

GRAPEVINE

December 3, 2008

Parson to Person

An Advent Prayer

So soon, God, too soon.

We hardly picked up from Thanksgiving,
and here it is Advent with Christmas coming soon.

So soon. It is hard to shift gears so fast.
We are not ready. Where did the time go?

How could the year pass so soon?
Yet, it is into such a world as this and such a time
as this that you choose to enter.

Again and again,
you visit us in the darkest times of life.

Again and again,
you surprise us in the midst of hectic schedules
and frantic lives.

Holy God, help us keep alert in this Advent season.
Help us to be ready to see you in the ordinary tasks.
Help us to be ready to slow down for prayer, for children,
for our family and friends.

Help us to be ready to stand up for peace and justice,
for Jesus comes to bring new life to us and our world.

O God, help us to be ready to receive you again...Amen
(adapted from Homeletics online/worship resources)

Inside:

- Christmas Fair
- SHIP Open House
- Nativity Pageant
- A Celebration in Anticipation of a King!
- Poinsettia Order Form



Ready or not, the Advent season is here. Advent marks the beginning of the church year and is the period of time beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ending with Christmas Eve. Advent is a time of preparation. It is a time to prepare - not our homes, not our offices, not our gifts but a time to prepare our hearts for the expected coming of an unexpected baby.

It is important for us as individuals and as a community of faith to take a deep breath and to stop, even for a moment and remind ourselves that Jesus is the reason for our celebrations. Through scripture reading, reflective prayer, candle lighting and worship we can prepare our hearts for the arrival of Emmanuel - God with us!

At GPC, there are many opportunities for preparation and celebration of this Advent season. Please look over our worship schedule and other events during the month of December. May we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, the son of the living God!

In Advent anticipation,

Happy Birthday to...

December 5

Hailey Brownley
Merle Weant

December 6

Hayden Garverick
Austin Rucker

December 7

Rebecca Beegle
Emily Hull

Allen Knouse

Melissa MacDonald

December 8

McKenna Kulkusky
John Musselman

Lee Weber

December 9

Robert Jones
Holly Scarbrough

Ed Suplee

Shawn Wagner

December 10

Marvin Muhl-
hausen

December 11

Megan Angstadt
Steven Deitch

Kim Eskildsen

Newton Stewart

December 12

Beth Mowrey
Mary Lynn Weaver
Charles Zimmerman

December 13

Beth Christopher
Dalton Doehring
Shirley Fennimore

December 14

Doug Parkhurst
John Tschop

December 15

Emily Dayhoff
June Powers

December 16

Mike Brubaker
Casey Ecker
Janet Lightner
Bonita Soliday

December 17

Ruth Ann
Fatzinger
Marion Lam-
bert

December 18

Harold Camlin
Richard Light-
ner

George Petrie

Kelly Pizzuto

Christian Priel

December 19

Chad Cook
Sedona Wilson

December 20

Sonja Brown
Debbie Manning
Laura Pennings
Rachel Quashnoc

December 21

Bruce Bridel
Christa Fitzgerald
Beth Freeman

Chase King

Aaron Murray

June Wescott

Harry Winsheimer

December 22

Luke Wilson

December 23

Sue Hain
Megan Linn
Jane North
James Williams

December 24

Bryan Beegle
Lucy Breighner
Jeffery Cook
Emily Druckman

Jan Knouse

Robert Remaley

December 25

Kirk Cowden
Kenneth Elledge
Nicholas Rucker

December 26

Bronte Fennimore
Helen Weaver

December 27

Julia Burke
Stephanie Dougherty
Allyson Schubbe
Chuck Teague

December 28

Mandy Weikert
John DeNoma
Elizabeth Huettner
Gail Pavlovich

December 29

Katherine Schneider
Lynne Stabler

December 30

Sandra Breighner
Carolyn Hankey
Ted Kinsey
Norman Paul
Anne Warcup

Kathy Wark

December 31

Andy Arm-
strong
Paul Doe-
hring



Thank You:

Peacemaking Offering 2008

This year's Peacemaking offering was very successful! We hoped to raise \$4,000.00 so that \$800.00 could be sent to each of these Peacemaking Ministries: Gettysburg Soup Kitchen, Adams County Shelter for the Homeless, Survivors, Inc., Haitian Bible Ministry, and Seeds to Success. Total collections for the 2008 Peacemaking offering were \$3,521.95. When we add this amount to the extra donations that came in 2007 we have met our \$4,000.00 goal.

