



THE PRESS...BYTERIAN

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

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He will be called
Wonderful
Counselor
MIGHTY GOD,
EVERLASTING FATHER,
Prince of Peace

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

December, 2006

Greeters:

- December 3** John McDonald & Stephen Frommell
- December 10** Marlin & Judy Biesecker
- December 17** Rick, Janice & Mason Goodling
- December 24** John & Stephany Davidson (10:30 AM)
- December 24** Atah, Suson, Hayli Grace & Alton
Akakpo-Martin (5:00 PM)
- December 24** Warren, Tamie, Valerie & Michael Dodson
(8:00 PM)
- December 31** Gloria Elberti & Carol Heiser

The Chancel Flowers are presented by:

- December 3** Mr. and Mrs. John Davidson in loving
memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Davidson.
- December 10** Mrs. Edie K. Beard in loving memory of Mr.
and Mrs. Samuel Johnston
- December 17** Diane Rowe in loving memory of Robert
Rowe, Sr., and Robert Rowe, Jr.
- December 24** Christmas Poinsettias
- December 31** Kristy and Jen Judy, Andrew Rowe and
Caitlin Warner in memory of their pap, Robert Rowe.

The Sunday Bulletins are dedicated by:

- December 3** Virginia Olsen in honor of her daughter
Gail's birthday.
- December 10** Louise Maxwell in loving memory of her
husband and son, David D. Maxwell Sr. and Jr.
- December 17** Jim, Nancy and Hannah Sours in loving
memory of Jim's father, John W. Sours.
- December 24** In loving memory of Ed Shireman by his
grandchildren.
- December 31** Diane Rowe in loving memory of Robert
Rowe, Sr.

Nursery Duty:

- December 3** The Shireman Family
- December 10** The Akakpo-Martin Family
- December 17** The Yeich Family
- December 24** The Stillwell Family
- December 31**

Acolyte:

- Alyssa Stillwell
 - Christmas Eve 5:00** Alyssa Stillwell
 - Christmas Eve 8:00** Valerie and Michael Dodson
- Ushers:**
- Fae Mower, Rose Ann Yeich,
Joanne Harter, Carol Waple
 - Christmas Eve 5:00** Keith, Linda, Matt, Lauren Eppley
 - Christmas Eve 8:00** Joanne Harter, Linda Hickoff,
Judy Biesecker, Margo Mathias



Join us in Fellowship Hall for **SOCIAL HOUR**
following worship on **December 3**. **ALL ARE**
WELCOME! Hostesses this month are Joanne
Harter, Carol Waple and Linda Eppley.



Food Pantry Collection Sunday is December 3
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 * December, 2006 *

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.

**Note: December's classes will meet in the
Morrow Room.**

Theme during Advent: A Clear View of Jesus' Birth

Kenneth Bailey, Presbyterian minister and missionary who spent most of his life in the Middle East, will lead us **via video** to a clearer understanding of Jesus' birth. This series strips away the "mythology" that has grown up around Christmas; for example, that there were three wise men when the text speaks only of three kinds of gifts OR that Jesus was born at night when the text tells only that the angels sang at night.

November 26 - Video 1: **Was Jesus really born in a stable?**

Virginia Olsen of the Adult Forum Planning Committee will show the video and lead the discussion.

December 3 - Video 2: **Was Joseph really so inept that he couldn't find a place to stay in his own family's village?**

Pat Ingersoll of the Adult Forum Planning Committee will show the video and lead the discussion.

December 10 - Video 3: **What special message does Jesus' birth have for women?**

Nancy and Gary Shank, active Forum and church members will lead us.

December 17 - Video 4: **Where did the wise men come from and why was myrrh one of their gifts to the baby Jesus?**

Phil Susemihl of the Adult Forum Planning Committee will lead us.

December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE - **No Adult Forum**

December 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE - **No Adult Forum**

What's on YOUR mind?

Is there a topic you are knowledgeable about that you would like to share with fellow members of the congregation? Perhaps you've always wanted to have an in-depth discussion about the story of the Prodigal Son, or other topic.

The Adult Forum Planning Committee is looking for members who are interested in conducting sessions on topics of interest. If you would like to conduct a session, or part of a session, please contact Erika Lauffer at (lauffarm@comcast.net). Thank you!



CONSECRATION SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Consecration Sunday Committee, the Stewardship & Finance Committee, and Session want to thank you for your support of the 2007 Consecration Sunday Stewardship program. As of November 12th, fifty-four (54) *Estimate of Giving Cards* were received totaling \$111,628. In 2005 we received 63 cards.

This money will be used to further the mission of this congregation in addressing the work of the Lord. Activities include, but are not limited to, providing a Christian Education program for our youth and adults, providing a meaningful worship and music program, assisting in our church's mission work, maintaining our facilities, and paying staff salaries.

