

PROGRESS-IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3640 Ash St., Harrisburg, PA 17109, 717-545-8711



PIPC Messenger

DECEMBER 2009



The Invitation to Invite

Two passages of scripture - one Christmas-related and one not, one from a Gospel writer and one written by the Apostle Paul:

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him. (Matthew 1:20-24)

God sends an angel to Joseph with an important message - trust me. Trust me, Joseph, that I know what I am doing. Trust me, Joseph, that I am with you and the ones you love. Trust me, Joseph, that what will happen is within my preferred and promised future. God seems to be inviting Joseph to be part of something greater than himself, inviting him to actually invite God's own self, Emmanuel, into the world. Joseph responded to this invitation and the rest is, well, Christmas.

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. (2 Corinthians 3:2-4)

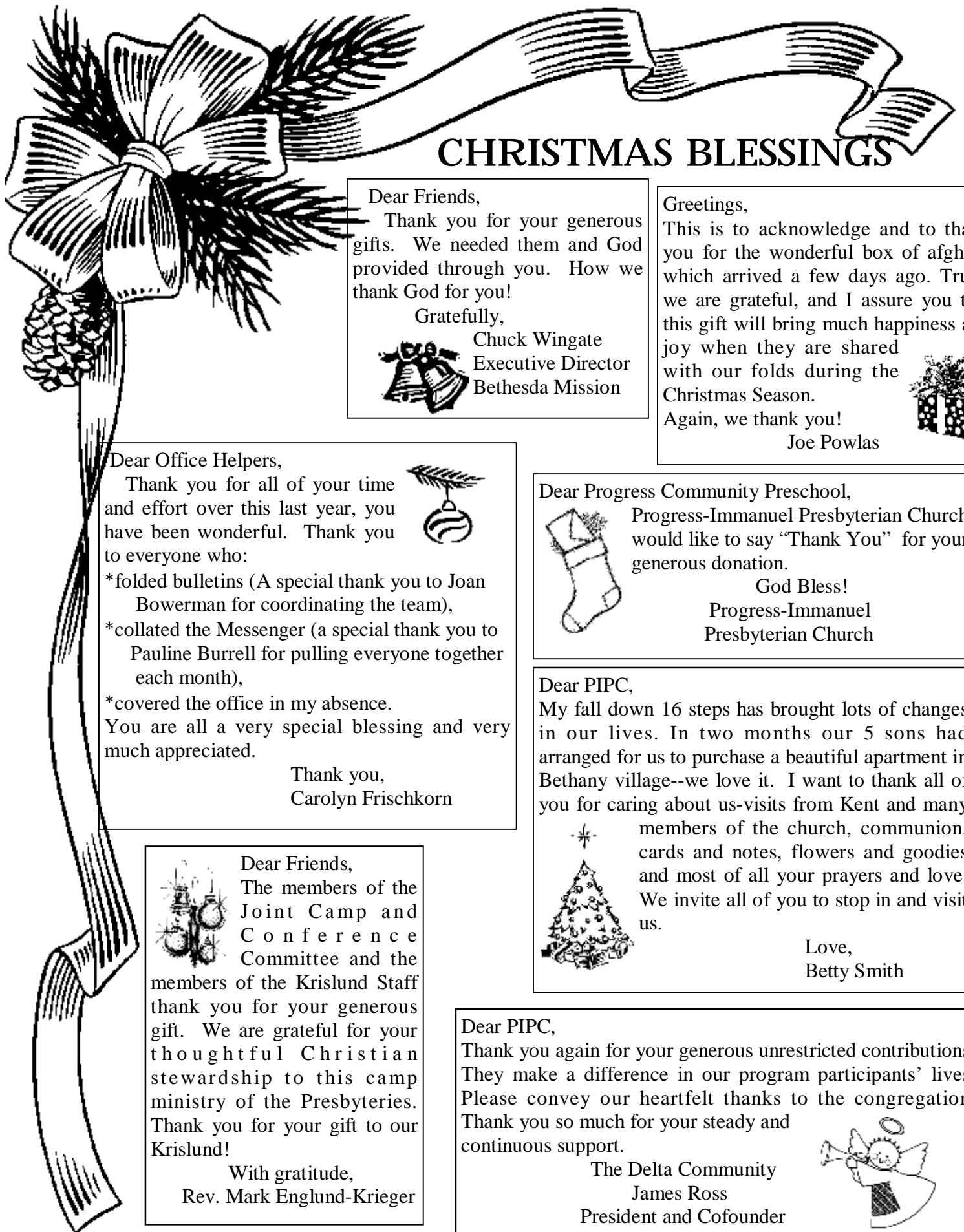
In this particular passage, Paul shares with the church in Corinth how much he appreciates what those followers of Christ are doing and how they are acting. Paul suggests in these few verses that the community reflects the teachings of Paul and, by extension, the grace and love of God. He uses the image of a special kind of letter, an invitation, to remind the Christians how they treat one another and how they respond to the needs of the community acts as an invitation of welcome and hospitality for others.

