

GRAPEVINE

December 17, 2008

Parson to Person

Advent: Our Lord Has Come! Come, Lord Jesus!

It is Advent! Christmas is coming! Epiphany is coming!

As a boy, I never heard of Advent or Epiphany. It was Christmas that mattered! And it seemed to never come! My home church was a low Presbyterian. We did not celebrate according to the church calendar, except for Christmas, Palm Sunday, Easter and Pentecost. Liturgical Seasons of the church year? Never heard of them until I was in seminary. Did you grow up observing Advent and Epiphany?

Advent is the four weeks prior to Christmas, a Liturgical Season of the church calendar. But, what Americans do with it! We bury it. We celebrate Christ's birth prior to Christmas. Come December 26 and the celebration is over!

Historically Advent was the four weeks prior to Christmas. It had two meanings: 1) Looking back to the birth of Jesus, voiced in the motto: "Our Lord Has Come!" 2) Looking ahead to the second coming of Jesus, voiced in the motto: "Come, Lord Jesus!" Purple or blue were the colors. We follow these themes somewhat, e.g., the candles on our Advent Wreath are blue. Blue is for penitence and preparation. Liturgically it is a time of waiting for the return of the one who already has come. Biblical and devotional readings are of these themes.

From Christmas until Epiphany is twelve days. Ever wondered where that odd song about the "Twelve Days of Christmas" came from? From the celebration for twelve days after the birth, just the opposite of what Americans do. Christmaside, it was called. The symbolic color was and is white for the purity of the Christ Child.

Epiphany is a word from the Greek that means "appearance" or "manifestation" of God. In other words, God became incarnate in Jesus on Christmas -- the mysterious truth that John communicated in his Prologue: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us." Epiphany in the Western church became the day to remember the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the wedding feast at Cana.

Whether we celebrate God's self-revelation in Jesus before or after Christmas, the point is to honor and thank God. It is a season for deliberate and deep devotions. Joy has to be expressed. Hope fills the heart. Peace is wished for. Eternal love is highlighted. The best of our human natures is drawn out. All because God became one of us in the past and will return to welcome us into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Have blessed and meaningful Advent and Christmas seasons!

Yours in Christ,
Harry

Inside:

- Birthday Party for Jesus
- SHIP Open House at the Nyiri's home
- New Sunday School Series
- Faithful Journey Book Group

Happy Birthday to...

January 1

Joe Dowd
Barb Fair
Doug Forbeck
Kate Matthews
Kay McClain
Johnna Sanders

January 2

Scott Christopher
Mella DeNoma
Janet Dewar
Dorothy Matava
Tammy Smarsh
Ann Williams

January 3

Ellen Arnold
Olivia Hall
Sandra Irwin

January 4

Trenton Fake
Brody Gipe
Christian Swartzbaugh
Ethan Walker

January 5

Matthew Harvey
Donna Heebner

January 6

Don Scofield

January 7

Matthew Landauer
Jane Neely
Linda Neely
Dick Peterson
Marilyn Weary

January 8

Ally Ecker
Barbara Finrock
Patricia Lewis

January 9

Alex Yakencheck

January 10

Vicki Fuller
Paul Landauer
Stacy Miller
Pamela Musselman
Alden Reese

January 11

Jack Miller
Natalie Oswald

January 12

Lois Gregor

January 13

Wayne Kump
Joshua Poorman

January 15

Katrina Fuller
Joan Kinsey
Pam Rowland
Caroline Wintrode

January 16

Alexander Cowden
Olivia Cowden
Emily Jane DeNoma
Cheryl Kulkusky

January 17

David Landis
Lee Ann Larson
Callie Sheppard

January 17

Ken Brown
Alexandra Chandon
Allen Duncan
James Getty
MacDonald Heebner
Mike Hosterman
Alex Telenson

January 18

Michael King
William Reaver

January 19

Brian Fitzgerald
Paul Wilson

January 20

Doris Corbin
Jacob Durboraw
Dan Frey
John Gregor
Sharon Martin
Mary Miner
Deb Slothour

