

Mohrsville Messenger

Mohrsville Church of the Brethren Newsletter, December 2011



Every Week:

*9:15 a.m. Sun. Prayer-Time
*9:30 a.m. Sunday School
*10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Inside This Issue:

Pastor's Patter	2
Missions Moments	3
Cards of Thanks	4
Reports, etc.	5
Prayer Calendar	6
November Calendar	7
""	8

Live Nativity: Sunday, December 4

Our biennial (held every two years) Live Nativity will begin here at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, December 4.

It will feature participation by our children and adults (including "Mary" and "Joseph") plus live animals and refreshments.

Please plan to attend this special ministry event and bring your family and friends.

Children's Christmas Program: Dec. 18

Our children's Christmas program will be presented during our 10:30 a.m. Sunday, December 18th worship service and will include our children, ages three and up, plus some of our teens.

They will present the 20-minute musical, "Follow The Star," and will be directed by Amy Searfoss, Abi Young and Wanda Boyer.

Please plan to attend and support our children and youth and their leaders.

Christmas Eve Service To Feature Singing

Our 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 24th Christmas Eve worship service will feature singing by our children, adult mixed choir, men's vocal ensemble and congregational singing of Christmas carols.

Pastor Jim's sermon will be entitled "The Promise of The Ages."

Christmas Service To Begin at 9:30 a.m.

In an effort to help ladies who will be preparing noon meals, and families that may be travelling, on Christmas Sunday, December 25, we will forego Sunday school that morning and begin our worship service at 9:30.

December Sermons: Dec. 4: "Jesus Christ: God's Gift of Grace" (John 1:6-17); Dec. 11: "Jesus Christ: God's Gift of Faith" (Luke 1:26-38); Dec. 18: "Jesus Christ: God's Promised Gift" (Luke 2:1-7); Dec. 25: "Go Tell It Everywhere!" (Luke 2:8-17).

Pastor's Patter: The Gift of Hospitality

It's almost time to celebrate one of my favorite times of the year: Christmas, when we remember Christ's humble birth and when we give gifts and exercise Christian hospitality.

As I was thinking about our Homebuilders' Sunday school-sponsored Christmas dinner that's planned for Sunday noon, December 13, it occurred to me that Christian hospitality is a wonderful witness to the community. So I want to encourage you to invite at least one friend with you to church on December 13 and have him or her sit with you during the noon meal to follow. If you do, please be sure to introduce your guest to me during the dinner.

The literal meaning of the gift of hospitality is "to love strangers," but I think it also applies well to family, friends and neighbors.

The gift of hospitality is the special ability that God gives to certain believers to "provide open arms, open house and warm welcome for those in need of friendship, fellowship, food and even lodging.

People with this gift provide an environment where people feel valued and cared for in a safe and comfortable setting where relationships can develop.

People with this gift should avoid viewing their gift as just "entertaining," and need to remember to ask God who to befriend and serve.

Merry Christmas!
In Christ's Love,

"The literal meaning of the gift of hospitality is to love strangers."

Christmas Gift-Giving Ideas Abound with Local Missions

Many of us enjoy giving gifts at Christmastime. It's a joy to see others blessed as they open something that was selected just for them. It's a special time to share and many wish to pass on the blessings they have experienced.

First and foremost our best gift is, has been and always will be the gift from God the Father of salvation through Jesus Christ. That's a gift we can never repay.

With that in mind, you may want to give a gift to someone who could not repay. If your heart is with **children of a single parent**, Mercy Crisis Pregnancy Center may be the place for you to donate gifts, items or money. If you have the insert from our October 15th Sunday bulletin, you can check out their needs. Otherwise, please call Sherry @ 610-376-0995 or visit the website mercycppc@dejazzd.com.

Perhaps you feel led to help **low income families**. The Nurse-Family Partnership needs baby and children's clothing and Wal-Mart or Target \$10 gift cards to help families meet their day to day expenses. For more information please call Barbara Werner @ 610-376-6077.

If you would like to help any of the 300+ **men in recovery** at Teen Challenge, the needs range from clothing, toiletries to stationary and phone cards. All questions or donations can be sent to Gloria Snyder, Teen Challenge Training Center, Inc., 33 Teen Challenge Rd. PO Box 98 Rehrersburg, PA 19550 (717-933-4181 x280).

'Everybody's Birthday Party' Planned for January 21, 2012

Our Fellowship and Hospitality Commission has scheduled an "Everybody's Birthday Party" for Saturday night, January 21, 2012. Please mark your calendars.

Last year's photo-guessing activity will be repeated this year. If you wish to participate, place your old baby photos in a sealed envelope. Put your name on a piece of paper on the inside only. Also, identify on the back of each photo the name of the person in it. Place the envelope in Ralph Felix's mailbox; he'll scan them and return them to you.

