

GRAPEVINE

November 20, 2007

Parson to Person

I read the following assessment of our Christmas celebrations in a book by Methodist minister Gerald Kennedy entitled Go Inquire of the Lord:

öNothing is more indicative of our spiritual inadequacy than the pagan way we celebrate Christmas. So far as the birthday of our Lord is concerned, it might be a time of giving gifts to those who are in need but cannot repay us. That would be in the spirit of Jesus and it would bestow upon us a great spiritual blessing. But since it has become a matter of giving to those who will give to us, and spending more for show than we can afford, Christmas has become too often an exhausting, frustrating and worldly show.ö

What I find most amazing about this critique of the materialistic tone of our Christmas celebrations is that the aforementioned book was written in 1951. In the past 56 years the materialism of Christmas has certainly escalated.

Well, if you would like to recapture the spirit of the celebration of the birth of the One who was born for others, who is the gift to those in need, and who is the world's savior, do we have an invitation for you! Come to the Christmas Fair on December 2 at 4:30 p.m. You can purchase Christmas gifts for family and friends that will help people who have no family and friends to give them Christmas gifts. All of the proceeds from the gifts purchased, foods consumed and games played at the Christmas Fair go to support the following mission projects:

Lakota Indian Project
Sea Island Habitat for Humanity
Heifer International
Survivors, Inc.
Faith In Action

Honduras Medical/Dental Project

Whether it is 1951 or 2007, the call sounds forth to celebrate Jesus' birth with a gift of grace that can give hope to lives.

Faithfully Yours,

Inside:

- Christmas Fair
- Carpenter's Gift
- Elder Care
- Small Groups
- Christmas Pageant

Thank You:

Adams County Habitat for Humanity 2007
 A big thanks goes to the many GPCers who participated in building homes for low-income working Adams County families. The following members of our church are very involved in Habitat: Board Members—John Reber, Chooch & Becky Wells, Larry Musselman, Dan Ebaugh, Ken Elledge, Don Scofield and Dan Hans; Covenant Church Rep. Dennis Meckley; Family Support volunteers - Gary & Nancy Esterly, Don & Gwen Scofield, Tom & Georgia Kuhn, Pam & Dick Wisor, Jim & Donna Newman, Kathy Schneider, John Reber, and Chooch & Becky Wells.

SOUP KITCHEN!



Thank you Paulette Brabender, Trish Jeffrey and Ellie Sheen for the wonderful casseroles you prepared yesterday for the guests of the Soup Kitchen. Over fifty meals were served with many folks requesting seconds. There were smiles and blessings all around!!

Thank you to:

- Steve Swartzbaugh, the voice from “on high” for our seven-week stewardship campaign. Each week Steve inspired us to imagine.
- Our terrific “thanksgiver” speakers in worship on November 18: Jen Tindall, Sal Chandon and Johnna Sanders.

Youth Club / Young at Heart—Thanksgiving Feast

On Wednesday, November 14, 85 people attended our annual Youth Club / Young at Heart Thanksgiving Dinner. Each year this gathering of the younger and older members of our church enables us to get to know each other a little better, while enjoying a delicious feast.

Thanks to the following who made this possible:

- Rick Beamer and the Dobbin House for providing turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, corn muffins stuffing, and cake.
- Young at Heart members who provided vegetables, casseroles, and desserts.
- Joan Kinsey and Sarah Lambert who coordinated the Young at Heart contributions.
- Don Clark for set-up.
- Melanie Keller for purchasing all of the paper products and coordinating the set-up and clean-up.
- Gina Plamann, Melanie Keller, Darlene Stancil, Ann Cowden, and Rick Beamer for serving and cleaning up.
- Carolyn Durboraw and Peg Lambert for decorating the tables.
- Penny Messinger for the table activities.
- Tammi Swartzbaugh for leading the singing.

SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR!

Peacemaking Team thanks you for your generous support of over \$4,000.00 at this year's peace offering in September. Your generosity will help the following groups:

Gettysburg Soup Kitchen: to help serve almost **1,100 meals a month!**

Seeds to Success: educates inmates and former emerge house members to “**learn a better way of living.**”

Adams County Homeless Shelter: offering **life skills training** as it has to over 3000 people since 1991.