January 21

Bob Daniels
Debra Meckley

January 22

Michael Redding
Zachary Reisinger

January 23

Tom Kolmer

January 24

Betsy Clowes

January 25

Christopher Kiefer
Erin Weigle

January 26

Mary Weigle
Dianne Albin
Margaret Sarnoff
Mary Smith

January 27

Dave Boyer
Callie Fennimore
Barb Sanders-Hartwig
Nate Hoylman
Kay Knox
Viola Miller

January 28

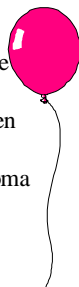
Jack Oyler
Jordan Thompson

January 29

Jacob Bridel
Donald Stabler

January 31

Bev Weber
Dave Delacruz
Jordan Soliday
Tracey Stone
Becky Wareham



Thank You's:

Thanks for a Beautiful Pageant

It was a memorable night. About 200 adults and children gathered as we listened to a flute trio, sang Christmas carols and enjoyed the wonderful story of that first Christmas.

Thanks to the following participants for making the pageant possible:

- Director - Jen Beegle
- Primary Choir - led by Amy Hieber & Sonja Brown
- Chapel Choir - led by Amy Hieber
- Accompanist - Tammi Swartzbaugh
- Flutists - Jean LeGros, Beth Jones and Laura Pennings
- Bell Ringers - Micah Gard and Christian Swartzbaugh
- Drummer Boy - Michael Heeschen
- Two Narrating Angels - Andrea Crowe and Kelsey Fox
- Mary - Emma Dillman
- Joseph - Zach Beegle
- Angels, Shepherds, Star Bearer and Wisemen - Middle and High School Youth
- Costumes - Teresa Gard and Libby Crowe
- Spotlight - Steve Swartzbaugh

A special thank-you also goes to Susie Snyder, Tracy Boyer, Deb Meckley, Sharon Baker and Evelyn Small for setting up and hosting the potluck dessert. And we appreciated all the delicious goodies that were shared!

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS:

The November and December faithful volunteers for the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen brought warm holiday cheer with their delicious casseroles. The guests were delighted.



A sincere thank you to: Gerry Dettloff, Carolyn Durboraw, Gail Hull, Dale Molina, Pat Behre, and Judy & Wayne English. As you can imagine the need is constant.

If interested in this community mission please contact Mary Smith at mjsmith2@aol.com or 334-4452.



**CHRISTMAS FAIR—LAST CHANCE!
THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2008
from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. !!!**



Need any (very) last-minute presents? We have coffee, tea, cocoa, almonds, cranberries, crafts, and the opportunity to donate to one of our six mission projects as a gift to someone on your Christmas list. Hurry!! December 25 is upon us!!

**December 21st
The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

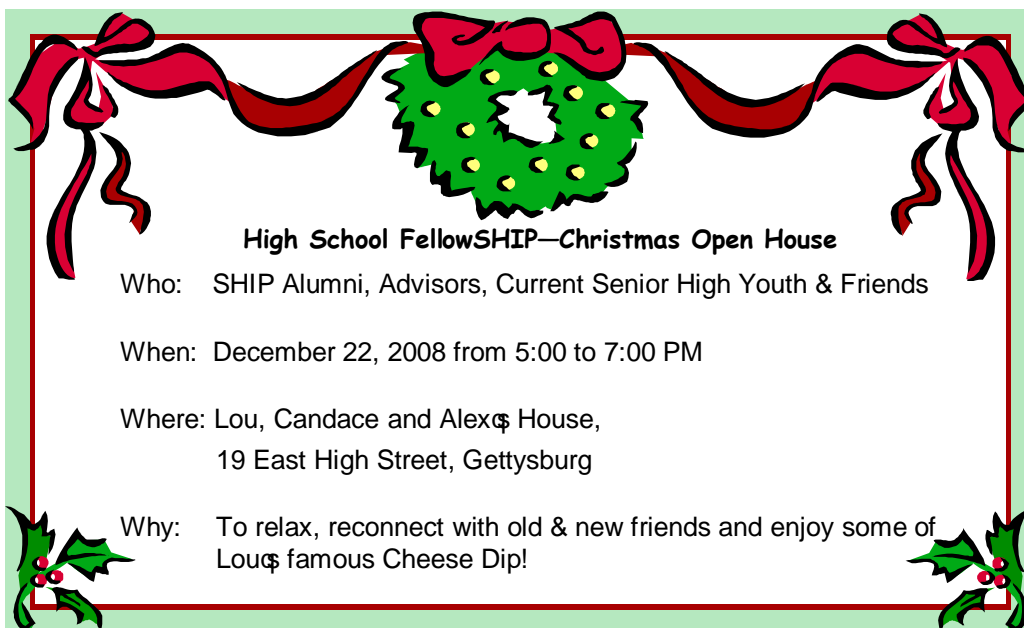
A CELEBRATION in Anticipation of a King!

