

---

---

# THE CORNERSTONE

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 2, Issue 4

December 2011

---

## **Our Calling in Service to Christ is to:**

*Nurture discipleship in those who claim Christ; Boldly love those whom Christ claims;  
Passionately celebrate the living presence of our Lord.*



### *December Small Group Schedule*

Vitality is not something that miraculously appears on its own in the life of a congregation. Its presence in the life of a congregation is due to the commitment of a congregation to not only call effective leaders, but to be in partnership with those same leaders. Is our congregation organized for the challenges of our post-modern world? What do we expect our leaders to do? How might God be speaking a new thing in our time?

These, and many more, are the questions of December's *One Church, One Book* discussion groups. There are four different groups to choose from, with every group meeting in the McQuate Room (lower level of the Christian Education Building.) If you weren't able to make a small group last month, you are more than welcome to join in the conversations this month.

### **December – Chapter 4 “Who Shall Lead Them”**

- Wednesday, 7th 6:30-8:30pm
- Sunday, 11th 1:30-3:30pm
- Tuesday, 13th 7:00-9:00pm
- Wednesday, 14th 10:00-12:00am

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
Worship Schedule	Pg. 2
Consistory Corner	Pg. 5
Youth Group News	Pg. 6
Worship Leadership Schedule	Pg. 9

## **“LEADERSHIP OF FOLLOWING”**

### ***One Church, One Book***

If you think about it, we have a very odd God. In God we have the creator of everything that was, is, or ever will be. God exists both inside and outside of time. God is the ruler of life and death. God is greater than our every thought. Without any significant effort, God could do whatever it is that God wills. And yet despite all of this unchallengeable power, God chooses to be more than a Lord over us. Instead of choosing to wield power of domination, God has continually sought to work in and through our very limited lives. God has chosen to grant the space for our freewill and all the consequences that that brings.

This truth is revealed consistently throughout scripture, from the creation and fall of humanity in the book of Genesis to the glories and internal conflicts of the early church as recorded in the epistles. God has continually given guidance and direction to his will and his way, but has ultimately allowed us the opportunity to choose what we will do in the end. Sometimes we do this with great blessing, as in the day of Pentecost. However, sometimes we do this with horrendous results, as in the eating and drinking to our own damnation (1 Cor 11:29).

No better place is this freedom to choose shown than in the life of Jesus. Jesus came embodying the fullness of God within himself, and yet not even Jesus lorded his authority over the people. He spoke clearly and powerfully about God's kingdom and God' reign, he gave instruction and guidance on how to live in the fullness of God's will, and he used his own life as an example to be followed. But he ultimately allowed his disciples and listeners to choose what they would do with their lives. Many would come and receive life through him,

*Continued on page 2*

and just as many, if not more, would turn away (John 60:66). In the end he handed over his life for the sake of humanity. Though a saving act of God's power to overcome even death, it is saving act that still necessitates a choice on our part to participate or not.

Because of the track record of humanity, some would say that this is a failure of leadership on the part of God. "If God is who God claims to be, then God should make everything right," rings out a common refrain. "If God really does have all this power, isn't God somehow liable for the failings of humanity?" But is it in fact God's responsibility to make all things as we believe they should be? Or is providing us the opportunity to freely walk through the doorway to life what God is rightly responsible for, and we ourselves are accountable for the rest? Is the issue God's leadership or our discipleship?

As we approach the celebration of Christmas, we are invited to remember again what God is gifting to us through the incarnation of the Son. With Jesus comes the invitation to salvation through him, where he will lead us in the way of life. Throughout his ministry, Jesus calls us to yoke our lives to his. He promises to be the Good Shepherd, the True Vine, the High Priest, the Savior of the World. But in doing so, he also calls us to discipleship – lives lived in service of the kingdom of heaven through the emulating of the life and teachings of Christ. Meaning, we cannot receive the gift of Christmas unless we seek to follow in the teachings and the way of Jesus.

