

GRAPEVINE

December 5, 2007

Parson to Person

God who is Spirit is with us always. However, Advent is that time each year when we reflect upon God's incarnation - the divine presence with us as one of us. Throughout the centuries of the Christian church, great minds and hearts of faith have attempted to express in words the marvelous wonder of God's incarnation in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Few theologians have expressed that wonder better than did 4th century Gregory of Nyssa.

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"It is of the nature of fire to tend upwards and no one finds anything strange when it thus takes its natural direction. But any who should

see a tongue of flame shooting downwards would regard it as most surprising if the fire remained fire, and yet in its movement pointed in a direction which was contrary to its nature. Similarly, the invincibility of the Divine power is not so proved by the vastness of the heaven, the radiance of the stars, the orderliness of the universe, and the providential government of all things, as it is proved by its condescension to the weakness of our nature. The lofty stoops to the lowly without losing its loftiness; the Divine nature unites itself with the human nature, and becomes human, without ceasing to be Divine.. It is the nature of light to drive away darkness, and of life to overcome death. When now we had from the beginning strayed from the right way, and turned away from life to death, what impossibility is there in the mystery that teaches us that Purity has stooped down to them that were defiled with sin, Life to them that were dead, the Guide to them that had gone astray, that the defiled might be made clean, the dead raised, and the wanderers led back to the right way?"

(Great Catechism, Chapter 24, 1 & 2)

This reflection reminds us that in the Advent season of waiting for God, our waiting is over; in the Advent/Christmas of love, we are loved; and in the Christmas season of gift-giving, we have been given the greatest gift of all.

Faithfully Yours,

CHRISTMAS EVE INVITATION

You are encouraged to use the enclosed Christmas Eve invitation in two ways. First, decide which of our five Christmas Eve worship services you want to attend. Second, pass along the invitation to someone you know and encourage them to at-

Upcoming Events

November Music Schedule

12/9	8:15	Rachel Parmentier Early Choir
	11:00	Primary Choir George Marguglio Adult Choir
12/16	8:15	Carrie Trax
	11:00	Youth Bell Choir Youth Choir
12/23	8:15	Pat Conklin Adult Choir Cantata
	11:00	Rachel Doehring Adult Choir Cantata
12/24	4:00	Contemporary Team
	7:00	Chapel Bell Choir Chapel Choir
	8:30	Brass Quartet Sue Lindsay Sean Mott Adult Choir
	10:00	Brass Quartet Sue Lindsay Sean Mott Adult Choir
12/30	8:15	Rachel Parmentier
	11:00	Rachel Parmentier

MidSHIP Schedule

December 9	5:30 - 7:00	Fellowship / Games
December 15	10:00 - 2:00	Christmas Shopping *
December 16	5:30 - 7:00	Christmas Party! **
December 23	NO MIDSHIP	Christmas
December 30	NO MIDSHIP	New Year's Eve

* Meet at the church. Bring money for lunch and any shopping you plan to do.

** Bring a white elephant gift to exchange valued at \$5.00 or under.

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

December 9	5:30 - 7:00	Christmas Tree Visits
December 16	5:30 - 7:00	Christmas Party & Silly Gift Giving
December 21	5:30 - 7:00	Christmas Open House @ Lou, Candace & Alexander's—19 E. High St.
December 23	NO FELLOWSHIP	Christmas Break
December 30	NO FELLOWSHIP	New Year's Break
January 6, 2008	5:30—7:00	New Year's Tree Visits

50 People at Mid-Ship Babysitting Event (Whew!!)

The Mid-Ship group babysat for the young children of the church on Saturday Dec. 1st. There were 34 children ages seven and younger (five of them under a year old!) and 16 Mid-Ship babysitters. We all had a great time, with Christmas song karaoke, Christmas movies, crafts, games, and pizza for lunch. Thanks to all the parents who entrusted us with your little ones and to the Mid-Ship kids who worked so hard in service to the church family. Special thanks to advisor Tim Flagg who helped throughout.

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church High School FellowSHIP Christmas Open House

Who: SHIP Alumni, Advisors, Current Senior High Youth & Friends
 When: December 21, 2007 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM
 Where: Lou, Candace and Alex's House,
 19 East High Street, Gettysburg
 Why: To relax, reconnect with old & new friends and enjoy some of Lou's famous Cheese Dip!

Drop by for two minutes or the full 1 ½ hours.
 We want to see you!!!

Christmas Fair Continues

The Christmas Fair will be available on Sundays, Dec. 9 & 16 from 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Give someone on your holiday list a special gift by donating to one of our six mission projects. Other gifts available include many types of coffee and tea, Heifer International Christmas cards and T-shirts, and donated crafts. Come shop at church! It's so-o-o convenient!

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.