God invites Joseph to trust in God's promises, and in turn, Joseph invites Jesus into his own family and into the world. God, through Paul, invites the Corinthians to reflect the grace and love of God, and in turn, the community of Corinth extends the invitation for warm greetings of welcome and hospitality to the world.

God continues to issue invitations for trusting and receiving. God continues to offer invitations of hospitality and inclusion. God comes to us as Emmanuel and sends us out, Immanuel, to invite and receive those around us.

May God grant to us this Advent and Christmas season the heart to invite others to experience the joy and miracle of the baby Jesus.

Pastor Kent



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your generous gifts. We needed them and God provided through you. How we thank God for you!

Gratefully,



Chuck Wingate
Executive Director
Bethesda Mission

Greetings,

This is to acknowledge and to thank you for the wonderful box of afghans which arrived a few days ago. Truly, we are grateful, and I assure you that this gift will bring much happiness and joy when they are shared with our folds during the Christmas Season.

Again, we thank you!

Joe Powlas



Dear Office Helpers,

Thank you for all of your time and effort over this last year, you have been wonderful. Thank you to everyone who:



- *folded bulletins (A special thank you to Joan Bowerman for coordinating the team),
 - *collated the Messenger (a special thank you to Pauline Burrell for pulling everyone together each month),
 - *covered the office in my absence.
- You are all a very special blessing and very much appreciated.

Thank you,
Carolyn Frischkorn

Dear Progress Community Preschool,



Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church would like to say "Thank You" for your generous donation.

God Bless!

Progress-Immanuel
Presbyterian Church

Dear PIPC,

My fall down 16 steps has brought lots of changes in our lives. In two months our 5 sons had arranged for us to purchase a beautiful apartment in Bethany village--we love it. I want to thank all of you for caring about us--visits from Kent and many



members of the church, communion, cards and notes, flowers and goodies and most of all your prayers and love. We invite all of you to stop in and visit us.

Love,
Betty Smith



Dear Friends,
The members of the Joint Camp and Conference Committee and the members of the Krislund Staff thank you for your generous gift. We are grateful for your thoughtful Christian stewardship to this camp ministry of the Presbyteries. Thank you for your gift to our Krislund!

With gratitude,
Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger

Dear PIPC,

Thank you again for your generous unrestricted contributions. They make a difference in our program participants' lives. Please convey our heartfelt thanks to the congregation. Thank you so much for your steady and continuous support.

The Delta Community
James Ross
President and Cofounder





2009 Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule



November 29 - First Sunday of Advent

8:15 AM Informal Worship-*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

10:30 AM Traditional Worship-*Looking for Signs*

4:00 PM Family Celebration

5:30 PM Advent Family Dinner

6:30 PM Advent Celebration Entertainment



December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent

8:15 AM Informal Worship-*And He Shall Be Named Immanuel*

10:30 AM Traditional Worship-*Seeing Salvation*

3:00 PM Carter Advent Open House



December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:15 AM Informal Worship- *Greetings Favored One*

10:30 AM Traditional Worship-*Rejoice-Repent*




December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:15 AM Informal Worship-*Leaping with Joy*

10:30 AM Traditional Worship - *Heralds of Joy*



December 24 - Christmas Eve



7:00 PM Family Celebration with communion and candle lighting.

