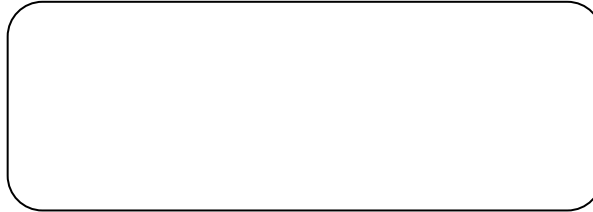


The Vision

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The Vision is a monthly publication of:
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Red Hill, PA

The Vision

Volume 50 † Number 12

December 2011

Sunday Schedule

- Early Communion Service ● 8:00 AM
- Sunday Church School ● 9:15 AM
- Contemporary Service ● 9:15 AM
- Traditional Service ● 10:30 AM

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8AM-1PM; 1:30-4:30 PM

The Upper Perkiomen Child Care Center

- a ministry of St. Paul's
Weekdays: Mon-Fri 6:30 AM - 6:00 PM
infant, toddler, 3&4 yrs., Pre-K, 6-12 yrs.

Not to be missed...

- Parish Register & Birthdays ~ 2
- Prayers & Retire/Nursing Homes ~ 3
- Health Advocates Ministry & United Way ~ 4
- Bible Quiz /Dates/Thrivent ~ 5
- Lunch Bunch/Phone Extensions ~ 6
- Christian Symbols/Meaning of Christmas ~ 7
- Seasonal Stories/Confirmation ~ 8
- Chester/Gratitude/Ways To Help ~ 9
- Growing In Grace ~ 10
- UPCCC & Pie Making ~ 11
- Upcoming Events/Music /Adopt an Inmate ~ 12
- Schedule/Advent ~ 13
- Victory House/Puzzle ~ 14
- Calendar/Worship Assistants ~ 15-16

~STATEMENT OF MISSION~

St. Paul's, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a gathering of God's people called to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. To fulfill our mission we are committed to be a faith community that:

- invites and welcomes others to share in the ministry of this church;
- gathers in joyful thanksgiving to be nourished by God's gifts of Word and Sacrament;
- promotes daily discipleship of its members by following Christ's example
- provides a variety of opportunities for making Christ's love known through worship, education, fellowship, service and the stewardship of God's gifts;
- responds to Christ's call for justice and peace in our community and world.

Partners in Mission in the Body of Christ

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ministers:	The People of St. Paul's	
Pastor:	William A. Vanderslice	541-4130
Pastoral Intern:	Vicar Ryan Ferwerda	679-5553
Council President:	Mr. Robert Foreman	267 923-8895
Dir. Of Ed. & Family Min:	Mrs. Bonnie Bonser	679-0221
Minister of Music:		
Parish Assistant:	Mrs. Karen Quinn	679-5553
Financial Secretary:	Mrs. Nancy Nase	679-5553
Parish Sexton:	Mr. Scott Moyer	679-5553
Child Care Coordinators:	Teresa Kulp-Pre-School	679-0221
	Sandy Young, School-Age	697-0221
Child Care Admin Asst.	Mrs. Beth Nichols	679-0221

1	Patrick Lapinski
2	Ian Ferrero
	Miranda Koder
3	Kelly Hinkle
	Laverne Keyser
	John Skorny
4	John Mansfield
5	Shelly Baver
6	Amy Dulin



24	Barry Miller
	Alyssa Schellhamer
25	Ava Fox
	Diane Schantz
26	Robert Koons
27	Kevin Carl
	Don Dulin II
	Whitney Landaverry
	Debbie Turofski
28	Francis Hanney
	Charles Shagg
	Jeffry Thompson
29	Angela Losinno
	Stuart Schwenk
	Cynthia Smith
	Robert Weber
30	Loretta Baver
	Carl Klinger
	Luke McGrotty
	Chris Stevens
31	Holly Barnes

Our Congregational Council

Karen Cummins	John Ferraro
Robert Foreman, <i>President</i>	Gary Hager
Janet Hill, <i>Co-Secretary</i>	Donna Montich, <i>Co-Secretary</i>
Charles Shagg, <i>Treasurer</i>	John Sheeran
Linda Smith	Henry Thomas, <i>Vice President</i>
Barry Troxel	William A. Vanderslice, <i>Pastor</i>
Robert Walp	

Committees, Groups & Organizations

Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesday @ 8 PM	
Altar Guild	Bonnie Thomas	679-5553
Appalachia Service Project	Ron Rodenberger/Matt Stever	
Cemetery Association	Henry Thomas	679-2902
Cherub Choir	Patricia Klinger	610-265-3869
Christian Education	Patricia Klinger	610-265-3869
Finance	Charles Shagg	679-2083
Evangelism		
Kitchen	Donna Stever	679-7521
Men's Fellowship	Church Office	679-5553
Music Committee	Mr. Reiner Mauer	679-6886
Narcotics Anonymous	Sunday @ 8 PM	
Newsletter – Vision	Church Office	679-5553
Prison Ministry	Bonnie Bonser	679-9126
Property	Frank Grim	679-5553
Stewardship Committee	Rbt. Foreman/Rbt. Walp	
Girl Scouts	Karen Britton	215-679-4943
Cub Scouts	Tracy Lauenders	215-703-3162
Youth Team		

7	Anna Mensch
8	Claude Croisette
	Lisa Oliver
9	Dennis Leister
	Leah Marks
10	James May
12	Tim Klavon
	Colin Smith
13	Genevieve McKeehan
	Jeff McMurtrie
	David Smith
14	Tim Rea
15	Mildred Genszler
	Thomas S. Henry
	Larry Weiss
16	Leonard Finkboon
	Richard Phillips
	Linda Smith
	Daniel Smoll
17	Sally Schwenk
18	Callie Brown
19	Dean Garges
	Matthew Landis
	Ashlee Roth
20	Katelyn Fehnel
	Sharon Fox
20	Doris Renninger
22	Kayley Hansen
	Mary Beth Lemon
23	Barry Miller

Did we miss your birthday? We apologize, and hope you will let us know so we can add it to our list.