Adams County Prison Chaplain: to change the lives of those incarcerated and **to give them renewed hope through Jesus Christ our Savior**

Survivors, Inc.: for housing women & children who are trying to **break free from the cycle of domestic violence.**

Two very successful **Carpenter's Gift projects** were recently completed. Two homes of elderly Adams Countians were repaired. The following 24 GPCers participated: Frank & Carol Geist, Ed Suplee, Tom Piper, Lucy Breighner, Dick Wisor, Jim Biggar, Ken Elledge, Lynne Orner, Donn Engrenn, Allen Duncan, Tom Kuhn, Karen Swartz, Gary Morrison, Ken Hickey, Ted Kinsey, Steve Kinsey, Marvin Muhlhausen, Chooch Wells, Scott McPherson, Jed Smith, Dennis Dillman, Linda Thompson, and Harry Winsheimer. A big thanks to all.

Dear GPC family,

We want to thank you for your thoughts and prayers during the recent illness of our daughter, Denise. Thank you also for your prayers when tying the knots on her Prayer Blanket in Fellowship Hall this past June.

Denise has completed her radiation and chemotherapy treatments. She has received good test results and is waiting to determine the next course of action.

We are fortunate to be a part of a church family that has shown so much concern for others.

Dawn & Dean Bohner

Christmas Fair

December 2, 2007

The 2007 Christmas Fair is just around the corner on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Bring the whole family for a light supper, games for children of all ages, craft tables, coffee & tea sales, prizes, and the opportunity to give gifts that have potential to change (and even save) lives. **If you cannot join us on the evening of December 2, gifts can also be purchased in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings, December 2, 9, and 16.**

All items purchased in honor of someone on your Christmas list will be accompanied by a gift card.

MISSION: HONDURAS 2008

A gift through Mission: Honduras 2008 will aid our church's own medical/dental mission team headed by Rev. Dan Hans, Dr. Brad Hoch, Dr. Tom Soliday and Dr. Lee Flinner to San Marcos, Honduras next summer to treat 7,000 men, women, and children.

- \$ 5 Toothbrushes for 10 people
- \$ 10 Antibiotics for 5 children
- \$ 15 Fluoride treatment for 20 children
- \$ 20 Food for 10 children
- \$ 50 Vitamins for 250
- \$ 75 Parasite treatment for 1,000 people
- \$100 Surgery & hospitalization for one critically ill patient

SURVIVORS, INC

This local, non-profit organization provides services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Adams County through crisis counseling, a crisis hotline, support groups, educational programs, legal assistance, and a shelter for women and children.

- \$ 1 Puzzle book
- \$ 5 Children's slippers
- \$ 10 Craft supply kit
- \$ 15 Hairdryer or Board games
- \$ 20 Bathrobe or Train set
- \$ 25 Educational videos
- \$ 50 Small table & chair set
- \$100 Small TV/DVD combo



HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

A gift of livestock, through Heifer International, will help fight hunger around the world by encouraging recipients to become self-sufficient food producers.

- Fish \$10, \$1 share
- Chick \$20 flock, \$1 each
- Ducks \$20 flock, \$3 each
- Tree seedlings \$25, \$5 share
- Bees \$30 package, \$5 share
- Rabbits \$60 trio, \$10 share
- Goats \$120 each, \$10 share
- Sheep \$120, \$10 share
- Pig \$120 each, \$10 share
- Llama \$150 each, \$20 share
- Water Buffalo \$250 each, \$25 share
- Cow \$500 each, \$50 share

MISSION: SOUTH DAKOTA 2008

Our church will again send a mission team to the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in Cherry Creek, SD to help repair homes for the Indian residents, provide diabetes education, and hold a Festival.

- \$ 1 Coloring Book
- \$ 5 Bible School Supplies
- \$ 10 Children's Backpack
- \$ 12 Fan
- \$ 15 Blanket
- \$ 20 Auto Repair Kit
- \$ 20 Nutrition Class Supplies
- \$ 25 Diabetic Testing Strips
- \$ 50 Construction Supplies

SEA ISLAND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

A contribution to this project will help support our church's mission team which travels each year to John's Island, South Carolina to help build homes for low-income families.

- \$ 1 Nails
- \$ 10 Construction supplies
- \$ 10 Gallon of paint
- \$ 15 Light fixtures
- \$ 25 Roofing shingles
- \$ 25 Sheet of plywood
- \$ 50 Window
- \$100 Door

FAITH IN ACTION

A gift to this project will support volunteers who help provide basic services to Adams County's older and disabled adults.