Come and worship in a slightly informal setting geared toward children and their families.

11:00 PM Worship with communion and candle lighting.

Worship the child-king who was born on this night long, long ago.

Scripture lessons and carols will guide us to the manger and

then out to the world to share the joy of this holy night.

December 27 - First Sunday After Christmas

8:15 AM Informal Worship-*Great Things God has Done*

10:15 AM Traditional Worship-*Pre-teen Jesus*





CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

What is the Christmas Joy Offering?

The Christmas Joy Offering recognizes the faithfulness of current and retired church workers by providing funds to help them through difficult times. These retired church workers and their surviving spouses are offered Income Supplements to raise their incomes to a level where they can live modestly and continue to maintain their independence.

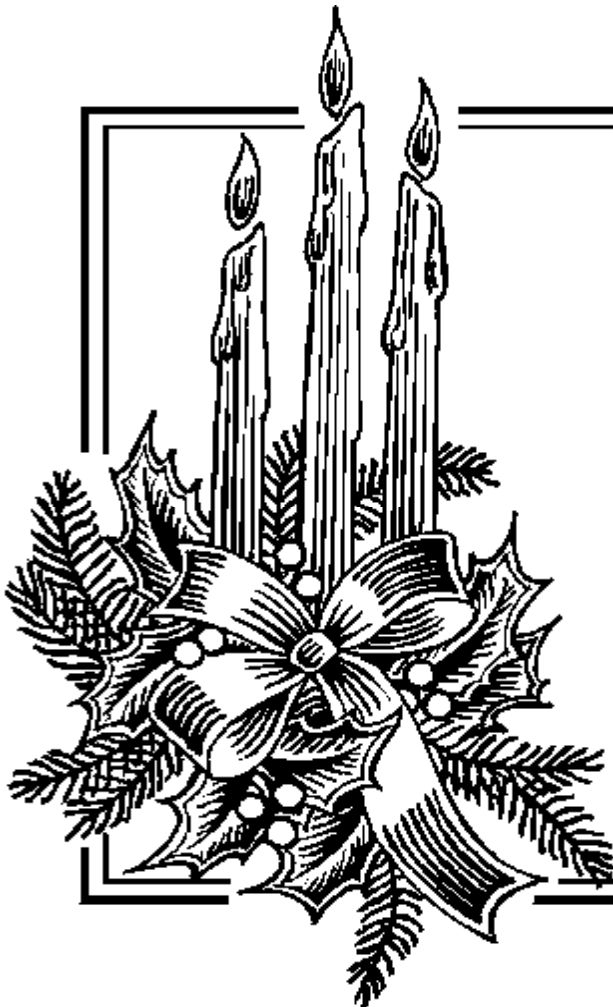
The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years through which the Board of Pensions' Financial Assistance Programs receives 50%.

The Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges receive the other 50% of the Offering.

The Presbyterian Church has long promoted education through establishing and supporting racial ethnic schools. Christmas Joy Offering funds provide scholarships to deserving students as well as help with basic operating costs.

This Advent Season please give generously to this special offering.

Thank you.



Advent Open House

The congregation of Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church is invited to the fifth annual Advent Open House at the home of Kent, Jan, Seth and Sarah Carter on Sunday, December 6, 2009, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Directions to 2204 Continental Drive will be available in early December. "Come as you are" (no gifts, please) for an enjoyable afternoon of visiting friends, nibbling on Christmas sweets and listening to music from the season.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

*The Pastor and Staff of
Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church
wish you and yours
a very Merry Christmas!*

*This Christmas season may you find time
to quietly reflect on the love of the Savior
and all He has given us.*

The Days of Weather are Surely Coming. . .