In Our Prayers

~Hospitalized In The Last Month~

Barbara Woehr – Grand View
Alma Leister – LV Hospital

~At Home~

Barry Angstadt Cousin of Shirley Kaiser
Paul Angstadt Cousin of Shirley Kaiser
Ronnie Angstadt Cousin of Shirley Kaiser
The Blanchek Family – Cousins of
Diane McMurtrie
Gloria Bobyak – Friend of Linda Shagg
John Bolton
Alan Brandal – Brother of Linda Shagg
David Brey – Brother of Edith Stevens
Richard Croisette – Claude's brother
Jean Cupach – Sister of Alice Oliver
Joe DiCarlo
Harry Diehl – Brother of Barbara Roeder
Jennifer Dorshimer – Friend of Grim's
Michael Dzedzic- brother L Foreman
Cory Fenstermaker
Gregg Fetterman - – Cousins of
Diane McMurtrie
Lewis Fluck- father of Anne Gabel
Jeffrey Fox- son of D & L Fox
Michael Fox grandson of D & L Fox
Don Fuoss- Donna Montich's father
Orphia Gardian-D Richard's mother
Evelyn Gerhard
the Goodwin family
Steve Green- son of Barb Green
Frank Grim
Ray Grucello
Jeff Gruskaw -son in law of Lechner's
Arlene Hackman
Ward Haines- Bonnie Ferrero's dad
Lindee Harney- friend of K Creghan
Miles Hontz
Wm. Kelso- neighbor of Leister's
Shirley Keyser
Eleanor King-home
Carol Kratzer
Diane Landis
Jerry Landis
Kevin Langenbach -Father of Kip &
Kristen
Frannie Lechner
Donald Lechner
R & G Leister- Alice Hager's parents
Betty Lonergan- K Cummins' mother

Bob Mackon
Nick Mantell
Shirley Marconi- D Turofski's mother
Molly Mauro- J McMurtrie's cousin
David McMurtrie- deployed
Sharon McMurtrie-sister-in-law of Jeff
Steven Moyer,Jr.-USN son of
N McClain

Louise Mest
Calvin Miller
Donald Moll- friend of Loretta Baver
Delue Moyer
Sharon Moyer- wife of Scott Moyer
Bill Mullin- friend of Carol Elias
Pastor Bill Phillips- LCT Nursing
Elsie Rehak
Franklin Renninger
Tom Roth – Son of Fern Roth
Lee Rose- friend of the Grim's
Sandy Roth- home
Jim Russ – Uncle of Betsy Ferwerda
Tom Sands
Marianne Schatz
Christoph Schmidt
Mildred Seasholtz
Marie Seever- friend of the Grims
Kelly Sell- Diane Schantz's daughter
Braden Sell- nephew of Jeremiah Sell
& Heather Walter
Landon Shoemaker- grandson of
Cheryl & Larry Weiss
Laura Harriet Smith- A Zepp's sister
Arlene Smoll
Walter Stevens- cousin of Betty
Treffinger & Leroy & Rbt
Stevens
Kevin Steinman- nephew of Ida Benner
Regina Stifter- freind of Janet Hill
Sarah Sweinhart- sister of D Schaffer
Jeanette Terpoilli
Carl Thomas- brother of H Thomas
Verna Thomas
Betty Treffinger
Barry Troxel
Bob Twisdale
Ray Valentine- J Fox's grandfather



Retirement & Nursing

Frederick Mennonite Community

Norman Benner
Ginny Dale
Charles Keck
Don & Frannie Lechner
Anna Mensch

Life Quest, Quakertown

Grace Leister

Little Lehigh Manor

George & Patricia Hoffman

Lutheran Community at Telford

Betty Mensch
R. William Phillips
Evelyn Gerhard

Souderton Mennonite

Alverda Smoll

Pennsburg Manor

Dalton Boehm
Theresa Kautz
Marion Henry

Manor Care Home, Allentown

Glady's Hetrick
Gene Woehr

~Health Advocates Ministry~

Here's a great Christmas gift for all who smoke! The dangers associated with smoking should be familiar to all by now - emphysema, lung cancer, COPD, and more.

The good news is that the state Department of Health offers assistance on their toll-free Quitline at 800-QUIT-NOW. Smokers who call will receive information on how to quit plus free over-the-phone coaching. So, if you feel like "lighting up" that cigarette, there is someone you can call to help you get past that urge! If you don't smoke, tell a friend who does. It just may save his life.
Merry Christmas from the Health Advocates and a healthy, happy 2012.



~Current Staff Email Addresses~

Pastor William A Vanderslice
stpaulpastorvanderslice@comcast.net

Vicar Ryan Ferwerda
stpaulredhillvicar@comcast.net

Director of Ed. & Family Ministry ~ Bonnie Bonser
Stpaulupccc-ed-dir@comcast.net

Parish Assistant ~ Karen Quinn
stpaulredhill@comcast.net

Minister of Music
stpaulredhillmusician@comcast.net

Child Care Office ~ Beth Nichols
stpaulupccc@comcast.net

UPCCC Child Care Coordinators
Teresa Kulp and Sandy Young
stpaulupccc-coord@comcast.net

If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive information from the church via e-mail, please email us with your address so that we can add it to our e-mail list.