- \$ 5 Comb & Brush set
- \$ 7 2 pairs of socks
- \$ 10 hearing aid batteries
- \$ 15 cane
- \$ 20 men or women's bathrobe
- \$ 25 men or women's sweater
- \$ 35 Lifeline installation
- \$ 45 winter jacket
- \$ 80 winter coat, scarf & gloves
- \$100 1 quilt (comforter)



Extra Crafts for the Christmas Fair

Do you have any crafts you would be willing to donate for sale at the Christmas Fair on Sunday, December 2? If you make crafts to sell this time of year, perhaps you have some extras you would be willing to give. If you like to make crafts in your spare time, perhaps you could make some just for the Fair. All proceeds from items sold at the tables will go to the mission projects. (You can choose the specific project for the proceeds from your crafts.) Contact Phyllis Dowd at 334-1235, ext. 5, or gpcdce@embarqmail.com if you have any questions. Please bring crafts to Fellowship Hall **BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, AT THE LATEST.**

Donations needed for the Games at the Christmas Fair!!

- Glassware, mugs, tea cups, etc. for the Penny Pitch (bring to Phyllis's office by November 30)
- 120 tootsie roll pops or holiday pops (for lollipop tree)
- Wal-Mart \$5 or \$10 gift cards to purchase the goldfish and other game supplies.

Please call Phyllis if you can help with any of these items. ô Thanks!!

Baked Goods Needed for the Christmas Fair !!

All types of baked goods are needed for the Christmas Fair held on Sunday, December 2. These items will be used for bake sale and for dinner desserts. The baked goods can be placed in the church kitchen by Sunday morning, Dec. 2. Please mark **BAKE SALE** on them (so Dan doesn't eat the chocolate ones!!). The Mission and Interpretation Team thanks you for your time and effort!

COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, AND MUCH MORE FOR SALE AT THE FAIR!

This year we will again be selling coffee, cocoa, and tea at the Fair. 12-oz. packages of 7 different kinds of coffee, 4 types of tea, and 12-oz. cans of organic hot cocoa mix will be available through the Presbyterian Coffee Project/Interfaith Coffee Program. Also for sale will be 3 kinds of chocolate bars, roasted pecans, roasted almonds, and sweetened cranberries. These items are available through a program called Equal Exchange which provides fair trade opportunities through worker-based coops with small scale farmers. A portion of the proceeds will support our Honduras Project.



HELP NEEDED:

Our Mission and Interpretation Team is looking for someone in our church who is willing to be the Volunteer Coordinator for our annual Carpenter's Gift mission project. Carpenter's Gift supplies a team of GPCers to plan, prepare and complete needed work on the home of a low-income Adams County home owner who is unable to do the work alone. The Volunteer Coordinator for the project would oversee the recruiting and coordinating of volunteers to complete the task. This coordinator would work with the GPC Carpenter's Gift site foreman. If you are interested in being the Volunteer Coordinator or would like to recommend someone or would like more information about this ministry opportunity, please contact Rev. Dan Hans.

HELP FOR CHRISTMAS EVE!!!

We need volunteers for the church nursery on Christmas Eve. If you can help at the 4:00, 5:30, 7:00 or 8:30 p.m. services please contact Phyllis in the church office at 334-1235, ext. 5 or gpcdce@embarqmail.com

ô Thanks!

Upcoming Events

November Music Schedule

11/25	8:15	Heather Miller
	11:00	Youth Choir Youth Bell Choir

December Music Schedule

12/2	8:15	Nick Telenson Amy Tomassini Early Choir
	11:00	Nick Telenson Amy Hieber Adult Choir
12/9	8:15	Rachel Parmentier Early Choir
	11:00	Primary Choir George Marguglio Adult Choir

MidSHIP Schedule

November 25	NO MIDSHP THANKSGIVING	
December 1	10:00 - 2:00	Babysitting @ Church
December 2	5:30 - 7:00	Christmas Fair
December 9	5:30 - 7:00	Fellowship / Games

MidSHIP NEWS

The Mid-SHIP group has had a wonderful fall. We went roller-skating on Oct. 14th at Magic Elm and had a costume party with group games on Oct. 28th. Check out the GPC website for pictures of these activities. On Sunday nights we have been viewing old cartoons to spark discussion about spiritual lessons. The Tuesday afternoon small group has been up and running for a few weeks now, and we welcome anyone who wants to come by after school for a snack, games and animated talk!