THANK YOU for your support
and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Youth Club / Young at Heart—Thanksgiving Feast

On Wednesday, November 19, 95 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 who provided turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, corn muffins, stuffing, and cake.

Young at Heart members who provided vegetables, casseroles and desserts.

Sarah Lambert and Joan Kinsey 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.

Melanie Keller, Gina Plamann, Leslie Peoples, Lucy Breighner, and John & Corena Harman for serving and cleaning up.

Drusilla Warner and Gerry Detloff for decorating the tables.

Penny Messinger for the table activities.

Tammi Swartzbaugh for leading the singing.

SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR!

GIVE THE "GIFT" OF CHRISTMAS

Give the enclosed invitation to a friend and invite him/her to attend one of our many Christmas preparation events or to worship with you on Christmas Eve. This could really be "the gift that keeps on giving" in your friend's life. For more copies call Rev. Lou Nyiri in the church office (334-1235, ext. 4).

Baked Goods Needed for the Christmas Fair !!

All types of baked goods are needed for the Christmas Fair held this Sunday, December 7. 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. 7. Please mark "BAKE SALE" on them. The Mission and Interpretation Team thanks you for your time and effort!



**Christmas Fair is this
SUNDAY DECEMBER 7, 2008
from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. !!!**



- Bring your family, bring your friends, bring yourself!
- Donate to one of our six projects and give a gift that keeps on giving!
- Buy coffee, tea, almonds, cocoa, and crafts!
- Play games and win prizes! Enjoy food and lots of fun!
- Share God's love; be a blessing to others in our country and around the world.



**Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
High School FellowSHIP
Christmas Open House**

Who: SHIP Alumni, Advisors, Current Senior High Youth & Friends

When: December 22, 2008 from 5:00 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!

**The Word:
Word by Word**

Our weekly Sunday evening Bible study led by Rev. Chuck Tea gue will not meet during the month of December.

The group will resume their study on Sunday evening, January 4th at 6:00 p. m. in the MacAskill Room .





Nativity Pageant on December 14

Our Christmas pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 14 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 Primary Choir will sing one song, and the Chapel Choir will sing carols throughout. 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 14, bring your favorite snack/dessert to share, and take a break from the holiday rush.

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!

White Christmas Dreams Tinted Blue

The expectation that holidays are joyful times with families gathered around the Christmas tree is embedded in our culture and tradition. However, the reality for many people is that many variables can impinge on what might otherwise be a joyous season. Family strife, loss and grief, personal finances, and economic concerns can cause some to feel less than joyful and out of step during the holidays. If you find yourself resonating with any of this, then please call the church office to speak with a pastor about our care-giving ministry (334-1235). You might also check out the display of literature in Fellowship Hall for more information and helpful aides.

December 21st

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

A CELEBRATION in Anticipation of a King!

Join the Contemporary Worship Team for a night of music as we sing carols old and new in the beauty of a candlelit sanctuary.

**Sunday, December 21st
7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary**

(Please bring a canned good or a small baby gift for our time of offering.)

**Bring the family! Bring a friend!
A time of fellowship will follow.**

BIRTHDAY PARTY for JESUS!!

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



For children ages 2 to 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 bag for each child.

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

PW CIRCLES

Elizabeth Circle

Monday, December 15 @ NOON

Hostess: Lucy Breighner
218 Baltimore St.
Gettysburg, PA
334-6866

Lunch, fellowship and Christmas games.
Call Lucy if you did not sign up at the
November circle meeting and plan to attend.

Mary Martha Circle

Monday, December 15 @ 7:30 p.m.

Hostess: Sherry Farkas
520 Water St.
Fairfield, PA
642-1552

Christmas Party: each bring an
appetizer or dessert and a \$10
exchange gift.

Esther Circle

Thursday, December 11 @ 10:00 a.m.

Members meet in Eisenhower Lounge.
Study Leader: Judy English
Luke 8:22-39
Circle members will go to Avenue Diner
at 11:30 for lunch.
NOTE change of time and day.



Ruth Circle

Tuesday, December 9 @ 7:30 p.m.

Members meet in GPC library.
Contact Amy Stewart at 677- 8426 for more information.

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 21st through December 24th. You may pick up your plant(s) following the evening worship on the 24th or before noon on December 29th. The church office will be closed Friday, December 26th. Those not picked up by noon on the 29th will be delivered to shut-ins. The 5-6 bloom 6 1/2" pot will cost \$8.50.

