

GRAPEVINE

November 11, 2009

Parson to Person

**“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.”
- Hebrews 13:2**

Christians whose jobs frequently relocate them to new communities typically visit several congregations in an attempt to find a new church family with whom they will worship and grow together in faith. Those veteran visitors report that they can tell where a church scores on the hospitality index within the first 120 seconds after entering the sanctuary. The atmosphere in a friendly congregation is as obvious as a big flashing arrow pointing down on the church which reads “Warm Church.” Worship visitors decide whether a church is warm and welcoming within the first two minutes (120 seconds) of their visit. From that initial encounter many make their decision whether or not to return on a future date.

Keeping this thought in mind and in an effort to continue being “a growing church of commitment, caring and celebration” as our bulletin and mission statement proclaims, our Deacons and Evangelism Team are implementing new ideas in our Sunday morning ministry of welcome & hospitality.

- The Deacons (who are tasked with the ushering ministry) reviewed and studied the usher responsibilities and have designed a new plan for Sunday morning ushers. A new ingredient in this plan is the intentional placement of an usher in Fellowship Hall by the driveway doors. This usher is available to provide a warm welcome and assist worshipers as they enter from our driveway with any need from mobility issues to an umbrella on a rainy day to helpful information (i.e. locating the sanctuary, finding the nursery or coat rack). Once worship begins, this usher will then return to the Narthex (Baltimore Street entrance) to assist with the worship related elements of the usher responsibilities. The usher responsibilities are printed in this edition of the Grapevine for you to read. The Deacons ask that you prayerfully consider your role in the ushering ministry. If you have questions regarding this new plan or if you would like to volunteer for the ushering ministry, please contact either Deacon Ralph Siefken (677-4830 or siefkend@embarqmail.com) or Rev. Lou Nyiri (334-1235, ext. 4 or gpclou@embarqmail.com).
- The Evangelism Team has also created a new element of welcome & hospitality in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. Recently, the Evangelism Team began hosting a Welcome Center just inside the Fellowship Hall Doors by the kitchen counter. This welcoming area provides any visitor to our church a friendly smile, warm conversation and informational brochures nestled inside the free gift of a church coffee mug. As you provide a welcoming smile and warm greeting to those around you on Sunday morning, please keep this in mind and encourage visitors to stop by the welcome center. If you meet a visitor in worship on Sunday morning, you might consider offering to walk with them following worship and escort them to the welcome center yourself. The Evangelism Team asks that you pray for this ministry of welcome & hospitality; and that you prayerfully consider how you might offer your assistance at the welcome center. If you would like to volunteer at the welcome center, please contact either Elder Bev Weber (337-2194 or bandlweber@aol.com) or Rev. Lou Nyiri (334-1235, ext. 4 or gpclou@embarqmail.com).

The Welcome Center and Fellowship Hall usher are a few more ways our church seeks to be a welcoming, hospitable and caring place for visitors on Sunday mornings. Keeping in mind that 70 percent of first-time worship guests feel shy and ill at ease reminds us of how important it is to meet people with a smile and warm welcome. As we enter worship on Sundays, may our prayer be one of asking God to use us to be the face of friendship another needs to see, for in showing hospitality to strangers, we may be entertaining angels without knowing it.

God’s Peace,

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Responses to H1N1 Virus at Gettysburg Presbyterian Church

As you may have heard, we are facing a public health crisis with the H1N1 virus. The major problem is that this is a virus against which the public has no resistance, and the inoculations are just now becoming available. On Wednesday, Oct. 28, the Session approved the following recommendations from the H1N1 Task Force, which was composed of Dr. Brad Hoch, Ken Elledge, Joanna McGuire, Bob Remaley, and Pastor Dave Wright.

- We are encouraging people to continue to greet one another, but to refrain from shaking hands. Warm words, or a touch on the shoulder or arm can also convey Christian hospitality!
- We will celebrate the Lord's Supper in a way that will minimize the potential to spread the flu virus.
- We will collect offerings in plates placed near the doors to avoid passing the flu virus on the offering plates.
- We will abstain from using the Friendship Pads.
- We are encouraging folks to stay home when they are sick, especially if they are coughing, sneezing, or have a fever.
- We are placing hand sanitizers in high traffic areas.
- We are taking several precautions in the nursery/toddler area.
- Our custodian will wipe down high touch areas daily.

This health crisis is an opportunity to demonstrate the Christian virtue of charity as we care for one another by doing our best to keep from spreading the flu.