~To Ensure Hospital Visitation~

To ensure pastoral visitations, please give permission to the hospital to include your name in the patient information directory and also to notify the church office.

~Lutheran Charities United Way Donor Choice~

If you would like to participate in giving to the fall United Way Campaign through Lutheran Charities please use the following information:

United Way Donor Choice-
Lutheran Charities #00390
That number will give a general donation. You can choose to specify a social ministry if you like:

Artman #00514
Ken Crest #00839
Lutheran Children & Family Services #04024
Lutheran Settlement House #00390
Mary J. Drexel Home #00617
Paul's Run #02628
Silver Springs-Martin Luther School #03544



~A Special Thank You~

I would like to thank my friends and family for all of their prayers, cards and visits when I was in the hospital recently for a total hip replacement. A special thanks to Pastor Vanderslice and Vicar Ryan for their prayers and visits.
Sincerely
Robert Stevens

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Carl F. Slonaker, Jr., F.D. Supervisor
222 Washington Street, East Greenville PA 18041
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~Bible Quiz~



Some parts of the Christmas story, as commonly told, aren't actually recounted in Scripture. Which of the following details is recorded in the Bible?

- A. Mary rode a donkey to Bethlehem, and Joseph walked alongside her.
- B. Angels announced that a Savior, the Messiah (or Christ), had been born.
- C. There were three wise men.
- D. Shepherds and wise men (or Magi) worshiped Baby Jesus together.
- E. None of the above.

ANSWER: B (MATTHEW 1:18 & LUKE 2:12)

~Advent Explained~

Advent — the first season of the liturgical year — includes the four Sundays and weeks prior to December 25. Advent dates from the fourth century, when it lasted 40 days and included fasting and solemnity, much like Lent.

Advent is from Adventus, Latin for “coming,” referring to Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem and also his second coming. The traditional colors of Advent are purple for penitence or blue for hope.

Observing Advent is a meaningful, adventurous way to prepare for Christmas. Buy or make an Advent wreath and use candles of your choice: four blue, four purple, or three blue or purple and one pink. If you have a fifth spot, add one white Christ candle. During meals or devotions, light only one candle the first week. Add another for each new week (the pink candle traditionally marks the third week), concluding with the white candle (if you have one) on Christmas. The increasing light reminds us we’re getting closer to celebrating Christ’s light coming into the world.

~Special Dates~

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2011
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2011
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 2011
- First day of winter, December 22, 2011
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2011
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2011
- New Year’s Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2011

~Poinsettia Sale~

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE
Orders Due By December 11th
\$12.00/pot

It’s time to order Christmas Poinsettias. Please return this order form to the St. Paul’s Office before December 11th with your payment for your order. Each large, Multi-bunched, potted plant costs \$12.00. Completed order form should be turned in with money. Please make your check out to St. Paul’s and mark the “MEMO” line on your check for Christmas poinsettias.

Your sponsorship will help beautify the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Thank you.

Number of Plants _____ @ 12 each _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

I will be donating them to the sick/homebound _____

I will pick up my plants _____



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®



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Financial Associate
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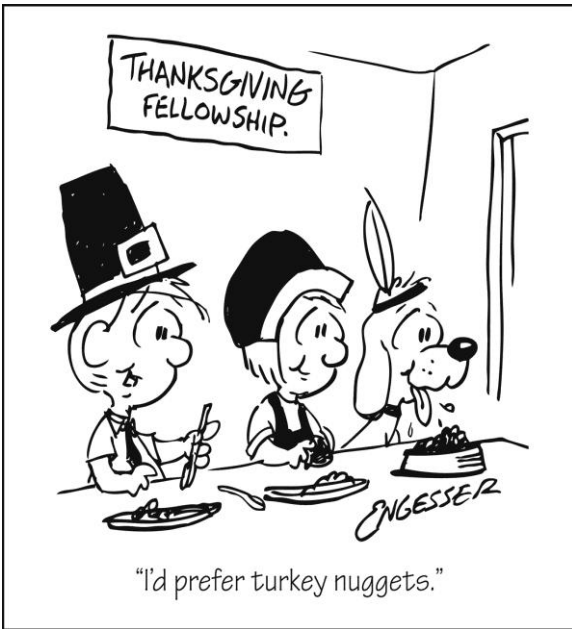
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Fax: 215-368-1718
Cell: 215-527-1380

Thrivent Financial as a fraternal company provided more than \$100 million last year to help congregations, communities and individuals in need.

St. Paul’s – Red Hill participates in the Thrivent *Care in Community*® matching funds program by supporting a local food pantry, soup kitchen, prison ministry, medical assistance and annual servant trip for home repairs in the Appalachia mountains.

A new program *Thrivent Choice* enables benefit members to designate Thrivent Choice dollars to St. Paul’s benevolent fund.

Pastor Vanderslice serves on the Upper Montgomery Chapter Board as Vice President and Coordinator of the *Care in Community*® program.



~The Lunch Bunch~
A Fellowship Group for the Young at Heart

Our Lunch Bunch Gathering for December is **Wednesday, December 14 at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall.** Please be sure it is marked on your calendars and plan on joining us. You need to pack a sandwich, bring a mug, Soup will be provided. For our Dessert we ask that each person bring a plate of Christmas Cookies to share for every one's enjoyment.