As with any organization, planning requires having a realistic budget based on our best estimates of income and expenses. If you have not forwarded your *2007 Estimate of Giving Card*, please consider doing so in the next few days. Additional cards can be obtained from the church office.

As Christ has given his all for us, we respond in gratitude by giving of our resources to help spread his love to the world. Your support is needed!

For those members who have completed your card, we thank you for your generosity and continued commitment to do God's work.



2006 Budget Update

As of October 31st, a snapshot view of this year's budget picture looks like the following:

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Expenses | \$206,489 |
| Income | <u>\$173,571</u> |
| Shortfall | (\$32,918) |

The Stewardship & Finance Committee and Session ask that you assess your giving for 2006. An "additional" financial gift would be greatly appreciated!

S.A.G.E.

(SENIOR ADULT GROUP EXCHANGE)

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

* * * * *

Wednesday, December 13 is the date of the Senior Adult Group Exchange. The time is 1PM and the place is the Brownstone Café, Middletown. All are welcome – retired or not! We will sit together, order from the menu and will get individual checks. Come and enjoy the company of each other and a tasty meal. However, we need to know how many are coming. Feel free to invite a friend. There will be no program after lunch. Please fill out the form below and return it to Pastor Potter by December 11!

SAGE

Christmas Lunch

Yes, I/We plan to attend (print name)

Phone number _____

Registration due by December 11.

Advent Communion

You are cordially invited to join us at Christ's table for the Sacrament of Holy Communion the 1st Sunday of Advent, December 3. What a meaningful way for us to begin our spiritual journey to Bethlehem. Please be sure to invite someone to join you and let's meet together at our Lord's table.

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 JANUARY issue of the Press...byterian is DECEMBER 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.

COMING SOON... The Return of the Men's Group Meeting and Breakfast. December 9th at 8:00 AM at the Brownstone Restaurant in Middletown. All men are welcome. Come out and enjoy fellowship with other men in our congregation.

THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE HAS DESIGNATED DECEMBER AS "BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH MONTH". CONGREGATION

MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO CHURCH DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER! Studies indicate that 75% of people attend a given church because someone invited them. We have many wonderful activities and services planned for December. Won't you take the time to "reach out and touch somebody" by inviting them to worship?

Christmas Joy Offering 2006

Dedication of the annual Christmas Joy Offering will take place December 17 during worship. Your gifts will be divided evenly between the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church to assist retired church workers, and our 7 racial/ethnic Presbyterian colleges. Last year we received \$628 and with your help we can exceed that total this year.

The theme this year is "Joy to the World". And what joy the birth of Jesus Christ brings to our lives and world. Because of God's greatest gift to us, we respond in joy by gladly giving the gifts of our money and lives to him. Thank you for your support of this special offering.

IN THE EVENT OF SEVERE WINTER WEATHER, TUNE IN TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATIONS FOR CANCELLATION INFORMATION ABOUT CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS:

- WHP CBS 21
- The CW 15
- BOB 94.9 FM
- WHP 580 talk radio
- The RIVER 97.3 WRVU
- FM 97 WLAN
- ABC 27 Snow Watch

PYC

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

6th-12th grade youth are invited to the caroling party on December 10 from 4-6 PM. Meet at the church by 4 PM with your best voice! We will visit several of our homebound members and others. Bring soft fruit (bananas, oranges, grapes, etc.) for the bags we will be handing out. After caroling we will stop at Dairy Queen, so bring some \$\$, too. All are welcome...and bring a friend as we help brighten the holiday for others.



CHRISTMAS EVE

WORSHIP

Church School 9:15 AM (no adult forum)
Worship 10:30 AM - Christmas Carol Sing

Children's Christmas Eve Service - 5:00 PM
Service of Lessons & Carols - 8:00 PM

Keep Christ in your Christmas - attend worship and bring someone with you, too!



A Christmas greeting from the Church Staff:



*May the meaning of Christmas be deeper,
its joys and warmth stronger, and its
hope brighter as it comes to you this year...*



Annual Covered Dish Supper and CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Come to Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 PM for a covered dish supper and the Children's Christmas Program. Bring a generous covered dish to share and a pair of gloves, mittens, a hat or a scarf for our mitten tree to benefit the Middletown Food Pantry. Hope to see you for an evening of fun and fellowship!



Thank You Notes...

*To All of You...
"Gratitude is a Memory of the Heart."*

Dear Friends & Church Family,
*You've all been so wonderful,
it's hard to know how to begin
to say thanks.
Please know that your kindness
will always be remembered.*

Your cards, prayers and contacts have helped us get through our most recent trial—thank you all so much.