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.**



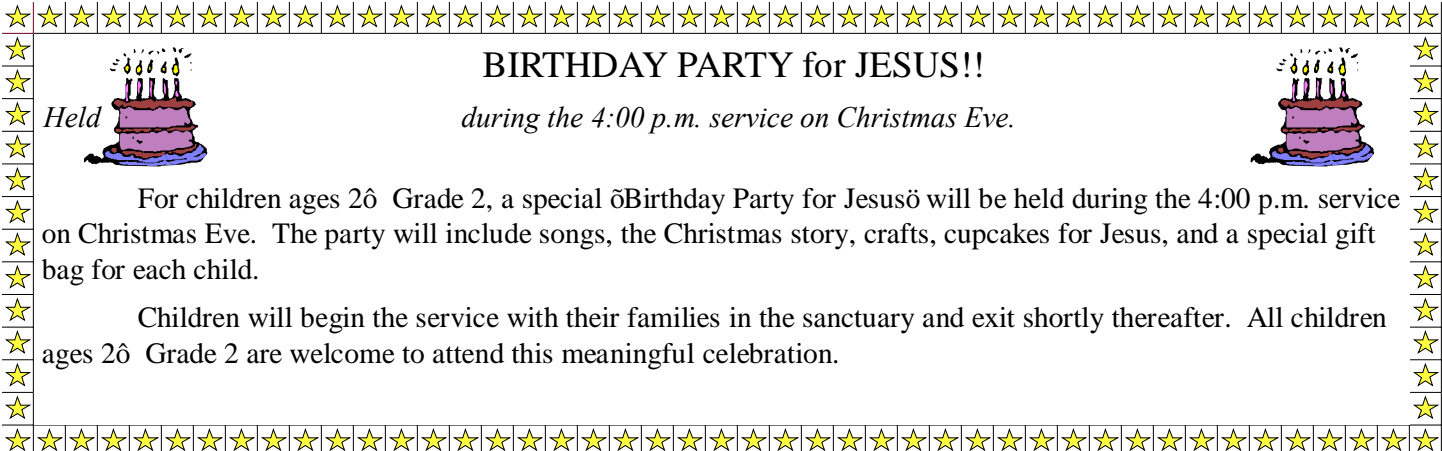
High School FellowSHIP—Christmas Open House

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!



BIRTHDAY PARTY for JESUS!!

Held

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

For children ages 2½ Grade 2, a special ðBirthday Party for Jesusö 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 2½ Grade 2 are welcome to attend this meaningful celebration.

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!

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

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

NURSERY

We still need 2 adults to staff the church nursery during the 4:00 p.m. service and one additional adult during the 8:30 p.m. service. Call Phyllis at 334-1235, ext. 5, if you can help. Please!

DO YOU HAVE
a 4-drawer file cabinet in good
condition that you don’t need any
more?

If you do, please contact
Becky Wareham at
bbwareham@embarqmail.com

Thanks!

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 gpclou@embarqmail.com.

Mark your calendar!

2009 Lenten Small Groups begin the week of Feb 25th!

**Together we will read
The Apostles' Creed For Today**

by Justo L. Gonzalez.

Sign-ups will begin Jan 25th!

Be watching for more details!



**Let's Read!! Be a part of the
Faithful Journey Book Group**

**The Shack by William P. Young
Discussion Date Sunday, Feb 22nd
(after 11:00 service)**

We will meet from 12:15-1:15 p.m. on Feb 22nd for an informal discussion on The Shack. Bring a bag lunch if you wish. Coffee and tea provided. All GPC members and friends are invited. Buy the book on your own or order one through the church office. Contact Candace Nyiri (337-2939) if you are interested.