As we celebrate this most joyful season of our Saviors' birth, we will be entertained with the sweet voices of the children of St. Pauls Day Care. Bring a relative or friends to join us. Can you believe this is the close of 2011. Lunch Bunch is still saving the Redner Save-A-Tape-Register Tapes. Use your card if you are a Redner shopper and bring your tapes to church. The proceeds help to defray program expenses. Thank you.

Jack Monaghan
Funeral Director
 612 Main Street
 Red Hill, PA 18076
 215-679-6400
ghanfuneralhome.com

~Church Phone Extensions~

When calling the church or UPCCC, enter the extension for the person or classroom you wish to contact.

Callers without a touch tone phone will be transferred to the church office automatically.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Church Office:	Ext. 110
Child Care Coordinator	Ext. 122
Education Director	Ext. 125
Financial Secretary	Ext. 126
Musician	Ext. 124
Sexton	Ext. 127
Pastor	Ext. 111
Vicar (Pastoral Intern)	Ext. 112

Upper Perkiomen Child Care Center

Little Explorere	Ext. 118
Kindergarten	Ext. 113
Pre K	Ext. 119
Pre-School	Ext. 115
Twoodles	Ext. 120
School Age/Fellowship Hall	Ext. 116
Nursery	Ext. 117
Church Library	Ext. 123

~Cemetery Flowers~

*Please assist with the care of the cemetery
 Within 30 days after any holiday or special occasion,
 please remove from the church cemetery floral
 decoration, flower plants, and faded artificial
 arrangements*

~Bulletin & Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship~

*Do you want to remember someone? Celebrate something special with a loved one?
 Sponsor the Bulletin or Sanctuary Lamp for a given Sunday. A sign-up sheet is located in the elevator hallway on the bulletin board. \$20.00 donation required. We appreciate your support.*

~Christian Symbols~



ROSE

This flower, often shown as stylized artwork, is a symbol for Advent, the promise of the Messiah and Jesus' nativity. A white rose represents the Virgin Mary, and a red rose stands for martyrs. A wreath of roses symbolizes heavenly joy.

~Paper Recycling~

Please help support UPCCC by bringing your paper to the recycle bin located in the lower child care parking lot. Newspapers, magazines, and junk mail are welcome. Please, no cardboard, that can't be recycle here. Thanks.



1418 Main Street
Hellertown, PA 18055
Donna M. Falk, Supv.
610.838.9191
email: memorial@falkfuneralhomes.com

163 Main Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073
Frank J. Falk, Supv
215.679.5933



~The True Meaning of Christmas~

A few years ago, my Christmas season centered on the arrival of a baby — our second child, due December 23. Exhausted with pregnancy, I skipped out on holiday gatherings, did less decorating and baking than usual, didn't send cards and didn't plan a holiday dinner, assuming — correctly, it turned out — I'd be in the hospital then.

It was a strangely quiet Christmas season, with our focus on the impending arrival. But once our baby was born, in the last hour of Christmas Day, all the missed parties, caroling, cookie-indulging and even present-opening paled in comparison. All that truly mattered was God's gift to our family of this one very special baby.

Isn't this how Christmas should always be? Seasonal activities are fun but hold meaning only if they deepen our focus on the coming of one very special Baby — the Christ-Child. Hold him in your heart this season, as I held my newborn that Christmas night. If the hustle and bustle distracts you from the Baby, put an end to it. If traditional activities prove more stressful than joyous, consider what you can let go of to embrace the true meaning of Christmas — the birth of Jesus, God's gift of love.

—Heidi Mann



Merry Christmas

~Newly Received~

We welcome Christopher, Shannon and Kira Struble; Chris, Jordan, Jenna Moyer, Kim Voorhees & Mackenzie Williams as new members of our faith community. Kira and Mackenzie were received through Holy Baptism. Mackenzie, along with Nicholas Losinno & Ali Lord made their First Communion on November 13, 2011. Welcome to St. Paul's family of faith!

~ Confirmation Ministry ~

Confirmation ministry is underway and is an opportunity to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, affirm the Christian faith, and assume a larger role in the life of the Christian community through service to our neighbors. The Classes are listed below. Confirmation offers us an opportunity to pray for those who are experiencing this ministry and to help and encourage them in their studies.

- 12.04.2011 – Class | December 4 at 4:30 PM
- 01.08.2012 – Class | January 8 | 4:30 PM – note: 2nd Sunday in January
- 02.05.2012 – Class | February 5 | 4:30 PM
- 02.22.2012 - February 22 | 7:30 PM – *Ash Wednesday Service*
- 03.04.2012 – Class | March 4 | 4:30 PM
- 04.01.2012 – April 1 – no class meeting. Youth attend Wednesday. Lenten and Holy Week Services
- 04.05.2012 – April 5 | 7:30 PM - *Maundy Thursday service*
- 04.06.2012 – April 6 | 7:30 PM – *Good Friday Service*
- 04.08.2012 – April 8 – *Easter Sunday*
- 05.06.2012 – Class | May 6 | 4:30 PM
- 05.27.2012 – May 27 – *Pentecost Sunday | Confirmation*

~ Dare to Hope ~

If you've ever given up on a dream, then you have something in common with Zechariah. When an angel brought news that Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, would soon have a son, Zechariah had trouble believing it (Luke 1:13-18).

How long had it been since Zechariah first prayed for a son? More to the point, how long had it been since he'd given up praying for a son? With the couple's childbearing years long past, Zechariah likely felt compelled to emphasize the impossibility of the angel's proclamation.

Perhaps you know what it's like to lose hope. Zechariah's story reminds us that God's plans cannot be hampered, even when the laws of nature stand in the way. Hold on to your hope because God works miracles.