We're going to have a table-decorating contest this year. We would like to judge each table and present awards based on categories. Signup sheets will be in the narthex soon so you can sign up and see who's coming from your birthday month. Meet with your group and choose a theme for your month. We're also looking for anyone who took photos of last year's event so we can post them in a promotional display in the narthex in December.

Cards of Thanks

To Mohrsville Church of the Brethren:

Thank you, thank you, thank you: for the prayers, meals, gifts, transportation of children, prayer quilt, phone calls, helping to do housework, and there are other kindnesses that I am sure I missed! Life has been rough, but God is good! I am **so** glad that I am a part of the family of God.

Thank you!

Beth Rohrbach

To all my Christian Brothers and Sisters:

Now that all my aches and pains are gone, I would like to thank you all for the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and all the words of encouragement during my hip surgery and recovery; also for the beautiful prayer quilt that will always have good memories attached.

Thank you again,

Marty Smith

Historical Committee Hosts Well-Attended Homecoming Service

Our congregation and friends enjoyed our annual Homecoming on Sunday, November 13. The combined adult Sunday school class was very ably taught by Brother Phill Carlos Archbold, former pastor of Brooklyn First Church of the Brethren.

Many visitors and former members were among the 176 persons who attended the worship service. Brother Dave Weiss, pastor of New Creation Fellowship near Reading, gave a most interesting and well-received sermon. Special music was provided by Tim Holubec.

Following the service, about 145 people enjoyed a delicious fellowship meal.

A big and sincere "thank you" is extended by our Historical Committee members (Jim Kauffman, Phyllis Ernst and Ron Kunkel) to everyone who helped in any way with the planning, preparation worship service, meal and cleanup.

Two Members Earn Degrees

Dennis Bausher graduated from Universal Technical Institute in Exton on Thursday, November 10. He completed his courses in Automotive Technology and Ford Accelerated Credential Training, and is now working for Haldeman Ford in Kutztown.

Nickey Stalnecker has been inducted into the National Criminal Justice Honor Society and also will be graduating from Lock Haven University of PA on December 17, a semester early, with her degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in sociology. She plans to move home to work on her Act 120 training.

Congratulations to Dennis and Nickey!

Treasurer's Report

Congregational Giving for November

(as of Oct. 23):	Needed Weekly:	\$3,908.73
Oct. 23: \$3,377.93	Ave.: \$4,280.11	
Oct. 30 (s now)	Please include your name, the account and the purpose of the expense for all bills that you submit to our church treasurer.	
Nov. 6: \$5,507.68	Thank you very much.	
Nov. 13: \$4,096.39		
Nov. 20: \$4,138.43		

FFA Honoree Named

Andrea Stalnecker is to receive her FFA Keystone Degree at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January.

This is a cumulative project that is started in ninth grade and is completed the fall of the student's senior year and then is reviewed and approved.

Andrea is hoping for no snow the day she is scheduled to receive the honor!

Music Schedule

Dec. 4: Pianist, Phyllis Ernst; Chorister, Dave Haag; Special Music: Our Mixed Vocal Ensemble.

Dec. 11: Pianist, Linda Jacoby; Chorister, Pastor Jim; Special Music, Abby Searfoss.

Dec. 18: Pianist, Delphine Altland; Chorister, Mary Haag; Special Music, Our Children.

Dec. 25: Pianist & Organist, Margaret Bauer & Abi Young; Chorister, Phyllis Ernst; Special Music, TBA.

Thanksgiving Pie Bakers Fill More Than 60 Orders

Sweet aromas radiated from our church kitchen Monday and Tuesday, November 21 and 22, as our bakers filled more than 60 orders for Thanksgiving pies. Marty Smith was the official dough roller, while the rest of his helpers made the fillings; Betty Kunkel provided nourishing lunches both days. There was great fellowship, lots of laughs and much to be thankful for; donations are designated for the Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center in Reading. The group is now gearing up for Christmas cookie baking, and proceeds will be designated for our new children's library.

Youth Christmas Gift-Wrapping/Babysitting: Sat., Dec. 10

Not Ready for Christmas? Our Youth will provide free gift wrapping and babysitting from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, December 10. No need to wait 'til Christmas Eve to wrap those presents! Shop early and bring your gifts to the church for our Youth to wrap them for you. Parents: bring your kids to the church (drop-off and pick-up in the Narthex) and take advantage of this opportunity for kid-less shopping time. Lunch will be provided to them. We need tissue paper, tape, boxes and gift bags. All donations can be dropped off in the youth Sunday school classroom. Questions? See Abi Young.