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 14th. We cannot accept orders after that date.

Christmas Poinsettias 2008

Given by: _____

Phone #: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

of plants you will pick up _____

of plants to be delivered to shut-ins _____



Upcoming Events:

December

Music Schedule

12/7	8:15 a.m.	Flute Trio Early Choir
12/14	11:00 a.m. 8:15 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Adult Choir Adult Bell Choir Primary Choir Youth Bell Choir Youth Choir
12/21	8:15 & 11:00	Early American Service of Lessons and Carols
12/24	4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:30 p.m.	Amy Tomassini Chapel Bell Choir Chapel Choir Brass Quartet Adult Choir Nick Telenson
	10:00 p.m.	Brass Quartet Adult Choir Nick Telenson
12/28	8:15 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Rachel Parmentier Laura & John Tschop Rachel Parmentier

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

December

December 7	4:30 - 7:00	Christmas Fair
December 14	5:30 - 7:00	Christmas Tree Delivery
December 21	5:30 - 7:00	Christmas Dinner & Silly Gift Exchange
December 22	5:00 - 7:00	Christmas Open House @ Candace, Lou & Alex's Home—19 E. High St.
December 28		NO SHIP—Christmas Break
January 4		NO SHIP

MidSHIP Schedule

December

December 6	10:00 - 2:00	Babysitting @ church
December 7	4:30 - 7:00	Christmas Fair
December 14	5:30 - 7:00	Fellowship/Games
December 20	10:00 - 2:00	Christmas Shopping *
December 21	5:30 - 7:00	Christmas Party
December 28		NO MidSHIP
January 4		NO MidSHIP

* Info to follow

There will be
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL classes
On Sunday, Dec. 28.

All classes will resume on
Sunday, January 4, 2009.

NEW MEMBERS CLASSES
to begin January 18, 2009

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about our church and possibly becoming a member of our church family, please contact the church office to register. Call Rev. Lou Nyiri for details and to register at 334-1235, ext. 4 or email him at gpclo@embarqmail.com.

**CHRISTMAS
CAROLING**

Saturday, Dec. 20

Join your church family members of all ages for an evening of Christmas Caroling on Saturday, December 20th. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 5:45 p.m. and depart in groups by 6:00 pm. The carolers will reconvene at 7:30 for cookies and hot cocoa. A sign-up list will be available in Fellowship Hall following each worship service on Dec. 7 and 14. Please join us for this evening of fun, food, fellowship, and... caroling!

For more information, please contact Amy Hieber at 338-0624 or Phyllis Dowd at 334-1235, ext. 5.

New Sunday School Series

A new Sunday School series entitled "You Matter More Than You Think" will be offered from January 18 - February 22. This 6-week DVD/book series is for women.

More information will be included in your next newsletter. Stay tuned.

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church

ADVENT 2008

December 7-Second Sunday of Advent

8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

4:30 p.m. Annual Christmas Mission Fair

December 14-Third Sunday of Advent

8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

7:00 p.m. Nativity Pageant (Please bring a snack / dessert to share)

December 20 - **5:45 p.m. Christmas Caroling** (meets in Fellowship Hall)

All ages invited!

December 21-Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Early American Service of Lessons & Carols

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

7:00 p.m. A Celebration in Anticipation of a King!

Join us for songs, scripture and candlelight led by the Contemporary Team.

(Please bring a canned good or a small baby gift for our time of offering.)

December 24-Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m. Traditional Worship

and Birthday Party for Jesus (ages 2-Grade 2)

5:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship –Contemporary Music Team

7:00 p.m. Family Worship –Children's Vocal and Bell Choirs

8:30 & 10:00 Traditional Worship-Adult Vocal Choir and Brass

Candle-lighting and Carol singing at all services.

Nursery care at each service (except 10:00 p.m.)

***Come and Celebrate the Season
with Joy and Hope!***



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Join us Sundays at 9:30 am in the sanctuary!
Come and worship God with us!

Sermon Series: *God's Love Shattering the Darkness*

- Dec. 7 Advent II: Christmas To Do List
- Dec. 14 Advent III: The Irrational Season
- Dec. 21 Advent IV: Away in a Manger
- Dec. 28 EMMANUEL! God with us! *Service of Communion*



THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!

2 Corinthians 9:15

Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, December 11, 2008

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

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