needed as we seek to keep the mission of Christ moving forward. Summer giving drops off appreciably...but with your help, we can keep ahead. THANK YOU for your faithfulness.

FROM THE BOOK NOOK

Thank you to the nice people who have returned several missing library books.

The following books are still on the "NO SHOW" list. We are hoping that all the books will be returned. It's easy to recognize books from the church library: they are all color coded on the spine.

PLEASE HELP US LOOK FOR THE FOLLOWING BOOKS:

CHILDREN:

- God Gave Us You by Lisa Tawn Bergren
- God Made You Special (Veggie Tales) by Eric Metaxas
- Animals of the Bible by Morris Hoffman
- Chester's Way by Kevin Henkes

PRESBYTERIAN/CHURCH STUDIES:

- The Church Cares for Children by Mary Anne Fowles

BIBLICAL STUDIES:

- What's So Amazing About Grace? by Philip Yancey
- A Bird's Eye View of the Bible by Betty S. Harol
- At the Last Trumpet by William Barclay
- Bible Guides Prophets of Israel by George Knight
- Christian Worship by Ronald P. Byars

YOUTH:

- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
- The Magicians Nephew by C.S. Lewis
- Ten Amazing People and how They... by Maura D.Shaw

INSPIRATIONAL:

- Putting the Amazing Back in Grace by Ann Weems
- The World According to Mr. Rogers by Fred Roger
- Stress Less by Margie Hesson

SELF HELP:

- Hope Grows in Winter by Croll and Miller

WOMEN:

- Living Somewhere Between Estrogen... by Barbara Johnson

GRIEF:

- If God is so Good, Why do I... by D. Biebel

The library's budget is very small. Please help us to add new books, rather than replace missing ones. Please remember, we don't charge a late fee, we just would like to see some of our "friends" returned.

Thanks for your help!
The Library Committee



Hi, partners! I'm BUC, the bucking bronco. I'm hopin' to let kids know that God is real!

Howdy Partners!
It's Vacation Bible School Time again!
We hope you will join us this year at
"Avalanche Ranch"
and take a **WILD RIDE** through God's word!



My name's BOSS! Longhorn cattle may look big and tough, but I know that God is in charge.

VBS is for kids age 3 through 5th grade and
will take place from
Sunday, July 22 through
Thursday, July 26 from



It's me...SHADOW! We ranch dogs stick close to the herd. That's an easy way to remind kids that God is with us.

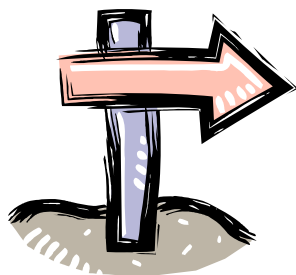


SKYE here. Eagles may be able to soar, but Jesus defeated death and rose from the tomb! I'll help kids discover that God is awesome.

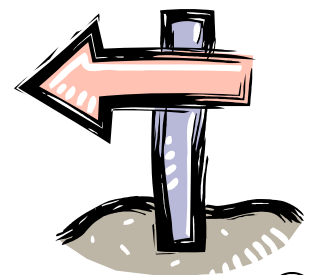


Hey, it's RANGER! I'm a big, strong bison, but God is bigger and stronger than anything. I want kids to know that God is strong.

- **A Freewill offering of money and/or non-perishable food items will be collected each evening for the Middletown Food Pantry.**
- **Bring a light colored t-shirt and we will decorate it for you with an "official" Avalanche Ranch DECAL !!!!!**



Back By Popular Demand...
Don't miss the Vacation Bible School singers during the worship service on July 29!
They are too much fun to miss!!



Congregation invited on a trip to the future.

Are we there yet? Here we go again! Long Range Planning is going to have us think again, and we thought we did this a long time ago.

We are asking you to look into the future with LRP Committee and Rev. Jim Moss to explore what you want our congregation to be like in 2013. A Large Group Meeting will be held September 23, 2007. The following is the proposed schedule for the meeting:

2- 2:30 PM	State of the Church address
2:30-3:15	Small Group Discussion
3:15-3:45	Break
3:45-5:00	Small Group Discussion
5:00-6:00	Supper
6:00-8:00	Small group Discussion

(Entertainment and professional babysitting will be available for the children)

What happened the last time?

Almost sixty (60) people attended the group meeting and participated in dreaming for our future that resulted in a Five Year Plan. Of the 27 goals established by the Congregation (excluding Attendance Goals), 15 were accomplished, 5 were not accomplished for financial reasons, 3 were rejected by Committee and Session, only 4 were not accomplished.

The LRP Committee urges each of us to consider God's work at Union and Water Streets and attend this important gathering for our church's future.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD AND OFFERING OF LETTERS

Ever since 2002 when our church became a covenant church with Bread for the World (BFW) (www.bread.org), we have taken part in their annual Offering of Letters (*letters*, not money).

The 2007 Offering of Letters will be on Sunday August 19 during worship.