HEAD USHER GUIDELINES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Arrive at least 30 minutes before worship service. Name tags will be on table at Baltimore St. entrance. Assign positions and responsibilities to your ushers.
2. Light candles on the communion table. There are no candles on Communion Sundays. Lighter will be in drawer at narthex.
3. Usher distribution is changing from the way we have located in the past ó two ushers will be in the narthex. Both should be greeters with one usher having greeting as his/her #1 priority. The 3rd usher will be located at the normal Fellowship Hall entrance to the sanctuary. No usher will be at the piano, but a supply of bulletins will be available. The 4th usher will be at the outside doors entrance to fellowship hall (by kitchen). This person will greet and assist people being dropped off.
4. The usher at Fellowship Hall entrance (inside sanctuary) must move from sanctuary to vestibule at the point announcements start (NOTE: worshipers can be seated during the prelude). After this point, latecomers should be directed to Baltimore St. entrance narthex. Fellowship Hall is a good spot for head usher since all areas are visible and communication with pastors is easy.
5. Worship bags should be checked and 2 ushers designated to distribute when called for in the order of the service.
6. Taking collection ó remember to count everybody: those seated in the sanctuary, choir, children's church, and nursery (head usher or designate will need to walk over to nursery to get this number). Drawer in table in the center of the narthex has a book to record date of service, # of people, weather, etc.
7. The head usher, after recording information in attendance book, shall spend the balance of the service in the narthex ready to handle any disturbances, illnesses, people who might wander in. This is an important element of the job!
8. After 8:15 service ó collect worship bags and get them organized for 11:00 service. Bulletins should also be picked up and organized, ready for the 11:00 service. Double check the recycled bulletins; some may be incomplete.
9. Tidy up ó red pads, pencils, reorganize, clean up.
10. After 11:00 service ó return worship bags to Director of Christian education office. Collect fellowship pad sheets which are turned into the administrative assistant, either in her mailbox (off fellowship hall) or on her desk. Make sure everything is back in its proper place and all litter is picked up.
11. Note: Christmas Eve services are unique and head usher responsibilities are more complex. The December deacon must plan ahead! Detailed instructions will be given to these ushers when recruited.

2009 Christmas Fair on December 6

It's Christmas Fair time once again! The 24th Annual Christmas Fair will be held on Sunday, December 6, from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be games and prizes for children and adults, a light supper, craft tables, baked goods, and coffee for sale. Bring your whole family to enjoy this kick-off to the Christmas season. Do your Christmas shopping at the Fair where money raised will benefit six projects listed below. You will also be able to shop at the Fair on Sunday mornings, December 6, 13 & 20. **Specific wish lists will be available in the next newsletter, so that you can purchase an item in honor of someone on your holiday list.**



1. MISSION: HONDURAS 2010

Each

sum-

mer our congregation sponsors a medical/dental mission team of our church members headed by Dr. Brad Hoch, Dr. Tom Soliday and Dr. Lee Flinner to Honduras. Next summer our members will join with others from around the country to provide health care and health education to over 7,000 adults and children in San Luis de Santa Barbara, Honduras. Through your contribution you can help provide medicine, dental care, vitamins, etc. to the Honduran people.

2. MEXICO PROJECT 2010 This summer Pastor Dave will lead a group to work with Accion Ministry in the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico. We'll live and work in a village where we'll do a construction project on a church or home, run a Vacation Bible School, and give out glasses to those in need. There are also opportunities to fellowship and worship with our Mexican brothers and sisters. Your donation will help to buy construction materials for our project!
3. LAKOTA INDIAN PROJECT in Cherry Creek, South Dakota. Last summer 43 GPC members and friends traveled to the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. There they renovated Indian homes, installed 24 sets of bunk beds, repaired handicap ramps, hosted a potluck dinner and pow-wow for local residents, donated diabetic equipment, offered 2 nutrition classes and provided a Festival with free food, clothing, games and prizes for 450 residents of the reservation. Your contribution can buy needed supplies to help this extremely poor community.
4. SEA ISLAND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Habitat for Humanity is an international Christian organization in which volunteers build homes for low-income families. These families then provide their own labor and can purchase homes with no-interest mortgages. Nineteen members of our congregation travel to Johns Island, South Carolina every April to participate in various building projects.
5. HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL Our Christmas Fair first began in 1986 to support HPI, a self-help program which sends livestock to needy families in the U.S. and around the world. These families become self-sufficient through training and gifts of livestock to help them become responsible for their own food needs. Farmers who receive animals must commit to pass on the first born off-spring of that animal to a neighbor in need.
6. "OPERATION MOVE OUT" in Adams County This program is for local foster youth in their teens and early 20's who have aged out of the Children & Youth foster care system. These youth have completed Independent Living Life Skills classes and are transitioning to living on their own. Your contribution at the fair can purchase start up supplies to help these Adams County foster youth begin living independently.

Come to the Christmas Fair to buy "gifts that will keep on giving" to people in need throughout the coming year. If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Dowd in the church office 334-1235 ext. 5 or gpcdce@embarqmail.com. See you on December 6 !!