The Memory Keeper's Daughter

by Kim Edwards

Discussion - May 2 (Saturday morning)

The Last Lecture

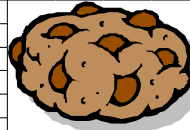
by Randy Pausch

Discussion - Sept. 26 (after the 11:00 service)

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

by C.S. Lewis

Discussion - Nov. 14 (Saturday morning)



COOKIE TIME

Ever notice how fast those cookies and snack foods are depleted during Fellowship time? Your help is needed to keep the table supplied. If you are not a baker, you can still help by bringing in other finger foods - cheese and crackers, celery and carrots, pretzels, or any other snack foods. We do ask that if small plates are needed for your food that you supply those. January and February times are now available. Please check out the sign-up book in Fellowship Hall on the Cookie Table. Many thanks to those who have helped out!

The Word-word by word

Our weekly Sunday evening Bible study led by Rev. Chuck Teague will Resume their study on Sunday evening, January 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the MacAskill Room.



SAVE THE DATE

What: Discussion of alternative ways to contribute to GPC other than cash or check each week.

When: Sunday, January 25, 2009
@ 9:30 a.m. in Eisenhower Lounge

Details to follow in the New Year.

Sponsored by the GPC
Finance Committee

Celebration of Christian Unity

Sunday, January 25, 2009 @ 3:00 p.m.

Church of the Abiding Presence,
Lutheran Theological Seminary
Gettysburg, PA

"Music Festival"

Featuring Gettysburg Area Church
Choirs & Instrumentalists

Join Us!

South Dakota Mission Trip Meeting

January 25, 2009 @ 6:30 p.m.

A meeting for all those interested in this year's South Dakota Mission Trip will be held on Sunday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Eisenhower Lounge. Come join us whether you want to sign up or just get information about our trip to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation from July 16 - 26, 2009. If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis or Penny in the church office 334-1235, ext. 5. Hope to see you January 25!



Prayer Chain

GPC has a continuous prayer chain that you are encouraged to contact with prayer requests. To do so please call Faye Johns at 334-1023 or Dottie Heflin at 677-4636. Also, due to current privacy laws, hospitals are not allowed to let the pastors know when you are admitted unless you tell them to notify us. Please give us a call in the church office if you or someone you know is in the hospital.

2008 Contributions

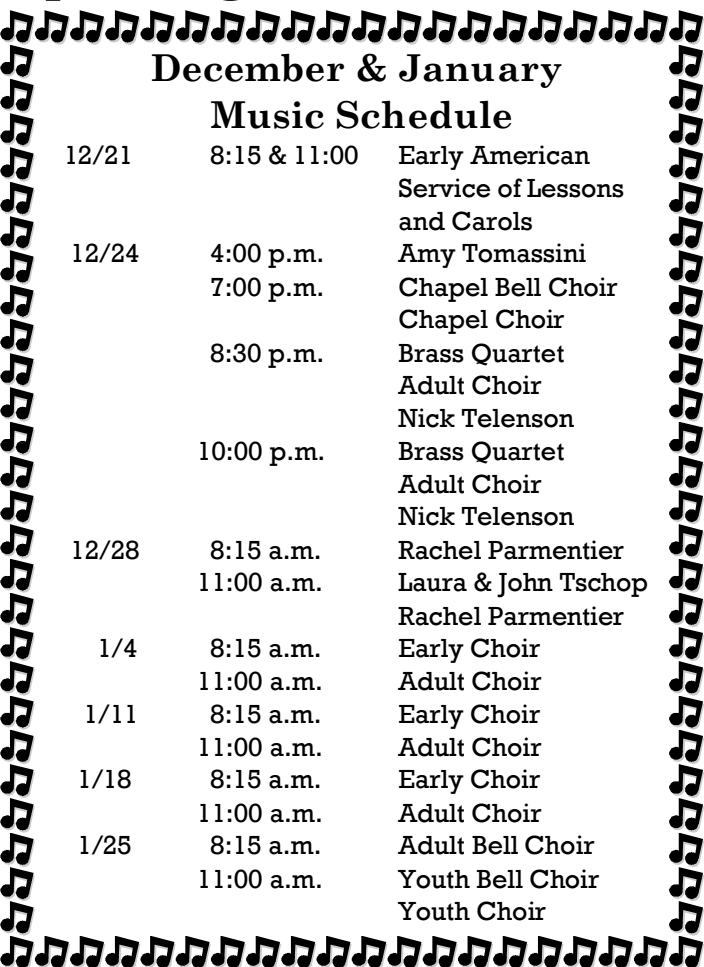
Our Church Treasurer reminds everyone to make 2008 gifts to the church by December 31 to receive credit for your donation in the 2008 calendar year.