When the weather turns to snow and ice and you are wondering about the schedule at PIPC, tune to the radio and television for up-to-date information. If our worship or activities schedule changes, the following channels and stations will carry our information: www.whtm.com, abc27, www.whptv.com, cbs 21. You may also call the church office to hear a recording of time changes.

DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVANTS



Worship Assistant

Dec. 6 Ken Bentz
Dec. 13 Terry Hack
Dec. 20 Heralds of Joy
Dec. 24 Megan Saber
(7:00 PM Service)
Dec. 24 Bub Manning
(11:00 PM Service)
Dec. 27 Jack Andren

Greeters

(Blackberry Alley)
Justin & Angela Hess
Stan & Barb Smaling
Chuck & Sheila Kannegieser
The Linville Family

Don & Marge Barner

Bob & Irene Brightbill

(Front Door)

Ken Zimmerman
Vivian Shelly
Nancy Belefonti
Pat Reidell

Stephanie Hartman

Claire Hetzel



New Church School Class for Parents



Bible study should be timely. It should stimulate our thoughts about Christian values and how they relate to today's world. To this end, a new church school class for parents of children and teens will begin Sunday morning, January 10, 2010. The class will be scripture-based, while relying on history and the social sciences to better inform our topic for the day. These studies will encourage class members to share their thoughts and beliefs while wrestling with questions that inform the way we live out our faith in everyday life.

Various types and styles of study will be offered, from one stand-alone session to smaller series of four to five Sundays in length. The class will explore areas in parenting, contemporary issues, popular culture, Christian living, spirituality and others. Topics may include: *Bullying: Sticks, Stones, E-mails, and Texts; Help for the Exhausted Parent; Lies, Alibis and Fibs; Teaching Faith While at Home; Trusting Wisely: Stranger and Internet Safety; Baptism and Communion 101; Listening for God's Call.* The beauty of this class is that the participants will have the chance to choose what they would like to study.

Join us at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 10, 2010, for this exciting new class. If you have any questions or comment, please direct them to Pastor Kent.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 2009



Christmas Eve
SERVICES

Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church will offer two worship events on Christmas Eve.

At 7:00 p.m. worship will include the traditional lighting of candles and singing "Silent Night" while gathered around the sanctuary. Communion will be celebrated with families coming forward to receive bread and juice. For the sermon time, children will be invited forward to hear a story of how all the animals in the stable welcomed the baby Jesus and made his first night special. Worship will include other favorite hymns like "Away in the Manger" and "O Little Town of

Bethlehem." Worship will conclude around 7:45 p.m. so our younger members will not be out too late.

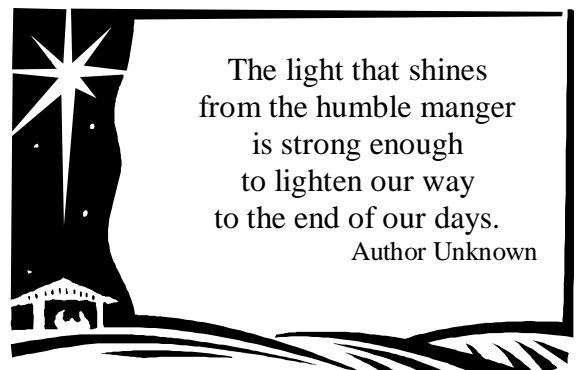
At 11:00 p.m. the Chancel Choir will lead our worship with lessons and carols. Traditional scripture from the Old and New Testaments, hymns celebrating the birth of God-with-us, Immanuel, and selected anthems from the choir will usher us to the manger to worship the Christ-child. During our worship we will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and sing "Silent Night" by the glow of candle light. This service will be a reflection of traditional Christmas Eve services.

December 20, 2009
10:30 AM Worship Service

Come celebrate the wonders of Christmas through music shared by the Chancel Choir, the Children's Choir, the Bell Choir, a Quartet, a special Girl's Choir and the Congregation.
All are welcome!