~ A Lesson in Giving ~

When pastor Jeremy Jacoby learned of a parishioner's urgent need, he did more than just preach a sermon about giving. He literally gave a piece of himself away.

A week after Jon Adams, 33, joined Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Frederick, Colorado, his weak kidneys quit working. No relatives were a match for a transplant, but Jacoby, a 36-year-old husband and father, was. So he donated a kidney to Adams.

Jacoby started Family of Christ in 2007, hoping the church would have a reputation for taking care of members. "If I didn't help Jon, then nothing I said about unconditional love for our church family had any meaning," he says.

Jacoby adds that he didn't feel obligated to help Adams just because he was a pastor. "It's because I'm Christian," he says. "It's really easy for me to put myself in Jon's shoes."

—Quotes from The Denver Post,
April 20, 2008

~ Christmas Tapestry ~

"Christmas reminds us we are not alone. We are not unrelated atoms, bouncing and ricocheting amid aliens, but are a part of something, which holds and sustains us. As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same. Christmas shows us the ties that bind us together, threads of love and caring, woven in the simplest and strongest way within the family."

—Donald E. Westlake

~ Christmas Heart ~

"Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history because it has meant the pouring into a sick world of the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost 2,000 years ... underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart."

—George Matthew Adams

~Chester Squeaks – Er - Speaks~



Smells. Everywhere smells. For two days prior to the ham dinner the church was filled with the smell of pies baking. Then came the day before the child care's School-Age Thanksgiving feast. The smell of turkeys roasting all day. You just can not imagine how delightful it is to live in this wonderful old church building. I and my family get to hear the organ not just on Sundays, but whenever Margie practices. We can hear the praise team rehearse on Monday nights and the bells ringing on Sunday evenings. On weekdays the voices and laughter of children can be heard throughout the building and on the grounds outside. My family and I get to enjoy all the entertainment that comes to the Lunch Bunch each month. We get to hear the church bells ringing and the carillon playing. But we also get to rest in the quiet, solitude of the building when no one is about. My family is truly blessed by the simple joys of life.

And then there are Sunday mornings when we listen to all of you lift your voices in praise and worship to the Lord God. That is why you come to church isn't it? To give our God the praise and glory and honor that is due His Name? You come to worship, to hear His Word, and to remember Him in the bread and the wine. You come to be refreshed and to encourage one another. You come because you love the One Who first loved you! Can I hear an Amen?! Well, hopefully, that is why you come. There is nothing greater or more important than worshiping the Lord. And hopefully Sunday is not the only day you do it. Worship is something you as humans and we critters should do every day.

Mrs. Chester says enough with the preaching and on to the news. So here's the December news. Events not to be missed this month: the child care Christmas programs on

Thursday nights December 1st and 8th at 7 PM in the sanctuary; Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, Dec. 14th; the Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 18th at the 9:15 AM service; the Christmas Eve services Saturday, Dec. 24th at 7:30 & 11 PM; and don't forget church on Christmas Day. Also, the Warm Heart tree is up in Fellowship hallway. This year you can help out a family from Open Line, give to a resident at Pennsburg Manor, help a prison inmate, and more. Stop by the tree and see what part the Lord would have you do this Christmas.

Before I sign off this month, let me remind you of something. You are a blessed people. The Lord blesses so that we can be a blessing to others. Ask yourself every day, "Lord, who can I bless today? Who needs a smile, a hug, a phone call, a card, a helping hand, a kind word, someone to listen, a word of encouragement? Show me who I can bless today."

This December enjoy yourself, enjoy others, and enjoy your God; for He has given you all things to enjoy richly! Well, that's about it for now. My family and I wish you a joyful, peaceful, and blessed Christmas. And remember, the walls have ears.
~ Chester

~What to Give for Christmas~

To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all men, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.

—Oren Arnold

~ Ways to Help~

Do you know of people on the prayer list who perhaps are not in need of prayer? We love to offer prayers for all those in need, and it's wonderful that we can come together as a family of faith and do so. Our list has gotten long enough that we may need to do some housekeeping. Please let us know if anyone you've placed on the list is doing well enough that they may not be as in need of prayer. Thank you.

*****FLOWERS:** There are many openings for people to sponsor Altar and Chancel flowers. Please call Heather Walter at 215-541-4069 if you wish to sponsor flowers. Arrangements start at \$35.00

~Growing in Grace~

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.’”

Luke 2:13,14 KJV

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6 KJV

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.” John 14:27 KJV

“These things have I spoken unto you, that in Me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

Have you received a Christmas card in the mail yet? Chances are you will receive at least one Christmas card this season with the word “Peace” on it or at least a picture of a dove, as a symbol of peace. Peace is a big theme of Christmas cards and the season. Why is that so? Is it because we associate the birth of Christ with peace? Why do we associate Christmas and Jesus’ birth with peace? In the 2000 or so years since His birth has there been any lasting, prolonged peace? What is peace? Is it just the absence of war and conflict? What do we really know and understand about peace anyway?

According to Noah Webster’s American Dictionary of The English Language 1828, several definitions of peace include: in a general sense, a state of quiet or tranquility; freedom from disturbance or agitation; freedom from war; freedom from private quarrels, suits, or disturbances; freedom from anger, anxiety, or the like; quietness of mind; tranquility; calmness; quiet of conscience; harmony; concord; Heavenly rest. So from these definitions you can see that peace is more than absence of war. You may not be where there is war being fought among opposing armies, but there may be a war going on in your mind, your soul, your spirit.