Users of Rooms: Please help us keep down the costs of gas and electricity by turning down the thermostats and turning off lights

when you are the last to leave a room. Every little bit helps!

Are you interested in learning how to make handmade cards, the art of scrapbooking, try a variety of crafts or quilting? If so, GPC wants to know! Based on responses, we are forming a new club called Handy Expressions. Through the talents and creativity that the Lord gave you, you will be able to have something handmade to be handed down. We are offering the classes to adults and teens starting January 2009. Please contact Melany LaRochelle via email at mmmla@comcast.net with your name and phone number. More details to follow.

Upcoming Events:



December & January

Music Schedule

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. 10:00 p.m.	Amy Tomassini Chapel Bell Choir Chapel Choir Brass Quartet Adult Choir Nick Telenson Brass Quartet Adult Choir Nick Telenson
12/28	8:15 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Rachel Parmentier Laura & John Tschop Rachel Parmentier
1/4	8:15 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Early Choir Adult Choir
1/11	8:15 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Early Choir Adult Choir
1/18	8:15 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Early Choir Adult Choir
1/25	8:15 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Adult Bell Choir Youth Bell Choir Youth Choir

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

December

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 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

Mid-Ship News

The Mid-Ship group babysat some of the youngest children in our church family on December 6th for four hours. There was a group of 12 children ages 4 and under (!) being entertained, 12 Mid-Ship kids doing the entertaining, and three weary advisors keeping it all together. Special thanks to Bob and Sally Jones for their help throughout.

The Mid-Ship Wednesday Small Group made cookies and thank-you cards on December 10th for the Emergency Department at Gettysburg Hospital, the Gettysburg Fire Department and the Gettysburg Police Department.

On Saturday, December 20th, the Mid-Ship group will go Christmas shopping for last-minute gifts from 10:00-2:00. We will meet at the church parking lot. Bring \$\$ for lunch and, of course, for any shopping that you need to do.

Best Wishes for a blessed holiday season from Libby Crowe and the whole Middle School Fellowship Group!!