Fondly,
Dick and Mary Ellen Baer

Dear Church Family, 13 Nov 2006

I want to thank all of you for your prayers, love and support. Max is getting bigger and cuter by the minute. I'll be sending pictures home to my family—I'm sure they'll be more than happy to share them. Life in general on Fort Knox is pretty uneventful, but I certainly can't complain. I'll be returning to work tomorrow. The army was generous enough to give me 8 weeks of much needed maternity leave, so it's about time for me to work it all off. I'm not certain when I'll be able to come to PA to visit, but I will definitely stop by with Max when I do get the chance. I hope to do a much better job keeping in touch now that I'm getting a little more sleep and I've developed a semblance of a routine. Thanks again for everything you've done for me and for Max.

Fondly in Christ,
Kelly Susemihl

NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

A BIG THANK YOU to the ladies and their helpful spouses who have given us wonderful social hours. The food was excellent and the fellowship outstanding. Also many thanks to those of you who gave a donation to help cover the expenses. It has been greatly appreciated. **A list of hostesses follows.** Be sure and thank them when you see them: Mary Ellen Baer, Linda Balmer, Judy Biesecker, Jeanette Bloes, Susie Burns, Linda Eppley, Betty Fisher, Romaine Gardner, Pat Ingersoll, Joanne Harter, Carol Heiser, Ethel Higgins, Myrna Matesevac, Margo Mathias, Crystal Meashey, Jen Ortiz, Diane Rowe, Mary Rowe, Nancy Sours, Patrice Stillwell, Donna Thompson, Kim Tosh, Carol Waple, Jodi White, Carol Wilsbach and Rose Ann Yeich, plus children and husbands who also helped.

Order forms are being distributed for ordering **Christmas Cookies** from the Fellowship Committee. There are five kinds to choose from (order one dozen of each): chocolate chip, peanut butter, thumbprints, lace cookies and snickerdoodles. The cookies are \$3.00 a dozen and will be made December 14 and 15 with pick up on Saturday, December 16 from 10:00 am until 12 noon, or on Sunday after church. We made 116 dozen cookies last year despite the snow. Orders need to be placed by December 10. Get your order in early!!!!

The church **cookbooks** that you have been waiting for will be shipped on December 21 and we'll have them around Christmas. The cookbook is hardcover three ring so you can add to it when you find a new exciting recipe. Order blanks will be available at the church or call Donna Thompson, 944-4492 to place your order. We hope those of you who donated recipes will purchase one to see your recipes in print (and in one convenient place). The book will sell for \$11 which will be given when ordered. We have to pay for the books before the company will ship them. They will make wonderful Christmas gifts.

A reminder that the **Christmas Program** and covered dish dinner will be held on December 17 in Fellowship Hall. Be sure you are there!



The Hershey Church of the Brethren in Christ, 99 Valley Road, Hummelstown, is offering **SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES** on Monday evenings. Call 533-5433 for more information.



FROM MARY'S CIRCLE...

Who has their 2007 calendar? Mary's Circle has some important dates for you to circle!! The next Yard and Bake Sale will be Saturday, April 21. The All Daughters Banquet will be Saturday, May 5. Remember no Circle Meetings in December 2006, or January, February, and December 2007. Do note for 2007 that our new meeting dates will be the 3rd Tuesday of the month, and we will meet during the daytime, 10AM to 12 Noon (no longer Monday evenings). So do try to attend March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16 and November 20!! All 2007 Mary Circle Meeting Dates! All women are welcome to attend, as all women of the church are part of Presbyterian Women!

The last week in 2006 for volunteering at the Thrift Shop is the week of December 18-22.

A word of appreciation to Jim Sours for sharing his mission experience at Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska, this past May. He spoke at the November Circle meeting and delighted everyone with his first hand experience doing work for our Lord. Thank you, Jim!

Thank you to Pastor Don Potter for inviting Chaplain Rev. Wayne Lutz, doing his work at the Dauphin County Prison and Christian Churches United, to be the guest preacher at our Thank Offering Sunday, November 19.

The donations are still coming in and we will update you next month on the total Thank Offering.

**2006 PICTORIAL DIRECTORY
CHANGES/CORRECTIONS**

Underlined items must be added, changed
or corrected in the

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Baker, James & Anne
Apt. C

Bell, Dale
Grayson View
Room 256
150 Kempton Avenue

Berger, Amy
Room 312

Bretz, Harold
Harrold

Clendenin, Jane
Room 135

Dodson, John & Ruth
367-1965

Eberhard, Christine
2644 Westhampton Terrace
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Elberti, George & Gloria
944-6650
George is deceased

Felty, Warren & Martha
1100 Grandon View, Room 520
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Fisher, Betty
1020 North Union Street
Frey Village, Apt. 503
944-4499

Freeborn, Carl & Roslyn
Carl is deceased

Funk, Douglas and Rebecca
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Grabill, Craig
563 Hummelstown, Street