The week before that on August 12, as part of Erika Lauffer's minute for mission you will be given 2 papers:

- 1) a **form letter** written by the Mission Committee
- 2) talking points to help you compose your own **personal letter**

Take them home and prayerfully decide if and how you'd like to participate.

If you want to try to help make a difference to alleviate and to end hunger:

1) Sign the form letter after making 3 copies (1 for each PA senator and 1 for your representative). Put each letter in a stamped envelope addressed to Senator Specter, Senator Casey and your representative (see their addresses below).

OR

2) Compose your own personal letter using the talking points provided.

Do this 3 times and proceed as above.

Bring your 3 letters in their envelopes to worship on August 19 when they will be received and dedicated.

This year's theme is: *Seeds of Change: Help Farmers End Hunger*. We are to urge Congress to improve the U.S. farm bill in ways that will reduce hunger in this country and around the world.

For years our congregation has shown that it wants to alleviate hunger (e.g. by monthly donations to the Middletown Interfaith Food Pantry...) and to help end it (e.g. by supporting the annual CROP walk and the Heifer Project and by investing in Oikocredit). It is natural, then, that along with thousands of other Christians who try to follow Jesus' example of "caring for the least of these" we lobby our nation's decision-makers on behalf of hungry people in our country and in the world. Consider the words of former Senator Paul Simon, "*Someone who sits down and writes a letter about hunger - almost literally has to be saving a life...*"

Questions, comments, concerns? Contact Erika Lauffer (944-4713)

Senator Arlen Specter
711 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

Senator Robert P. Casey
383 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Tim Holden (Dauphin County)
2417 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Joe Pitts (Lancaster County)
420 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Bill Shuster (9th Congressional District)
204 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515

Thank You...

Thank You From the Deacons

The deacons would like to express their gratitude for the outstanding response from the congregation to their recent Lenten Appeal. Your generous gift of \$1505 was the largest ever received. These monies will enable the Deacons to continue and expand their service to the needs of the church and the community. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our appeal.

8 May 2007

Hi Deacons.

Thank you for this great box of goods and for your good wishes. Your care is appreciated. I look forward to being with you soon.

With Christ,
Meg (Shoeman)

4-30-07

Pastor Potter,

A very nice birthday party was held at Frey Village for the residents that had April birthdays. It was provided by several ladies from your church - Margo Mathias, Glenice Marsala, Helen Oldt, Judy Packheiser and Jody Coble .

They sang hymns, music was provided by Anna Herr, a resident of Frey, they played picture bingo and refreshments were served.

The residents had a great time.

We are grateful to all those ladies for making their day so special.

In Gratitude,
Harriet Blaydon
Volunteer Birthday Coordinator

To the Congregation,

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers for our Mother, Phyllis. It is so comforting to have our church family support us in our time of need.

God Bless,
Joanne Harter and Linda Hickoff

I'm sending you this little note to thank you and to say how nice it was to be thought of in a very special way.

Gwen Callison

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all so very much for the flowers, cards, visits and prayers during Dick's most recent stay at the Hershey Medical Center. These acts of love and concern really helped brighten my days while I was a patient there. Your continued concern is much appreciated.

Fondly,
Dick and Mary Ellen Baer

To the Deacons,

Thank you all for the caring and preparing of meals for Mom and Dad when they needed them and also for the transportation they received so they could get to church. We feel so blessed to know they have such a wonderful and caring church family. God Bless you all.

Sincerely,
Kay Sutch, Diane Berger and all our family
(Family of Anne and Jim Baker)

To Our Church Family,

We want to thank all of you, not just for what you did, which was wonderful, but for the warmth and the caring you put into it. You're all very special people. Thank you!

What a wonderful way to celebrate a 65th wedding anniversary! The cards were very much appreciated.

Anne and Jim Baker

Community Dinner!

Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown

Monday, August 6

4:30-6:30 P.M.

Stuffed Meatloaf

Mashed Potatoes

Gravy

Vegetable

Applesauce

Dessert

Beverage

\$6 Adults

\$3 Children



Come and bring a friend!

Boy, am I tired! This is Oscar, the kitchen

mouse, trying to catch some naptime after a busy two weeks. I would get settled down for a nap in my mouse house, and people would come into the kitchen, banging pans, talking and laughing, and I would have to peek out and see what was going on. First they had a breakfast for the Sunday School students and teachers. That really smelled good.

Just as I settled down again, in they came for a reception for the graduates. I'm not sure what that meant, but the cake crumbs were delicious—really fancy cake.

I then figured that I could relax and check out some other goings on and in comes another group. This time it was for a lasagna dinner, and sooooo many people came to eat, I just could not believe it. I was so tired from running back and forth, seeing what was being cooked and who was coming in, I fell into my bed and did not get up until morning. I heard them say that they fed 180 people. My hats off to the cook as the bits and pieces that I found when they weren't looking were delicious.

I figured that now I would be able to rest for a while and in they came again for the Craft Fair. I was all set up to scarf up some crumbs (pretzels sounded great) when I discovered that they weren't making them in my kitchen but at some park. I was so disappointed. Oh well, I hear there will be more dinners and I am looking forward to that. I am also looking forward to the church picnic. I'll bet there will be lots of tidbits for me that day.