Christmas Pageant on December 9



Our Christmas pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Two angels will narrate the play, as teens and children together act out the story of the birth of Jesus. The Chapel Choir will sing carols throughout, and the program ends with the traditional nativity scene. The evening will also include carol singing by the congregation and potluck dessert. So come join us on December 9, bring your favorite snack/dessert to share, and take a break from the holiday rush.



BIRTHDAY PARTY for JESUS!!

Held during the 4:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.



For children ages 2- Grade 2, a special Birthday Party for Jesus will be held during the 4:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. The party will include songs, the Christmas story, crafts, cupcakes for Jesus, and a special gift for each child.

Children will begin the service with their families in the sanctuary and exit shortly thereafter. All children ages 2- Grade 2 are welcome to attend this meaningful celebration.



PW CIRCLES

Elizabeth Circle
Monday, Dec. 17th @ 12:00 p.m.
 Lunch @ Lucy Breighner's
 218 Baltimore St.
 Gettysburg
 334-6866 (RSVP by Dec. 14)
 (Please use front entrance)

Mary Martha Circle
Monday, Dec. 17th @ 7:30 p.m.
 Hostess: Sherry Farkas
 520 Water St.
 Fairfield, PA
 \ 642-1552

Esther Circle
Thursday, Dec. 20 @ 10:00 a.m.
 Members will meet in
Eisenhower Lounge and then go
 to lunch @ American Legion @ 11:30



Young Women's Circle (new) will meet Tuesday, December 11 @ 7:00 p.m. in GPC Library

2007 Contributions

Our Church Treasurer reminds everyone to make 2007 gifts to the church by December 31 to receive credit for your donation in the 2007 calendar year.



High School Ski Retreat

If you are in high school and want to go on the ski retreat, come to youth group January 6, 2007 to get a registration form. The retreat will be January 19 - 20th (this is a change from the original calendar) at Camelback Ski Resort (near Stroudsburg, PA). If you can't make it to SHIP on January 6th then call or email Rev. Lou Nyiri in the church office (334-1235 ext. 4) or gpclou@embarqmail.com (put "SHIP Ski Retreat" in the subject line). This retreat is open to all youth and their friends who are in 9th through 12th grades. Pre-Registration is Required.

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!**

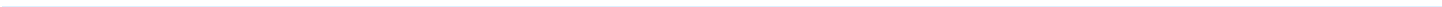
Confirmation-Commissioning Class Reminder

Don't forget the 10th grade Confirmation-Commissioning Class will meet January 6th through April 27th to begin writing their statements of faith. *This class is also open to any youth in 11th or 12th grade who have not confirmed their membership with our church.* The class will meet Sunday mornings during Sunday school in the upstairs Calvin House classroom. The statement of faith is needed when the student meets with the Session (the church's governing body responsible to meet with persons wishing to become members of this congregation) to discuss uniting in membership with Gettysburg Presbyterian Church. These classes are important to help the student write his/her faith statement so attendance is required. For more information on the class please contact Rev. Lou Nyiri in the church office (334-1235, ext. 4) or gpclou@embarqmail.com (put "Confirmation Class" in the subject line).

\$2,806.00

Remember this figure because it doubles the amount of donations received by the Adams County Homeless Shelter within the last four months. This dollar figure also represents the amount 20 local teenagers from 10 different churches raised and donated through the recent Homelessness Awareness Camp Out. The youth camped outside in tents and cardboard boxes from 9PM, Friday, November 30th until 9AM, Saturday, December 1st. Together they learned about homelessness, poverty and listened to stories from shelter residents during their hourly prayer/devotions. Their hope was to raise awareness within the community that the Shelter has not closed and is in need of community support. The following youth and adult leaders participated from our church family: Stephanie Beamer, Zach Beegle, Adam Boyer, Sean Ecker, Morgan Ely, Rachel Jones, Ben & Bethany Kolmer, Ali Moyer, Lou Nyiri and Jen Tindall. If you find yourself in a position this year's end to be contributing further to worthwhile causes, then might we suggest the Adams County Shelter for the Homeless? Your contribution (payable to: Adams County Shelter for the Homeless) can be sent to: South Central Community Action Programs, 153 North Stratton Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

(Calendar Page)



DECEMBER CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

9:30 am in the Sanctuary

Glory to God in the Highest!

- Dec 9 - **Advent II** - Always Winter But Never Christmas
- Dec 16 - **Advent III** - Dennis Dillman, Seminary Student preaching
- Dec 23 - **Advent IV** - The Gift Youøe Always Wanted!
- Dec 24 - **Christmas Eve Service** at 5:30 in the sanctuary
- Dec 30 - Service of Communion



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

Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, December 13, 2007

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
208 Baltimore Street
Gettysburg, PA 17325
(717) 334-1235

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