In the same way as the Father, Jesus promises to lead and guide us in the way of life. Yet it is not a life that comes by God overpowering us, but by the allowing of ourselves to follow (and in doing so be a guide to others). Salvation is offered, life is given, but it comes with the demand of our commitment to physically follow in the life of Jesus.

The gift of Christmas is the free gift of God for all the world. May we open this gift to place it at the center of our lives so that we may share in the joy of God's life given through Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The Peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Joe



Through our One Church One Book study we have covered much ground. Discussions have been had on the changing realities of the world around us, how we are being called to intimately become a part of what God is doing in the church and in the world, and the change that is needed in our heart and faith life to follow where God is leading. But what role does Jesus play in all of this. As we prepare to celebrate the gift of Christ this Advent and Christmas season, we are brought to reflect on what does Jesus' coming really mean for us?

† December 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am – **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Service of Word & Sacrament** (pew) – The familiar story tells of the messenger who has been sent, but what does it mean that the Christ will baptize us with water and the Holy Spirit?

† December 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am – **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Other Side & Coffee Hour Following worship** – As John the Baptist declares that he is not the Christ he does not hesitate to declare his God given calling. Do we know who and what God has called us to be in our service to Christ.

† December 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am – **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: Puppet Presentation** – In God's coming to her, Mary looks beyond what she deems possible to allow herself to participate in what God is making real. (Fare you well celebration for Barb Moyer following worship).

† Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – **Christmas Eve Worship 6:30pm – Family Service** – This service is specifically designed to focus on youth and young families. With familiar carols, a children's presentation, blessings offered to children during communion, and a candlelight service, we joyously share the Christmas story.

**11:00pm – Midnight Watch** – This service, more contemplative in nature, focuses on our hope filled anticipation of Christ's advent into this world. Communion and blessings we will be offered, and a candlelight service shared, as we watch, through word and song, for our salvation to be birthed into the world.

† December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am – **Christmas Day: Service of Word & Sacrament** (intinction) – Together we share in the gift of Christ through worship and praise of God for his Son. This Sunday service moves us beyond the secular trappings of the season as we claim ourselves as God's own.



## **CARING FOR RELATIONSHIPS**

### **Understanding Depression**

*By Judith S. Kastenberg, MD –  
Council for Relationships*

Feeling down? Is getting through the day more like slogging through peanut butter? Have no energy? Well, join the crowd. At any given time, nearly one out of five people experience symptoms of depression. However there is hope and help out there for you.

What does depression feel like? It is more than feeling bummed after a break up or sad after a relative has died. It's strong and it's not "shakable". When you know someone with depression, you may want to grab him or her and shout, "Pull yourself up by your boot straps already! Get out of bed!" But they just don't seem to be able to control their sad state.

For two weeks or more, the person may have a depressed mood or loss of interest /pleasure in nearly all of his or her activities. A depressed person may also have one or more symptoms: unintentional weight loss or gain, change in appetite, too little or too much sleep, fatigue, inappropriate guilt, trouble concentrating or making decisions, and recurrent thoughts of death, even suicide.

So who gets depressed? We are all vulnerable at different times of our lives, but some more than others. Women report being depressed twice as often as men. Other at risk groups include those who are divorced or separated and individuals aged 18 to 44 seem to suffer depression at higher rates than any other age group.

What causes depression? A variety of factors may be involved, including genetics (i.e. family history of depression), early childhood experiences (such as loss or trauma), environmental factors (like recent stressors or lack of social support) or medical conditions (such as hormone imbalances, infections, cancer, or just having had a baby).

Sometimes people are told to "Just get over it." A depressed person, however, really can't. Left

untreated, depression can last for several months, leaving the sufferer unproductive or even out of work and with disrupted relationships. But with treatment, symptoms of depression can start to clear in weeks and enable people to continue being productive and happy.