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

November 25	NO SHIP	THANKSGIVING
December 2	5:30 - 7:00	Christmas Fair
December 9	5:30 - 7:00	Christmas Tree Delivery

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY NEWS

Mark your calendars! Coming soon ...!

2008 Lenten Small Groups

Will soon be forming for study and fellowship during the 2008 Lenten Season.

Groups will meet weekly starting the week of February 6 through March 20. This 6-week study will use the book *The Beatitudes for Today* by James C. Howell as a resource for reflection, sharing and prayer. Plan now to be a part of this faith and friendship building opportunity!

Sign ups will begin in January.
Be watching the Grapevine and your bulletin for more details!

Parents of children 7 years and younger

As our Christmas gift to you-
The GPC Mid-Ship Group
Would like to offer you four hours
of free babysitting
So that you can Christmas shop,
Have lunch, See a movie,
Or just take a nap.

We will be watching kids from
10:00 to 2:00
On Saturday, December 1, 2007

THANK OFFERING

The Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering is a special offering collected in the fall of each year that gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. The offering funds projects around the world such as agricultural development, community organizations, childcare, criminal justice, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence, and women's concerns! At least 40% goes to support health ministries throughout the world.

Please give to this worthwhile Presbyterian Women's project. Extra envelopes are available on the side bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.
 ô Amy Deitch, PW Missions Coordinator

Monthly Financial Report

As of October 31 we are 83% into 2007
 Receipts to date are 83% of budget.
 Expenditures are 84% of budget.
 Total donations / receipts to date are \$557,263
 And total expenditures are \$561,205 of our 2007 budget of \$669,295.

RUMMAGE SALE FINALE

Special thanks to all of you who donated, baked, planted, sorted, marked, helped during sale days and cleaned up. It is truly amazing how, with the help of volunteers, the rummage and bake sale can come together in just three short days and clean-up takes only an hour. Many hands make light work! **THANK YOU!**

Our gross sales were:

Rummage Sale	\$2,697.54
Bake Sale	<u>219.38</u>
Total	\$2,916.92

Special Elder Care Presentation

Steve Proctor, CEO of Presbyterian Homes, Inc., the 10th largest not-for-profit elder care organization in the USA, will speak on Sunday December 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the MacAskill / Heritage Room (downstairs). His presentation will be of special interest to those considering elderly housing and care options, those with elderly parents, and those approaching the "elderly" age group (like Phyllis Dowd!!)

Poinsettias

Help us decorate the sanctuary at Christmas by ordering a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone. The flowers will be used in the sanctuary from December 16th through December 24th. You may pick up your plant(s) following the evening worship on the 24th or before noon on December 27th. The church office will be closed Wednesday, December 26th. Those not picked up by noon on the 27th will be delivered to shut-ins. The 5-6 bloom 6 1/2" pot will cost \$8.25 this year.

Please fill in the following form and send it with your check made payable to Gettysburg Presbyterian Church to:
 Mary Lou Seamens
 169 Hunters Trail
 Gettysburg, PA. 17325

Orders MUST be in by Sunday, December 2nd. We cannot accept orders after that date.

Christmas Poinsettias 2007

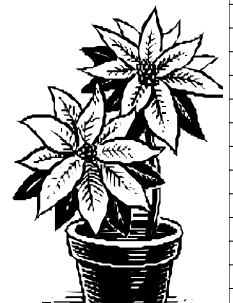
Given by: _____

Phone #: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

of plants you will pick up _____
 # of plants to be delivered to shut-ins _____



Contemporary Worship
welcomes *Carol Merwede*
to the *Ushers and Greeters*
Team, and *Megan Pilarcik*
to the *Tech Team*.

What About You?!

Would you like to serve in
the Ministry of
Contemporary Worship?
We need you to share
your gifts!
Contact Candace Veon-
Nyiri for more information!

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

9:30 am in the Sanctuary

Glory to God in the Highest!

- Dec 2-- **Advent I** - It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas?
- Dec 9th **Advent II** - What If There Were No Christmas?
- Dec 16 **Advent III**- Dennis Dillman, Seminary Student preaching
- Dec 23rd **Advent IV**- The Gift You've Always Wanted!
- Dec 30--Service of Communion

Advent is a season of preparation.
Come and prepare your heart for Christmas.

Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, November 29, 2007

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