Jesus would have used the Hebrew word *shalom* which we translate peace in English. However this word *shalom* in Hebrew means much more than just our word peace. The Hebrew word *shalom* contains the thoughts of healing, wholeness, prosperity, peace, salvation - nothing missing and nothing broken in one’s life.

How does one achieve peace in one’s life? Some think they will find peace in being financially rich. Many times wealth does not bring peace. Others seek peace by trying to empty themselves in some kind of Eastern meditation practices, yoga, drugs, or drown themselves in alcohol.

Some think escaping through activities, sports, TV, spas, or vacations will give them peace. People look for peace and the world tries to sell it to us in many ways and things. But the world’s idea of peace is not true peace. It is usually only a cheap, temporary counterfeit. So where do we find true peace?

First of all, if we are looking for peace thinking it is a thing, we will never find it. Peace is not an it. Peace is a who, a person. Peace is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself! True and lasting peace can only be found in Jesus. He is The Prince of Peace! That is why the angels sang to those first shepherds on that lonely hillside outside Bethlehem. They were proclaiming that Peace was born. Peace had come back into the Earth and God was giving His Peace, His Son, The Prince of Peace, to all people. God was proclaiming the return of His kingdom back into the Earth. The Bible tells us that the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, *peace*, and joy in the Holy Spirit. And again in Galatians 5:22 it says that the fruit of the Spirit (that’s God’s DNA) is love, joy, *peace*... Want peace in your life? Get Jesus. He gives the peace that passes understanding, the peace that never leaves you nor forsakes you, the peace that will carry you through all of life’s trials and tribulations (pressures).

Jesus said He has left us His peace, His peace, perfect, unwavering, everlasting, holds up under any and all trials and temptations, kind of peace. If you don’t know or have this kind of peace, maybe you need to seek out the Giver of Peace, Peace Himself, The LORD JESUS CHRIST. Finding Him is just a prayer away. Because when you find Him you will find peace. And as you grow in His grace, that peace will increase and grow stronger in you as you feed upon the Word of God.

This Christmas don’t let peace be just a word you see on your Christmas cards. Let peace be Jesus living and abiding in you, your Prince of Peace! May your Christmas be blessed and filled with the glory of God’s gift of peace to you. Shalom.

Grace ~ the power of the Holy Spirit to do in us what we cannot do for and by ourselves.

~Peanut Butter & Pajamas~

Please remember we are the community’s “peanut butter church” for the Open Line. Please keep those jars of peanut butter coming!

The Frontier Girls are collecting new children’s pajamas to donate to Open Line from now until December 16th. Please place donations in the box in the fish tank hallway!

*~Upper Perkiomen Child Care~
A weekday early childhood educational
ministry of St. Paul's*

Nursery ~ Holiday fun is December's theme in the Nursery. We will be playing with red, our color of the month, to show off our holiday spirit. Don't forget to look for us at the Christmas program on December 1st!

Little Explorers ~ We are excited for Santa's reindeer to visit and we are making a special treat for them! We are also making a special treat for the birds since it's getting cold outside. Our numbers for the month are 1,2,5 and 10 and our color is green. We'll be sure to get all decked out for our Christmas party! It will be fun to celebrate and sing songs.

Woodles ~ The Christmas spirit has come to our room as we collect books to share with Open Line families. We are also having a Christmas program this month! It's a fun-filled holiday season with lots for us to do like making bird seed snowflakes to feed our furry friends, doing reindeer and mitten lacing activities, and a doing a lighted Christmas tree activity!

Preschool ~ December is a fun month in the Preschool room! We are welcoming our new friend, Alex and we are going on a trip to the planetarium. We are also having our Christmas program! We will busy making Christmas gifts and learning the color green and the letters "C" and "S".

Pre-K ~ Pre-K has been practicing for our performance in this year's Christmas program! The Christmas spirit fills our room as we learn about generosity and giving by holding a coat drive to benefit a local homeless shelter. We are working on the number "5" and the letters "C" and "S" and using the color green in our projects, too.

Kindergarten ~ It's Christmas time in the Kindergarten room! The true meaning of the season and being generous during the holidays (and always) is our focus this month. We are excited about our Christmas program on December 1st and our Christmas party on December 23rd! We are also going to be making salt dough ornaments and Christmas bags.

School-Age ~ School age is always excited to put on our Christmas program for their family and friends. This year's musical is called, Dude, You Hear What I hear? and will be performed on Thursday, December 8 at 7:00pm. We hope everyone interested in seeing the show is able to come out and see all the hard work and the dedication of

the UPCCC School-Age children! other things the children will be enjoying this month is decorating our tree in Fellowship Hall, making Christmas projects and looking forward to Christmas vacation and some time off from school!



~Born In A Barn?~

While growing up, if my sisters and I behaved rudely at the table, my mom would ask, "Were you born in a barn?"

Too often, rude behavior isn't restricted to meals. Even adults behave badly toward others, intentionally or unintentionally. Our lack of consideration, good manners and kindness might be likened to the behavior of animals, not guided by concepts of right and wrong.

Jesus was literally born in a barn because we sometimes act like we were born in a barn, failing to put others ahead of ourselves. Through Jesus, God willingly entered the mess and stink of human existence. We know that Jesus can relate to the lowest of human experience because he was laid into a feed trough for animals, surrounded by their sounds and smells. Born alongside us in the "barn" of earthly life, Jesus taught us not only politeness but love.

One day, when I dine with Jesus at the heavenly banquet, I trust Mom will be pleased with my table manners.