What treatments are out there? Medications. Psychotherapy. Bright light lamps. Herbals. What is the first step? Get a complete physical and set of blood tests from your internist, family doctor, ob-gyn, or psychiatrist. There is no blood test for depression, but there are reversible causes of depressive symptoms like low thyroid levels or anemia and there are physical consequences to having been depressed like poor nutrition and lack of sleep that can make you more vulnerable to other illnesses.

After your complete physical, your doctor may recommend treatments you can do for yourself like getting regular and adequate sleep and exercise, or treatment with psychotherapy and/or medications to jump start your recovery.

Therapy helps people pinpoint triggers for their depression and deal with the consequences of living with depressive symptoms like trouble at work and in relationships.

If medication is needed, most medications that treat depression have few or no side effects. You and your doctor can pick one that is right for you by exploring the medication's side effect profile. For example, if one medication makes people sleepy and you experience restlessness at night because of depression and anxiety, that particular medication may work well for you.

Don't want to take drugs? Rather go the all-natural route? Many herbals are out there that may have good anti-depressant properties like St John's Wort or SAM-e. One should know, however, that not enough studies have been done to know for sure how effective herbals might be. Be sure to tell your doctor what herbals you take, or would like to take, since herbals can affect the metabolism of other drugs making them more or less effective or even building toxic levels. Also, the amount of active ingredient in an herbal preparation can vary from pill to pill so one day's dose may have enough ingredient, while another day's dose may not.

Bottom line to getting better? TALK. Talk to your spouse. Talk to your friends. Talk to your doctor. You are not alone and you can get better if you seek help.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Bazaar
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
Communion Sunday
- Dec 7<sup>th</sup> *Pearl Harbor Day*  
One Church, One Book 6:30pm
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup> CE Christmas Party 11:00am  
Christmas in Birdsboro
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup> *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
Coffee Hour & The Other Side  
One Church, One Book 1:30pm
- Dec 13<sup>th</sup> One Church, One Book 7:00pm
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup> One Church, One Book 10:00am
- Dec 16<sup>th</sup> Advent Workshop  
6:00pm – 8:00pm
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup> *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
*Farewell Celebration for Barb Moyer*
- Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> First Day of Winter
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup> *Christmas Eve*  
Candlelight Service 6:30pm  
Midnight Watch 11:00pm
- Dec 25<sup>th</sup> *Christmas Day*  
Worship Service 10:30am
- Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> – Jan 1<sup>st</sup>  
Pastor Vacation
- Dec 31<sup>st</sup> *New Year's Eve*

### Weekly Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesday's by Noon

---

### January 15<sup>th</sup> -- Congregational Meeting

Please mark your calendars now for the winter congregational meeting following worship on January 15<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting we will be voting on the 2012 financial mission, providing updates on the staff transitions, discussing the next steps from the One Church One Book initiative, and much more. Your participation is an integral part of our common mission in service to Christ.



### Weather Cancellation Policy for Worship & Sunday School

Notice of cancellation, whenever possible, will be posted by Sunday morning at 8am on the website, church answering service message, and 69news. We are still researching the availability of a local radio station to broadcast our cancellations as well.



By the time you read this newsletter, we expect the total contributions to the Fuel the Furnace Campaign to have well exceeded \$11,000. Even better than that, it is likely that the gas burner and tankless hot water heater have already been installed leading to immediate saving for our congregation in its energy and water use.

However, we will still have the second and final phase of the project to complete, which is the needed decommissioning of the underground oil tank. Since no one knows when the tank was installed it is imperative to have it decommissioned before it fails. (And there is no question that it will fail at some point in time.) Therefore, please continue to offer your support of this campaign as we reach towards the \$16,000 goal to ensure this project's successful close.



---

## HANGING OF THE GREENS

November 27<sup>th</sup> following worship we will be decorating the church and the Christmas Tree for the Christmas season. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy some fun time together while preparing our sanctuary for the season.