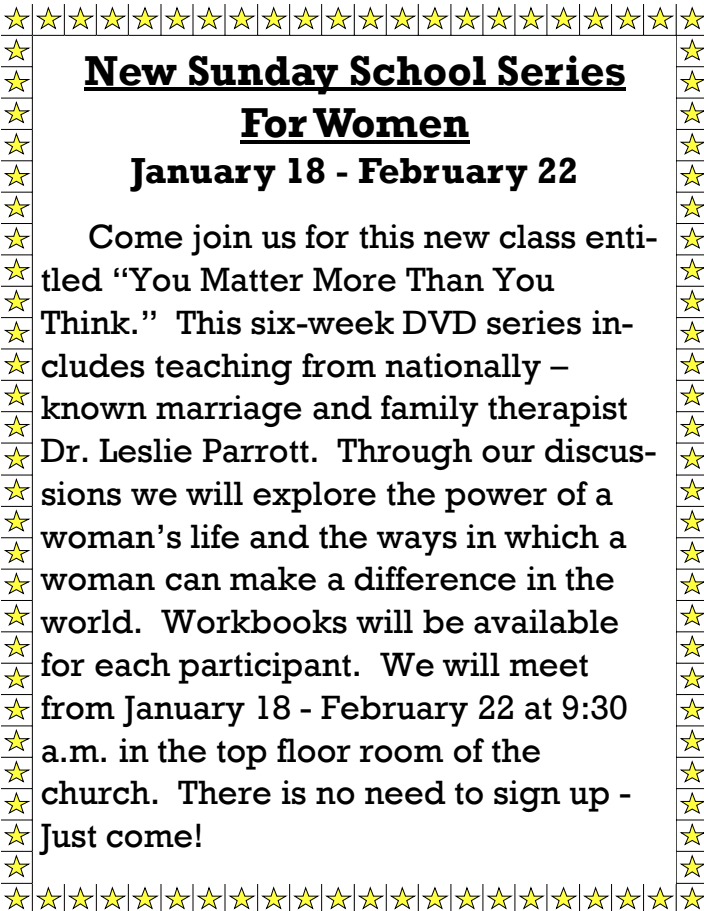


New Sunday School Series

For Women

January 18 - February 22

Come join us for this new class entitled "You Matter More Than You Think." This six-week DVD series includes teaching from nationally – known marriage and family therapist Dr. Leslie Parrott. Through our discussions we will explore the power of a woman's life and the ways in which a woman can make a difference in the world. Workbooks will be available for each participant. We will meet from January 18 - February 22 at 9:30 a.m. in the top floor room of the church. There is no need to sign up - Just come!



WE NEED YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS!

Due to new postal regulations regarding bulk mailing, it is very important for the church to have your correct address. Any newsletter which cannot be delivered will be returned to the church with **first-class** postage due (42¢). Please let Penny in the church office (334-1235) know as soon as you move or have a change of address for any reason.

Young @ Heart

January 8th

12:00 p.m. @ GPC

This will be a covered dish luncheon followed by a presentation on Thailand by Niles Grimm.

GPC Popcorn Theology Movie Nights

Many popular movies today provide us with stories that entertain, make us laugh, make us cry and make us think. Movies and film can offer us windows into the most basic questions of life, and sometimes in ways that encourage sharing across generations. During the coming year GPC will offer several Popcorn Theology Nights at the church complete with popcorn, an entertaining movie and an opportunity to explore and discuss questions of life and faith we encounter there. Watch the Grapevine for movie titles, dates and times.

Burden Bear Workshop
Makes 2000th Bear

Our Burden Bear Workshop celebrated on November 25, because the women had made and given 2000 Burden Bears since April 2004.

What are Burden Bears? They are stuffed bears, soft and cuddly, made to communicate the love of Christ to those who have burdens and may benefit from some loving.

The bear bundles have been distributed to:

1. Hospice at Lutheran Care, Adams, Franklin, and Fulton Counties.
2. Adams County Children & Youth Services
3. Adams County Children's Advocacy Center.
4. Survivors
5. Women's Breast Cancer Survivors
6. Adams County Head Start Program - one for each child 2007 - 2008.
7. Anyone in our church or anywhere else who needs a bear snuggle.



The workshop meets on Monday morning, 9:30-11:30, in the second floor classroom, with sewing machines and wide tables on which to spread their materials. Eleven workers participate in cutting and sewing and stuffing the bears and quilts. An additional volunteer joins them in the summer.

Would you like to join them in tracing and cutting fabric, turning and clipping the sewn bears, stuffing the bears or assembling the bundles for distribution?

The first obligation is to Hospice at Lutheran Care. If there are any other organizations that could use these comforting bundles, contact Joan Pore at 337-1718 or Caroline Wintrode at 334-5292. Please contact the same people for contributing to the project or wishing to help on Monday mornings.

Participants have developed a most important fellowship, and work in an assembly line to produce these precious bundles. They attach a lovely poem to each bundle, "Thinking of You", which expresses care and concern for each recipient.