~Upcoming Events~

Sunday Church School | Ages 2 - grade 6 runs from 2nd Sun. of Sept. through the 4th Sun. of May on Sunday Mornings • 9:15 AM

Jr. Youth Fellowship - Grades 1 - 6
Second Friday • 6:30 PM

Sr. Youth Fellowship - Grades 7 - 12
Fourth Sunday • 4:30 PM

Bible Study Thursdays • 7:00 PM
First & Third Thursday • 1:00 PM

Cemetery Committee • Third Monday • 7:00 PM

Finance Committee • Fourth Tuesday • 6:45 PM

Congregational Council • Fourth Tuesday • 7:30 PM

Cub Scouts meet Mondays • 6:30 PM

Frontier Girls (a new program) Fridays at 6:30 PM

Daisy and Brownie Scouts
Meet Fridays • 6:30 PM (brownies every other week)

Robotics Team Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM &
Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Table Talk - Faith & Fellowship • 3rd Sunday • 4:30 PM

Confirmation Ministry | Grades 7, 8 & 9
Sunday, December 4th at 10:30 Fellowship Hall

Victory House – December 11th at 4:00 PM

Property Committee • December 5th • 7:30 PM

Lunch Bunch – December 14th at 11:30 AM

Health Advocates – Service at Pennsburg Manor
December 21st at 10:00 AM

~ Support Groups ~

AA – Meets every Wednesday at 8:00 PM

NA – Meets every Sunday at 8:00 PM

~Music Notes~

Generations Choir An inter-generational Choral Group
Sunday Evening Rehearsal • 6:30 PM

Handbell Choir Sunday Evening Rehearsal • 7:30 PM

Praise Team Rehearsal on Mondays • 7:30 PM

Youth Christmas Program
Rehearsals are held every Sunday at 10:30 AM
Presentation December 1 – 7pm All up to Twoodles
December 8 – 8 pm School Age

~Prepare to Worship~

A voice cries out, “Prepare the way of the Lord!” Help us, O God, prepare our hearts to welcome and worship you.

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we [rejoice]” (Psalm 126:3, NRSV). Tune our hearts, God, to sing your praises now and always.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory” (John 1:14, NKJV). Lord Jesus, we’re filled with wonder and praise at the miracle of your birth.

~ Adopt an Inmate ~



Looking for a way to be salt and light in this world?

There is someone in prison who needs to see the love and grace of God in a very practical way.

If you have a heart for the lost and are willing to take the time to write a card or letter and to give \$30.00 of support per month, please contact Bonnie Bonser.

You can call, email or see Bonnie in person. Jesus is in business of changing lives, and we can help.

Go to www.stpaulredhill.org/who-we-are/faith-in-action/prison-ministry to view the powerful video *Taking One Small Step to Change Someone's Life*. One of the lay chaplains we relate to and support is featured in this video.

~ *While They Were Sleeping* ~

It was an evening like any other. Ordinary men were doing an ordinary job. Shepherds were “keeping watch over their flock by night” (Luke 2:8). Was it chilly? Were they tired? When angels appeared with news of a Savior, had the shepherds been talking about their troubles or sharing a good joke?

How quickly, how mysteriously, how unexpectedly an ordinary night became the turning point of human history. How remarkable that God chose to set his great rescue plan in motion when only a young couple was paying attention and only a few shepherds were awake.

God’s work is sometimes so secret we may wonder if he’s there or if he cares. The Christmas story tells us that God works out breathtaking plans for our lives in the dark, often while we’re sleeping or going about our ordinary routines.

BLESSINGS FROM GOD

~ *Make It “Advent”-urous* ~

Advent — the first season of the liturgical year — includes the four Sundays and weeks prior to December 25. Advent dates from the fourth century, when it lasted 40 days and included fasting and solemnity, much like Lent.

Advent is from Adventus, Latin for “coming,” referring to Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem and also his second coming. The traditional colors of Advent are purple for penitence or blue for hope.

Observing Advent is a meaningful, adventurous way to prepare for Christmas. Buy or make an Advent wreath and use candles of your choice: four blue, four purple, or three blue or purple and one pink. If you have a fifth spot, add one white Christ candle. During meals or devotions, light only one candle the first week. Add another for each new week (the pink candle traditionally marks the third week), concluding with the white candle (if you have one) on Christmas. The increasing light reminds us we’re getting closer to celebrating Christ’s light coming into the world.

~ *Holiday Schedule* ~

We have so much to be thankful for here at St. Paul’s, and with the holiday season fast approaching – It is often good to know what’s happening ahead of time!

Advent began on November 27th. Please consider making a special Advent offering in the envelope you have received by mail. That envelope will replace the coin folders we used to send, in the interest of preserving our natural resources and the extra costs of postage. Simply use this envelope and return it in any collection you choose. We appreciate your support.

The service times for Christmas will be as follows:

Christmas Eve | December 24, 2011
Service Schedule for Christmas Eve

7:30 PM
Candlelight, Carols & Communion

11 PM
Candlelight, Carols & Communion

Christmas Day | December 25, 2011


One Combined Service 10:30 AM

Special music will begin 20 minutes before each service hour on Christmas Eve.




A little smile, a word of cheer,
A bit of love from someone near,
A little gift from one held dear,
Best wishes for the coming year ...
These make a Merry Christmas!