---

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

*Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9am to 2pm*

Our Annual will Christmas Bazaar will be taking place on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in our church building. We will have a white elephant table, great foods and handmade crafts. Come and enjoy your day with us!

---

## CHRISTIAN ED ACTIVITIES

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am – 2:00pm**

Christmas party in the Fellowship Hall

**Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm – 9:00pm**

Advent Workshop

---

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The Worship Ministry Team will be taking orders for poinsettias that will be used to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas Eve. The cost is \$9.00 and they are available in 6 ½” pots with 5-7 blooms per pot. They will be purchased from Glick’s Nursery. If you would like to order a poinsettia(s), please complete an order form and return it with your full payment. Place it in the collection plate or mail it to the church. Contact Barb Kerper if you have any questions. The flowers may be picked up *following* our Christmas Eve services.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

At the present time there are no plans to provide a caroling ministry to our homebound members. However, if you are interested in seeing this ministry happen, please be in contact with Pastor Joe. Your interest will determine the viability of this ministry this year.

---

## ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASS

*Starting January 8<sup>th</sup>*

You are invited to participate in an 8 week class of *Rediscovering the Bible in a Postmodern World*. This class, which will be taught by Pastor Joe, is designed to strengthen your understanding of what the Bible is and how to meaningfully incorporate it into your faith life. Focusing on both the Old and New Testament the class will be a rich blessing for all people.

To participate, please bring your Bible (Bibles will be available for those who do not have one), an openness to learning, and meet with others starting January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the McQuate Room of the Christian Ed. Building (lower level).

---

## PACKING BACKPACKS

*with Food - Local Service Opportunity*

Did you know that 37% of students at the Birdsboro Elementary center qualify for the free or reduced lunch program? Did you know that some kids only get a decent meal when they are in school? Did you know you can help make sure over 70 kids in our district get food each weekend?

The Birdsboro School district is looking for volunteers to help pack school bags with food each Thursday to ensure kids are eating over the weekends. Everything is provided through the school. The only thing needed are some volunteers to make sure the bags get packed. If interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Joe.



## ENDING OF PRINT NEWSLETTERS

With the end of 2011, the church is set to discontinue the practice of mailing out newsletters in bulk. The decision to end the practice of mailing the newsletters is driven by a change in technology, increased costs, changes on the part of the US Postal Services, and a need for the church to be as wise and discerning of its resources as possible with the extremely tight budget we will be operating with in 2012.

Starting with February's newsletter you can receive a newsletter online, by picking it up at the church, or by requesting an exemption (which will be primarily limited to homebound members). To receive the newsletter online, please provide the church office with your current e-mail address so that you can be notified when the newsletter is posted on our website.

Thank you for your insights as we make this transition.

---

## STAY CONNECTED WITH E-NEWS

The E-News is a weekly reminder and update of the activities coming up in the near future. You can sign up and unsubscribe to the list at any time. Simply go to [www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org](http://www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org) and click on the E-News Sign Up.

---

## POSITION OPEN FOR CHURCH BOOKKEEPER

The personnel team is currently receiving applications for church bookkeeper position which is a paid church staff position. Responsibilities include bill pay, financial computer data entry, reconciliation, and payroll. Expected average time commitment per week is 3.5-4hrs. To apply, please send a resume to: Personnel Ministry Team, St. Paul's UCC, 235 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Birdsboro PA 19508.

We thank Maureen Connolly who has been faithfully serving in this role for the last year, but who has discerned a need to free up more time for family and other aspects of her life.

## ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR TRANSITION

With great thanks giving we celebrate the ministry Barb Moyer has provided for our congregation and its ministry these last six years. However, with a growing number of grandchildren and an evolving call of God, Barb has discerned that now is the time to resign from her position of Organist/Choir Director.

To celebrate her ministry and leadership within the church, please come to an informal celebration of cake and punch following the December 18<sup>th</sup> worship service. Bring your cards, your well wishes, and most especially bring yourself.