Thank you, Burden Bear Workshop for your ministry of warmth and love!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>January 2009</h1>				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3
4 7:40 a.m. Early Choir 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m. NO SHIP / MidSHIP 6:00 p.m. The Word Bible Study	5 9:30 a.m. Burden Bear Workshop 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. Boy Scouts	6 9:30 a.m. Sewing Wrkshp 5:00 p.m. JMJ Spanish	7 12:00 p.m. Men's Interfaith 1:40 - 3:15p.m. CEF 1:30 p.m. Weekly Cancer Grp. 3:15 p.m. Youth Club 5:30 p.m. NO High School "12" 5:45 p.m. Chapel Choir 6:00 p.m. Cont. Music Prac. 6:00 p.m. Evangelism 6:15 p.m. Chapel Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Divorce Sup. Grp. 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir	8 12 noon Young @ Heart 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 6:30 p.m. Christian Educ. 6:30 p.m. Worship & Music 7:00 p.m. NO Men's Fellowship 7:30 p.m. Adult Bell Choir	9	10
11 7:40 a.m. Early Choir 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship 12:15 p.m. Deacons 12:15 p.m. Property Committee 4:00 p.m. Youth Bell Choir 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir 5:00 p.m. Session 5:30 p.m. SHIP / MidSHIP 6:00 p.m. The Word Bible Study	12 9:30 a.m. Burden Bear Workshop 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Cancer Support Group 7:00 p.m. Mission & Interpretation	13 7:30 a.m. Habitat Board Mtg. 5:00 p.m. JMJ Spanish 7:30 p.m. Personnel & Admin.	14 1:40 - 3:15p.m. CEF 1:30 p.m. Weekly Cancer Grp. 3:15 p.m. Youth Club 5:30 p.m. NO High School "12" 5:45 p.m. Chapel Choir 6:00 p.m. Cont. Music Prac. 6:15 p.m. Chapel Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Divorce Sup. Grp. 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir	15 9:30 a.m. Esther Circle 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 6:15 p.m. Gastric Bypass Support Group 7:30 p.m. Adult Bell Choir	16	17
18 7:40 a.m. Early Choir 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship 4:00 p.m. Youth Bell Choir 4:00 p.m. Inquirers' Class 5:00 p.m. Inquirers' Dinner 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir 5:30 p.m. SHIP / MidSHIP 6:00 p.m. The Word Bible Study	19 9:30 a.m. Burden Bear Workshop 1:00 p.m. Elizabeth Circle 7:30 p.m. Mary Martha Circle Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.	20 5:00 p.m. JMJ Spanish	21 1:40 - 3:15p.m. CEF 1:30 p.m. Weekly Cancer Grp. 3:15 p.m. Youth Club 5:30 p.m. High School "12" 5:45 p.m. Chapel Choir 6:00 p.m. Cont. Music Prac. 6:15 p.m. Chapel Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Divorce Sup. Grp. 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir	22 12 Noon Newsletter Deadline 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:30 p.m. Adult Bell Choir	23 8:30 - 12:30 Kindermusik	24
25 9:30 a.m. Finance Wrkshp 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship 12:00 p.m. Annual Meeting 4:00 p.m. Inquirers' Class 4:00 p.m. Youth Bell Choir 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir 5:30 p.m. SHIP / MidSHIP 6:00 p.m. The Word Bible Study 6:30 p.m. South Dakota Mtg.	26 9:30 a.m. Burden Bear Workshop 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. Boy Scouts	27 5:00 p.m. JMJ Spanish	28 1:40 - 3:15p.m. CEF 1:30 p.m. Weekly Cancer Grp. 3:15 p.m. Youth Club 5:30 p.m. High School "12" 5:45 p.m. Chapel Choir 6:00 p.m. Cont. Music Prac. 6:15 p.m. Chapel Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Divorce Sup. Grp. 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir	29 10:00 a.m. Mom's Club 6:00 p.m. Honduras Meeting 7:30 p.m. Adult Bell Choir	30 8:30 - 12:30 Kindermusik	31

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



- Dec. 21 Advent IV: Away in a Manger
- Dec. 28 EMMANUEL! God with us! *Service of Communion*
- Jan 4 Lead Us to Your Perfect Light
- Jan 11 Re-Solutions
- Jan 18 Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly
- Jan 25 Service of Communion

“In the beginning was the Word...” John 1: 1
May this be a year of great beginnings for you!
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009!

**Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, December 31, 2008**

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
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(717) 334-1235

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