—John Greenleaf Whittier



PUZZLE



A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

7+6 strength	9+1 shepherd	30-5 the	7-5 ends	30-26 live
21-10 will	27-24 reach	10+7 flock	40-20 stand	15+4 security
8+8 his	35-34 low	17-3 greatness	10-3 earth	10+5 will
5+1 will				

"He _____ and _____ his _____
 _____ 15 _____ 20 _____ 10 _____ 17
 in the _____ of the _____ ... And they _____
 _____ 13 _____ 4 _____ 11 _____ 24
 _____, for then _____
 _____ 16 _____ 16 _____ 14 _____ 8
 _____ to the _____ of _____"
 _____ 3 _____ 12 _____ 28 _____ 7"

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they will live securely for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV



~Victory House~

On November 13th, Leroy and Edith Stevens, Aaron Lesko and Abby and Laura Foreman traveled to the Victory House to serve dinner to the residents there. The Stevens graciously provided a wonderful ham supper that Abby and Aaron quickly put together with ample time to play a game or two of Racko while Leroy watched a bit of football with the guys as the potato filling and ham cooked. Aaron and Abby served a warm plate to each resident, while Leroy insured that everyone knew what pickled cabbage was and Edith encouraged everyone to try the homemade desserts the group brought. Thank you to all that have donated your time, talent, prayers or money to help those at the Victory House. Without your generosity, we could not do what we do.

The St. Paul's soup kitchen committee will be traveling to the Victory House on December 11th for their final visit this year. A signup sheet is located outside fellowship hall on the bulletin board. If you are interested in traveling to the Victory House to help serve, would like to prepare some food prior to the trip or have any questions about the Victory House at all, please contact Laura Foreman at 267-923-8895 or via email at foreman3@hotmail.com.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." - Galatians 6:9 (NIV)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Robotics 9AM				1 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Bible Study 1PM Pre School Christmas Program 7PM	2 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Frontier Girls, Brownies Daisies 6:30 PM	
4 Early Service 8AM Contemp. SCS 9:15AM Late Service 10:30AM Confirmation 4:30PM Generations Ch. 6:30PM Bells 7:30 NA 8P	5 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM Property Com. 7PM Praise Team 7:30PM	6 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Robotics 6:30PM	7 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Christian Ed 7:30 PM AA 8PM	8 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Bible Study 1PM Christmas Program School Age 7PM	9 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Jr Youth 6:30 PM Frontier Girls & Daisies 6:30PM	10 Robotics 9AM
11 Early Service 8AM Contemp. SCS 9:15AM Late Service 10:30AM Victory House 4:00PM Generations Ch. 6:30PM Bells 7:30 NA 8PM	12 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM Praise Team 7:30PM	13 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Robotics 6:30PM	14 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Lunch Bunch 11:30AM AA 8PM	15 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Bible Study to be determined	16 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Frontier Girls, Brownies Daisies 6:30 PM	17 Robotics 9AM
18 Early Service 8AM Contemporary 9:15AM Sunday School 9:15AM Late Service 10:30AM Table Talk 4:30PM Generations Ch. 6:30PM Bells 7:30 NA 8PM	19 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Cub Scout Party 7PM Cemetery 7PM Praise Team 7:30PM	20 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Robotics 6:30PM	21 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Health Adv. @ Pennsburg Manor 10AM Men's Bible 7PM	22 Bible Study 1 PM Bible Study 7 PM	23 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Frontier Girls & Daisies 6:30PM	24 Robotics 9AM Musical Prelude 7PM Family Service 7:30 PM Late Service/Choir 11 PM
25 Combined Christmas Service 10:30 AM Music starts at 10:10 AM	26 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Cub Pack 6:30PM Praise Team 7:30PM	27 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Robotics 6:30PM Finance 6:45PM Council 7:30PM	28 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM AA 8PM	29 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Bible Study 7PM	30 Weekday Child Care 6:30 AM-6 PM Frontier Girls, Brownies Daisies 6:30 PM	30 Robotics 9AM

	Altar Guild	Acolytes	Comm Assist	9:15 Ushers	10:30 Ushers	Readers	Counters
4	8 AM Sandy Landis 10:30 AM Stephanie Smith Wash: Nancy Yerger	10:30 - #	8 AM Stan Rose 10:30 AM Joanne Hersh	9:15 AM Team D Carol Elias Brad Hendershot	10:30 AM #7 Barbara Green Paul Godshall	10:30 AM Joanne Hersh	Monday 5 - #3 Tom Sands Charles Shagg
11	8 AM Barb Miller	10:30 - #	8 AM Sandy Bergey 10:30 AM Robert Walp	9:15 AM Team E Debbie Grayshuk Katie Grayshuk	10:30 AM #8 Leroy Stevens Tom & Sandy Landis	10:30 AM Robert Walp	Mon 12 - #4 Sandy Bergey Alan & Diane Richard
18	8 AM Nicole Walter	10:30 - #	8 AM Charles Shagg 10:30 AM Jan Woertz	9:15 AM Team F Ron Rodenberger George Bonkemper	10:30 AM #5 Brian Stever Frank Grim Chad Grim	10:30 AM Jan Woertz	Mon 19 - #5 Leroy Stevens Robert Stevens Betty Treffinger
24	7:30PM Barb Miller 11 PM Alan & Diane Richard Wash: Pat Walter	7:30 PM - # 11 PM	7:30 PM Henry Thomas 11 PM Cheryl Weiss	7:30 PM Teams 1 & 2 Bruce Bayer Laveme Keyser Nancy Yerger Pat Walter	11 PM Teams #3 & 4 Alan Richard Donald Dulin Charles Roth	7:30 PM Henry Thomas 11 PM Cheryl Weiss	N/A
25	To be Announced	10:30 - #	To be Announced	9:15 AM To Be Announced	10:30 AM To be Announced	10:30 AM To be Announced	Mon 26 - #6 Sandy Bergey Claude & Jean Croissette