As we prepare for this transition, the personnel team is in the process of seeking for an interim organist and choir director. If you have suggestions of people to be contacted, please speak with Blaine Stoner as soon as possible. During the interim period, which is expected to last through June, we will be refining the current organist/director job description and interviewing for the position.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

---

## 1941 CHURCH ADDITION *Redesigning for our ministry*

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, during the church work day we successfully re-organized much of the 1941 addition to the church to allow for a large multi-use space and a separate choir rehearsal and robing room. Following the Christmas bazaar the work of re-purposing the Lounge and Pastor's study will also be completed. Thank you for your feedback as we continue to evaluate the use of this space.

---

## NURSERY RENOVATIONS UPDATE

Great work continues to be done to update our church nursery. By December we anticipate that the painting of the walls will have been completed and that the reorganizing of the space will be underway. Also, one of the artists in our congregation will be painting a mural on the stairwell leading up to the nursery. Work is expected to be completed by the end of January.

Dear Friends in Christ,

I've just finished reading pastor Mike Slaughter's new book, **Christmas Is Not Your Birthday**. As one reviewer has said, it's "very readable ... and rather punchy," written by a "veteran radical." I highly recommend it!

Here's one of Mike's insightful questions: "How can we change the traditional focus of Christmas from materialistic self-indulgence to giving Jesus what he desires on his birthday?" For many, that question puts a new spin on holiday gift-giving. And it is a great question: What *do* we give Jesus on his birthday?

Mike goes on to point out that our Lord's "wish list" is right there for us in Scripture. In Matthew 25, for example, we read about our call to provide those in need with food, drink, hospitality, and clothing, and to visit the sick and those in prison. And Jesus tells us straight out, "anything you did for one of my brothers [and sisters] here, however humble, you did for me."

Jesus has made it clear for us what are the desires of his heart. This Christmas can we, the people of God, give him what he really wants for his birthday?

In the Spirit of the Lord,  
Janeen Adil

## **CONSISTORY CORNER**

November

- Loosed 67 individuals as members of the Body of Christ through St. Paul's
- Approved Weather Cancellation Policy
- Learned of the formal ending of ministry of Love Christian Fellowship (Congregation of Birdsboro)
- Endorsed work done to reorganize 1941 church addition. Noted that the work will be completed in the new year.
- Received resignation of Barb Moyer as church organist/director (whose last day of service will be December 25<sup>th</sup>) and Maureen Connolly as church bookkeeper (whose last day of service is yet to be determined)
- Approved 2012 Financial Mission Plan to be sent to the congregation for approval at the January 15<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting

---

The following individuals have been loosed from their covenantal vows of membership due to an extended period of inactivity and an inability to re-establish meaningful relationship.

Connie Adams	Scott Fry	Marc Livingood	Carrie Reazor
Rebecca Beltzner	George Fultz	Sharon Mauger	James Reazor
Jessica Berkley	Kim Geyer	Douglas Mauger	Kelly Riffle
Sarah Berkley	Amy Haring	Gerg Millard	Judy romig
Julie Berkley	Marlene Harp	Vince Miller	Terry Romig
Neil Berkley	Lisa Hinkle	Diana Moll	Nicole Ruotolo
Natalie Boettger	David Keller	Brett Moyer	Brain Rutkowski
Rita Bowers	Lisa Kieke	Carol Murphy	Lynn Rutkowski
Beth Chapple	Mark Kieke	David Murphy	Matt Smith
Casey Coates	Sarah Knavel	Justin Murphy	Pat Spinale
Kevin Corwin	Peter Knerr	Liz Murray	Kevin Stevens
Scott D'Augustine	Phyliss Knerr	Robin Oxenford	Starrett Stevens
Rachel Dragon	Melissa Kreidie	Gary Pearson	Sharon Taylor
Joanne Englehart	Sharon Leinbach	Rochelle Potter	Richie Wei;acher
Beth Englehart	Brian Lewis	Denise Readinger	David Williams
Craig Englehart	Carol Lewis	George Readinger	Monica Williams
Sandy Fayewicz	Joel Livingood		April Yenser