Haaf, Esther
Esther is deceased

Harter, Joanne & Michael
delete Michael, he is listed next

Harter, Michael
1134 Strites Road
Middletown, PA 17057

Higgins, Robert & Ethel
Robert is deceased

Ingersoll, Patricia
1020 North Union Street
Frey Village, Apt. 803
838-1813

Kilroy, Vivian
2031 Rosedale Avenue
985-1491

Kleinfelter, Diane
add Jennifer Boyton (daughter)

Kleinfelter, Jennifer Boyton
delete this entry

Koenecke, Hayley
delete Wade (see next entry)

Koenecke, Jody
Wade

Layton, Melvin
20 E. Main St., Apt. 3
944-3688

Leinbach, Kenneth & Marie
Kenneth is not a member

Marsala, Glenice
939-6835

Mathias, Mitchell
62 Circle Place
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Maxwell, David & Louise
David is deceased

McDonald, John & Anna
Miss Maryann Bottiglier

McDonald, Maryann Bottiglier
delete this entry

Morrett, Mary
Mary is deceased

Newhouse, Rebecca
delete this entry
(see Funk, Douglas & Rebecca)

Oldt, Helen
1020 N. Union St.
Frey Village, Apt. 308

Ottensman, Donald & Betty
Donald is deceased

Potter, Anthony & Karen
533-5835

Raynor, Ruth
Room 128

Ross, Nancy
122 North Catherine Street
Middletown, PA 17057
930-0439

Rowe, Mary
Caitlin Warner
Schneider, Phyllis
Apartment 5-E

Shireman, Beverly
525 Colony Drive

Shireman, Edwin & Tina
525 Colony Drive

Swartz, Timothy & Beth
Kristin



DECEMBER 2006

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Cole Heiser | 12/4 |
| Jay Burns | 12/5 |
| Alison Dixon | 12/6 |
| Stephany Davidson | 12/9 |
| Jeanette Bloes | 12/9 |
| John Davidson | 12/13 |
| Ethel Higgins | 12/14 |
| Jody Koenecke | 12/14 |
| Vanessa White | 12/15 |
| Judy Packheiser | 12/17 |
| Zoe Baer | 12/20 |
| Louise Teats | 12/21 |
| Carol Heiser | 12/22 |
| Richard Lewis | 12/23 |
| Carol Stouffer | 12/23 |
| Emily Botterbusch | 12/26 |
| Gladys Kleinfelter | 12/29 |
| Pam Price | 12/29 |



We would also like to wish a

Happy Anniversary to:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Phil and Ann Susemihl | 12/7 |
| John and Ruth Dodson | 12/26 |

Saturday Seminar Leadership Training Event

to be held on 1/20/07 at Christ Presbyterian Church, Camp Hill from 9AM-12:15PM. Light lunch served at 12:15. Planned workshops include Training for Elders, Deacons, Clerks of Session, Report from Mission trip to Honduras, Youth Ministry, G.A. and the Peace, Unity and Purity Paper, Mission Church Theology, Special Offerings, etc. More info to follow next month.

Music Notes:

December 3- Special children's choir will sing an advent anthem with Chancel Choir

December 17 - Music Sunday - Chancel Choir and narrator will present a cantata during worship. Presbyterian Bells of Praise and the youth Hand-chime choir will play familiar carols.

Mark the Date: Wednesday, January 10 - Chapel Ringers of Bucknell will present a handbell concert in our sanctuary. Plan to bring a friend to this exciting event! Marcus Mateer has been a member of the ensemble since he was a freshman (he's also their manager). You will be inspired by the skill and musicality of this extraordinary group. Don't miss it!



Ordination And Installation Of Church Officers

Newly elected Elders and Deacons in the Class of 2009 will be ordained and installed Sunday, December 10 during worship. This is an important time for our church family and our prayers are offered for those men and women who will assume leadership roles among us. Be sure to come and be of support to those who have chosen to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ.

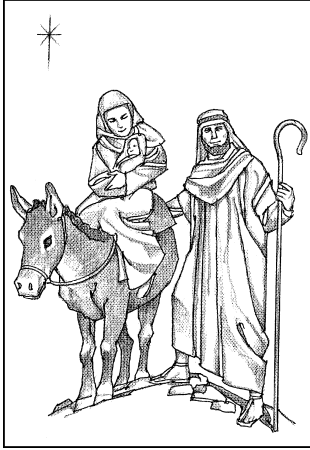
Elders-elect include: Chris Bevins, Joanne Harter, Bob Mathias, Karen Potter+

Deacons-elect include: Spencer Bevins, Stephany Davidson, Virginia Olsen+ (+ designates those to be ordained)

THE PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION
UNION AND WATER STREETS
MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057

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December 2006