I hear there will be a filled meatloaf dinner coming up in August. I hope all of you can plan to attend. See you in a couple of months after I get some sleep.



- *Oscar*

SOME MORE NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE...

Many thanks to the church members who helped at the Middletown Craft Fair. We carried out a 50's theme and sold root beer floats, Uncle Bob's pretzels and pretzel wraps. The weather was perfect and everyone had a good time. Those helping at the stand on Saturday were Jody Coble, Valerie Dodson, Romaine Gardner, Andrew Rowe, Diane Rowe, Mary Rowe, Kristin Swartz, Donna Thompson and Rose Ann Yeich. Helpers on Sunday were Jody and Mikel Coble, Jamie Thomas and Nick Miller, Mary Rowe, Dottie Stanley and Pete and Rachel Strella. Thanks also to Bob Mathias, Nick Miller and Mikel Coble who helped set up the stand on Friday night, and then take it down on Sunday. A very special thanks to Bob Hicks whose pretzels and pretzel wraps made the day. He was able to take his trailer into the park which made it much easier for all. Also, a super special thanks to Alyssa Stillwell who was the artist for our stand.

The Fellowship Committee has been very busy with various activities in the church. One of these activities is having community dinners. The committee has had two so far and plans to have more. As this is a church function, various members of the congregation have been helping serve, clean up, set tables, etc. There are probably members who would like to help, but have not been asked. Please let someone know that you would be willing to help at the dinners or make a dessert. Homemade desserts are one of the highlights of the evening. Sign-up sheets will be placed in the back of the church. If you are willing to help, please sign up. The next dinner will be Monday, August 6, from 4:30-6:30 PM, and will include Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable, Applesauce, Dessert and Beverage.

From July 17-22, the PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM will be held at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, with up to 5,000 Presbyterian youth from across the globe from 15-19 years of age attending. Our own Valerie Dodson and Hannah Sours, rising 11th graders, will attend.

Carlisle Presbytery has 32 young people attending the event with several adult chaperones. The event includes daily worship, workshops, Bible study, large and small group activities, and more. The theme, "Hope Is In Our Midst," comes from a variety of biblical texts, especially those that focus on Jesus' post resurrection instructions and promises.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Hannah and Valerie and all who will be at the Triennium. Have a safe and fun time...we will be eager to hear all about your experience. The Christian Education Committee and Women's Association have contributed to the cost of the Triennium for both participants from our church.



Orphan Resources International (O.R.I.) in Ephrata, where Rose Ann Yeich, Brian Yeich, Olivia Yeich and Erika Lauffer took our church's "Gifts for Guatemala" on June 2, 2007.



Brian with Rod Martin, President of O.R.I., and President of Martin Excavation Co. Rod and his wife are parents to 6 children, 4 of them former Guatemala orphans.

Rod thanks the congregation for all the tangible and monetary gifts so generously given. Gifts included health, school and baby items plus more than \$300 from Presbyterian Women and others.

JULY 2007

Birthdays and Anniversaries

We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to the following members:

Keith Eppley	7/2
Caitlin Warner	7/2
Meg Shoeman	7/3
Phil Susemihl	7/5
Francis Yeich	7/6
Patrice Stillwell	7/6
Marcus Mateer	7/6
Michael Meashey	7/6
Megan Stillwell	7/8
Ruth Dodson	7/9
John Potter	7/9
Brandon Coble	7/11
Jody Coble	7/12
Marty Felty	7/14
Harrold Bretz	7/14
Autumn Baer	7/16
Anne Baker	7/23
Craig Grabill	7/23
Michael Dodson	7/23
Al Reinhart	7/24
Abel Botterbusch	7/24
Hannah Sours	7/25
Daniel Heiser	7/27
David Heiser	7/28
Betty Ottensman	7/28
Pat Ingersoll	7/29
Dale Bell	7/30
Marlin Biesecker	7/31



*We would also like to wish a
Happy Anniversary to:*

Joe and Norma Mateer	7/4
Bruce and Joanne Harter	7/15
Spencer and Chris Bevins	7/20
George and Pam Price	7/20
Marlin and Judy Biesecker	7/20

AUGUST 2007

Birthdays and Anniversaries

We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to the following members:

Kathryn Smith	8/1
Margo Mathias	8/3
Lauren Eppley	8/3
Casey Stouffer	8/3
Carol Treaster	8/3
Christine Eberhard	8/10
Gloria Elberti	8/13
Ed Shireman	8/14
Brad Wert	8/14
Judy Biesecker	8/15
Daniel Heiser, Jr.	8/25
Andrew Davidson	8/31



*We would also like to wish a
Happy Anniversary to:*

James and Sandra Snook	8/2
Joseph and Beth Kreiser	8/12
John and Michelle Wilsbach	8/14
John and Stephany Davidson	8/17
Douglas and Rebecca Funk	8/19
Harry and Mary Leisey	8/22
Bob and René Lasek	8/27

THE PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION
UNION AND WATER STREETS
MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057

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