**GENERAL FUND OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT**

	<u>2011 YTD</u>	<u>Previous YTD</u>
Starting Balance	\$9,864	\$10,259
Blessings Received (Income)	\$110,972	\$106,669
Ministry Investments Made (Expenses)	(\$131,988)	(\$121,994)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>(\$11,152)*</b>	<b>(\$3,066)</b>

*\*This is the lowest ending balance we anticipate for the year. The rapid negative growth is due to the last of our quarterly payments for 2011 and worship attendance being impacted by the October snow storm. It is uncertain at this point in time if the General Fund will have a positive balance by the end of the year. Your gifts toward the 53<sup>rd</sup> Sunday offering appeal will make a significant difference in that outcome. To date \$1,200 has been received toward the \$2,000 goal.*

**2012 PROPOSED MISSION PLAN AT A GLANCE**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$9,864	(\$233)
Projected Blessings Received (income)	\$144,825	\$152,216
Projected Investments Made (expenses)		
Missions	(\$2,665)	(\$4,025)
Outreach	(\$699)	(\$710)
Worship	(\$2,000)	(\$1,550)
Spiritual Formation	(\$3,443)	(\$2,770)
Fellowship	(\$250)	(\$250)
Property	(\$35,560)	(\$34,217)
Administration	(\$6,740)	(\$5,445)
Covenanted Staff Support	(\$103,565)	(\$96,035)
<b>Projected Ending Balance</b>	<b>(\$233)</b>	<b>\$6,982</b>

*Our Church's Wider Mission pledge for 2012 is to be reduced from \$10,500 to \$9,500 (A more detailed plan is available in the church office and will be mailed out with the congregational meeting packet in January. There will be an opportunity to discuss the budget proposal on January 8<sup>th</sup> following worship. Final decisions about the budget will be made on January 15<sup>th</sup> at the congregational meeting.)*

**2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

*Available for Pick up 12/11 & 12/18*

To reduce the cost of mailing offering envelopes to every member of the church, this year we are making the envelopes available for pick up following worship. To help make this cost saving measure successful, please look to pick up your envelopes at the side entrance to the church on the above Sundays.

Please discard your old offering envelopes at the end of the year and begin using your new envelopes starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>. As a reminder, any offerings postmarked 2011 will be included in 2011 giving (unless you are using the new offering envelopes which will automatically be counted as 2012 offering) and all offerings postmarked 2012 will be included in 2012 giving.

## OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

For those who have lost loved ones and are restricted to their homes, the holiday season can be a very lonely and depressing time. One way to bring life and joy into the hearts of individuals is to let them know that you care. As you prepare your Christmas cards this year, we invite you to send letters to our homebound members as well so that they might share in the love we claim for as the body of Christ.

Helen Althouse  
528 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Birdsboro, PA 19508

Ernest Kerper  
345 E. Baumstown Rd.  
Birdsboro, PA 19508

Betty Millard  
354 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Birdsboro, PA 19508