Heralds of Joy



The light that shines
from the humble manger
is strong enough
to lighten our way
to the end of our days.

Author Unknown



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

In observance of the Christmas holiday, the church office will close at noon on Thursday, December 24.

The office will remain closed on Friday, December 25 and Monday, December 28.



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Women's Association is grateful to everyone who helped make our recent holiday projects successful. There is bountiful food to be distributed by the Food Pantry to needy families, helped in part by the contributions of our PIPC family. Our college students, studying long into the night, are nourished-or at least temporarily satisfied-by the many goodies you brought in for them. Finally, there are happy children in Cow Creek, Kentucky, who will smile broadly on Christmas morning as they open the many gifts you supplied for them.

We are gratified to know that our friends in PIPC are always there to help us reach our mission goals. We could not do so much if you did not help.



The next meeting of the PIPC Women's Association will be held on January 10, 2010. The meeting will be in Fellowship Hall after church. A light lunch will be provided, followed by a brief meeting. Join us and learn what we are all about. You might even decide to become a member.



POINSETTIAS ORDER

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary for Christmas Services, please pick up a form in the church lobby or office, fill it out and **return it with your payment to the church office, no later than Tuesday, December 8, 2009.**

This year we offer the choice of placing a red or white poinsettia(s). The cost for each poinsettia is \$6.50. Be sure to designate whether you want your poinsettia to be given to a shut-in or if you will be taking it home with you after the Christmas Eve Service.



PIPC Youth News



Due to rain on our Crop Walk Day we canceled "walking in the rain". Thanks to Pat Reidell who had her grandsons, Devon and Dillon Linville ask church members to contribute, they collected \$155.00 to help feed folks less fortunate than us.

The next event was the Youth's annual fund raiser, the Peanut Sale. A fine group of adults, Marge Barner, Rev. Carter, Bonnie Hack, Billie Hawk, Michelle Lauver, Peg Manning, June Rounsley, Ken Zimmerman and Joanne Lauver roasted, salted, bagged and weighed peanuts. Caitlyn Lauver lent a hand, too! Thanks to Don Barner for supplying the brown paper needed to put the roasted peanuts on to cool. The profit from the sale was \$425.90. Early December our Young Christians will go holiday shopping to select clothes and toys for four of the children on the Angel Tree. The money spent will be a portion of the profits from the Peanut Sale.

Many thanks to PIPC members for supporting the Crop Walk and the Peanut Sale.

Our November mountain retreat was a great success. We had 28 young, in-between and older PIPC members participating in the day long activities. Thank you to Don Lauver, Jr., Karen Morris, Doug and Michelle Lauver and Jen and Eric Mark for leading the activities of the day. Everyone was able to fish, hike, go on a scavenger hunt, roast hot dogs and marshmallows, as well as go on a hay ride. It was a day filled with FUN, FELLOWSHIP, and GOOD FOOD!



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

At the congregational meeting on Sunday, November 22, the following items were discussed and acted upon:

The recommended 2010 terms of call for Rev. Carter were approved.

The 2010 Mission and Ministry Budget was discussed and received.

The proposed and revised version of the church by-laws was distributed and reviewed as a first read.

Discussion and vote will take place at the Annual Meeting in February 2010.

If any member has questions or comments regarding any of the above items please contact Clerk of Session Norm Diefenderfer or Rev. Carter.



2010 Giving Envelopes Are Here!

The Giving Envelopes for the 2010-year are at the church in the elevator lobby at the Blackberry Alley entrance. As you attend church during this fantastic Advent season, please remember to stop by to pick up your box of envelopes. If you have a friend, family member or neighbor that you can help out by picking up their envelopes also, please feel free to do so. Any envelopes not picked up must be mailed by the church office and the postage is approximately \$4.00 per box.

As in past years, the second envelope in the packet (blue) is the Per Capita Ministry envelope. The dollar value that PIPC pays for each member is designated at \$22.00 per member for the 2010 year. Please help defray this expense from our budget by contributing the \$22 for each church member in your giving unit. That means husband and wife would be \$44.