Barton Werner  
37 Meadow Court  
Sinking Springs, PA 19608

Violet Bordic  
120A Lincoln Rd  
Reading PA, 19606

Diana Kohl  
406 Mitti Rd  
Shillington, PA 19607

Barbara Oister  
5300 Beaumont Street  
Macungie, PA 18062

Marion Werner  
37 Meadow Court  
Sinking Springs, PA 19608

Carl Buck  
107 N. Walnut Street  
Birdsboro, PA 19508

Emily Machemer  
3590 Main Street  
Birdsboro, PA 19508

Ada Peifer  
P.O. Box 14  
Birdsboro, PA 19508

Larry Wolfgang  
203 Madison Street  
Shillington, PA 19607

Craig Hawk  
331 S. Baumstown Rd.  
Birdsboro, PA 19508

Madelyn March  
437 Liberty Dr  
Blandon, PA 19510

Pauline Rohrbach  
16 Brookside Rd.  
Tunkhannock, PA 18657

Frances Johnson  
604 Jefferson Street  
Birdsboro, PA 19508

Jeanette Marquet  
127 Hook St.  
Birdsboro, PA 19508

Genevieve Weaver  
215 Bird Street  
Birdsboro, PA 19508

## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE CHURCH

This year, instead of collecting and distributing your cards for church members, we are inviting you to send one card to the congregation as a whole. Your Christmas card of blessing and well wishes will then be incorporated into our overall Christmas decorations allowing all people to celebrate in your joy. Cards can either be mailed to the church office address (235 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Birdsboro) or placed in the Christmas Card box located in the Narthex (front entrance to the church).

If you would like to have a card sent to an individual member, please make sure to either mail the card directly to that individual or to hand them the card at a worship service or other event.



Merry  
Christmas

## Prayer List

### **In Need of Healing**

Paul Miller  
Georgia Stanton  
Melissa Scarlito & Family  
Brooke Hetrick  
Peggy Umbach  
Dom Amodei  
Mary Carsey  
Michael Huyette  
"Aiden"  
Kathy Druzba  
Florence Sowers

### **Comfort In the Time of Loss**

The Family of Fay Babel  
The Family of Ken Zellers  
The Family of Rev. James Adams  
The Family of Joe Stanton

### **Long Term Care**

Jean Nanni  
Carol Miller  
Lorraine Long  
Evelyn & Bill Fry  
Judy Stone  
Father Cal Adams

### **As Well As**

Fuel the Furnace Campaign  
Hopewell Love INC  
Love Christian Fellowship-  
*ending of ministry*



## *ANNIVERSARIES*

### **December**

2<sup>nd</sup> Donna & John McQuate (44)  
7<sup>th</sup> Patsy & Donald Kramer (45)  
12<sup>th</sup> Carol & Leo Maynard Jr. (1)  
28<sup>th</sup> Linda & Frances Badman (28)



### **December**

1<sup>st</sup> Rickey Miller Jr.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Larry Kerper  
3<sup>rd</sup> William Price  
Robert Fitzcharles  
6<sup>th</sup> Eva Stone  
Julie Essig (Price)  
8<sup>th</sup> Jonathan Darocha  
9<sup>th</sup> Linda Bordic  
10<sup>th</sup> George Grant  
12<sup>th</sup> Barb Moyer  
Owen Powell  
13<sup>th</sup> Angela Johnson  
14<sup>th</sup> Kristin Althouse  
15<sup>th</sup> Veronica Trice  
17<sup>th</sup> Ryan Stone  
19<sup>th</sup> Robin Long  
Lindsay Diamond  
22<sup>nd</sup> Michelle Hammersley  
23<sup>rd</sup> Ashley Dorr  
25<sup>th</sup> Eric Dragan  
27<sup>th</sup> Rita Hafer  
Skip Levengood  
28<sup>th</sup> Julius Taglieri  
Cindy Sowers  
29<sup>th</sup> Curtis Hafer  
Lacey Spittler  
31<sup>st</sup> Dane Diewechter  
Bob Fuller

## PASTORAL ACTS

***Baptism of Eva Sophia Lehr***  
*November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011*  
***Born to Matthew & Cristina Lehr***  
*May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011*



## WORSHIP LEADERSHIP SCHEDULE

### *Worship Stewards for December*

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>      Wanda Druzba  
                          Janeen Adil  
 Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>

### *Greeters for December*

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>      Geri Angstadt & Jeanie  
                          Deirwechter  
 Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>      Danielle Baer & Jean Johnson  
 Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>      Dawn & Dyck Fear  
 Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>      Dave & Diane Johnson  
                          Nancy Dragan & Eric Dragan  
 Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>      Luwaina & Jeff Baker

### *Acolytes for December*

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>      Lizzie Reppert  
 Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>      Kacee Hunter  
 Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>      Danielle Baer  
 Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>      Owen Powell  
                          Colleen Hunter  
 Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>      Jacob Baker

### *Ushers for December*

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>

### *Nursery Attendants for December*

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>      Dawn Fear & Brenda Hessels  
 Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>      Denise Cisick & Jeanie Dierwechter  
 Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>      Pat Babel & Anna Oister  
 Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>      Barb Kerper & Wanda Druzba

*\*Nursery Attendants-  
 Please contact the church office or switch with  
 another attendant if you are scheduled for an  
 inconvenient date*

## ST. PAUL'S UCC LEADERSHIP

### **Ministers of the Gospel of Christ**

All Members

### **Supporting Ministers**

Rev. Joseph Motz, Pastor • Luwaina Baker, Secretary • Barbara Moyer, Choir Director/Organist  
 Barbara Kerper, Sexton • Toni Powell, Treasurer • Maureen Connolly, Bookkeeper  
 Tim McGee, Financial Secretary

### **Consistory**

Janeen Adil, President • Blaine Stoner, Vice President • Wanda Druzba, Secretary  
 Barbara Kerper • Dawn Fear • Denise Cisick • Pat Babel • Dyck Fear • Joe Cisick • Jeanie Dierwechter  
 Nancy Stoner • Toni Powell

### **Ministry Team Leaders**

Jeanie Dierwechter, Buildings & Grounds • Toni Powell, Christian Education, • Dyck Fear, Finance  
 Nancy Stoner, Hands of Hope • Wanda Druzba, Missions • Janeen Adil, Outreach • Blaine Stoner, Personnel  
 Pat Babel, Puppet Ministry • Dawn Fear, Special Events • Rev. Joseph Motz, Stewardship, Worship  
 Robin Long, Helping Hands • Luwaina Baker, Vacation Bible School • Sherry Hunter, Youth Group

To become more actively involved in the life and ministry of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in our mission to Nurture Discipleship, Boldly Love, and Passionately celebrate the living presence of our Lord, contact a ministry team leader or contact Pastor Motz to see where you might begin.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
300 W First Street  
Birdsboro, PA 19508

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
READING, PA  
PERMIT NO. 130

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



# December

The holidays are quickly approaching. With the world being as it is in these ever-changing days, have you ever wanted to reach out to someone in need, but thought that either you didn't know how, or that with your own financial limitations that you didn't believe that what you could do would make a difference. Hands of Hope Ministry is working with the Daniel Boone School District this year just as we did last year with the hat, scarf, and glove drive, only this year we are looking to fill some Christmas Dinner Baskets (4 - 5 in all). The sister churches in Hands of Hope have agreed to fill one each (a blessing, since neither church is in the district) and St Paul's is aiming for 2 baskets.

Will you help a needy family in your community to see the grace of God in action this Christmas? If you are interested in donating food items please see the listing of items on the bulletin board at either entrance of the sanctuary. If you are interested in making a monetary donation toward the purchase of food for the Christmas baskets, please place it in an envelope marked "Community Christmas Basket Program." Make any checks payable to St Paul's UCC. All donations need to be collected by Sunday 12/18/11 so that they may be distributed to the families prior to the Christmas Holiday. If you have questions, or would like to know about other ways to serve as a light in your community please contact Nancy Stoner at 610-507-6500 or [nancystoner@hotmail.com](mailto:nancystoner@hotmail.com) . **Items need to fill the Christmas Baskets:**

Basket  
Canned Ham  
Scalloped Potatoes (8 servings)  
Canned Vegetable/fresh vegetable

Canned Vegetable  
Canned or jar Applesauce  
Pumpkin Pie  
Beverage Item

Bread/Rolls/Muffins  
Can Opener (manual)  
Dawn soap  
Holiday Napkins, plates

***THANK YOU, Hands of Hope Ministry Team***