Progress Community Preschool



Preschool News

October was a busy month with fall, Columbus Day, fire safety, and Halloween. Academically we worked on colors, shapes, and numbers. We made Ghosts, witches, scarecrows, owls, bats, cats, Jack O' Lanterns and sang our favorite Halloween songs.

We visited the Progress Fire company on October 26; Asst. Chief John Brindle arranged our visit. The firemen gave us the grand tour. We saw how they dressed for a fire, talked about fire safety and was even able to sit in the fire engine. After visiting the Fire House we walked across the street to see the Susquehanna EMS. One of our mothers works for the EMS unit and invited us to visit. Here we were able to get in an ambulance and we talked about all the special equipment.

October 30 was our Halloween Parade, program and party. We had all the parents attend and several sets of grandparents. In keeping with the season orange treats-orange finger jello, cheese curls, orange drink and cupcakes with orange icing were served. What fun! I'm sorry to say goodbye to Halloween.

On October 20 our fundraiser at Issac's profited us \$118. Thank you PIPC members for your support.

November brought topics of turkeys, pilgrims, Indians, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. We will celebrate with our version of Thanksgiving Dinner-Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, applesauce, and cookies.

Looking ahead to December brings all the holiday fun of putting up a tree, making decorations and gifts, and doing Christmas and Hanukkah crafts. We'll sing all the old favorites and some new ones too. A Holiday program and party are planned.

NEW ADDRESSES

Betty Michaels
Frey Village
1020 N. Union Street
Room 209D
Middletown, PA 17057-2158

Betty & Walter Smith
5225 Wilson Lane, Apt. 3145
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: (717) 591-8491

John & Mary Jo Roberts
331 Logan Ave. East
West Saint Paul, MN 55118-2609

HEALTH MINUTE: CURBING ANXIETY



Anxiety can be defined as a constant worry about something in one's life and over which one does not have some acceptable sense of control. Approximately 2/3 of the U.S. population has varying degrees of this negative stress in their lives. Sometimes this is caused by over thinking about the situation, or avoidance of a negative outcome and blocking of emotions. Or perhaps it piggybacks an innate tendency to think too much about the future and over organize about matters that never happen. This is an effort to control the future and is an impossible challenge.

Chronic anxiety affects the immune system as well as increasing heart problems. When worry leads to anger it increases the chances of a heart attack. It also affects the frontal cortex of the brain. This area has a lot to do with activity involved with planning, reasoning and impulse control and emotions. When it interferes with these areas it disrupts our best choices of behavior.

What to do with chronic anxiety? First increase deep breathing and allow the body to completely relax followed by becoming active with exercise to find something that is removed from that which caused the anxiety. How does one do deep breathing? By slowly breathing in 5 to 10 times on a count from 1 to 10 followed by breathing out again each time to a count of 1 to 10. With practice this becomes easier and the effect more relaxing.

ADVENT FAMILY CELEBRATION



Sunday, November 29, 2009
Advent and Christmas Crafts, 4:00 p.m.;
Dinner, 5:30 p.m.; Entertainment, 6:45 p.m.

Want a great way to begin the celebration of Advent and Christmas surrounded by your friends and neighbors from the Progress community? Come to the Advent Family Gathering on the afternoon of Sunday, November 29, the first Sunday of Advent. All persons from the youngest to the oldest, members, friends and guests, are invited to decorate Christmas cookies (and then eat them), make Christmas tree ornaments, sing Christmas carols and enjoy warm fellowship.

After working hard at making Advent crafts, stay for dinner. You will enjoy the culinary skills of the kitchen crew as they prepare a delicious meal including ham loaf, sweet potato casserole, green beans, roll, beverage and an assortment of delicious desserts. Tickets for the dinner are \$6.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children ages 5-12, and children under 5 are free.

Following dinner, stay for a Christmas play starring the months of the year. Discover the wisdom December has for celebrating the season and reason for Christmas.

Join us for one or more of the events. Better yet, come to all!



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