THANK

I want to thank the Deacons and all the members of the congregation for their prayers and expressions of sympathy in the recent death of my brother

Sincerely,
Doug Parkhurst

**Thank you to the "Retiree"
and the Newcomer**

A very special thank you goes to Marlene Tindall who is stepping down as Co-Sunday School Superintendent after 2 years of service. We are delighted that Marlene has agreed to continue as a member of the Christian Education Team.

And welcome to Ande Flagg who will be serving as our new Co-Sunday School Superintendent, along with Ann Cowden.

All of these servants are a blessing to me and more importantly to GPC!

Gratefully,
Phyllis

**Last Chance to Bring Children's
Stewardship Toys**

As part of our fall stewardship campaign, we are asking the children of our church to share (donate) one of their own treasures. This could be a toy, game, book, puzzle, etc. and must be in VERY GOOD condition. We do not want parents to buy a new item. We want the children to truly share something that is theirs. Our South Dakota mission team will deliver these "treasures" to the Indian children on the Cheyenne River Lakota Reservation next summer.

Please have your child bring their toy to church this Sunday, November 15. They can either bring it up during the Children's Message or place it in the marked container in Fellowship Hall. Thanks for your help in this special project.

Blessings, Phyllis

On the Road



with Ken & Barbie

We, Ken Elledge and Barb Sanders, are members of the Mission Committee and are proud to introduce this new monthly Grapevine column all about our local, national and international mission efforts. It's called "On the Road with Ken and Barbie". There's always mission news at GPC and we will do our best to share it all with you in fun and interesting ways. For our first column, we want to thank everyone who participated in Mission Sunday on November 8 -- those who set up displays about our many mission efforts as well as those who signed up to learn more about GPC missions in 2010! Below are some trivia questions about the 2009 missions to really get your Mission juices flowing. (Answers to the trivia questions will be revealed in our column next month.)

Trivia Question #1

Who was the youngest, and who was the oldest, 2009 mission team members?

Trivia Question #2

How many GPC members went away on a mission trip over the past year?

Trivia Question #3

How many miles were traveled by our mission teams over the past year?

See you next month in the Grapevine!

Signed,
Ken and Barbie

**BOARD THE STEWARD-SHIP
"Partner-Ship"**

Well done, good and trustworthy servant. (Matthew 25:21)

Looking back on the path that I have chosen through this life, I see that there are times when I was alone. But there were also times when I had a partner by my side. Children, spouse, friends, we all need other people to help us on our journey. They provide support, comfort, and guidance. Being a partner means that both parties are working toward a common goal. How nice it is to have someone to help me on my way and in return I am helping them.

Since I have joined GPC I have learned that I can be a partner to those less fortunate in this world. Working through the Soup Kitchen, Gleaning Network, or mission trips both near and far, I have discovered just how important partnerships are. By joining together we can accomplish so much more than any one person can alone.

My greatest partner in this journey is God. With him by my side all things are possible. What a friendship that we have. To be able to turn to Him with any concerns or needs that I may have is such a comfort and joy. He is always willing to listen and help me on my way, and in return I am glad to do His work.

ōGod has graciously chosen to give us the privilege of being His partners in both the physical and spiritual areas of life. Through prayer we work with Him in defeating the powers of evil and in bringing about the fulfillment of His loving purposes in the world. Partners with Godō what a privilege! What an incentive to pray! ò ò Herbert Vander Lugt

Although God knows our every need,
His work He wants to share;
He takes us into partnership
By calling us to prayer. ò D. De Haan

God's work is done by those who pray.

Jerry Althoff

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 6? 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 craft 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, DECEMBER 4, AT THE LATEST.**

**A NOTE FROM THE BURDEN BEAR
WORKSHOP LADIES**

We have received several bags of fabric for which we are very thankful. Unfortunately, no names have been attached; therefore we cannot send out our usual thank you notes. So, we thank you very much for your generous contributions, anonymous donors. Please, in the future, let us know when you help us out with materials or monetary donations so that we may properly acknowledge your kindness.

We have been supplying our bundles of love to Hospice, the Adams County Cancer Center, Survivors, the Adams County Children and Youth Services, the Adams County Children's Advocacy Center, South Dakota Mission and Adams County Headstart Program. Two hundred and forty-three bear bundles were recently delivered to Headstart, one for each child in their programs. We do this every two years. If anyone receiving this newsletter knows of a person who could use something to hug in time of stress, please contact Joan Pore, 337-1718 or Carolyn Wintrode, 334-5292. One of us will see that you get a burden bear to distribute where needed.

We can use more people on Monday mornings. The fellowship is well worth a few hours of your time. For more information, call Joan or Carolyn.

A Super-Clean Nursery

Recently several GPC members met on a Saturday morning to clean the church nursery as part of our church-wide response to the H1N1 virus. We removed all soft toys as well as many other toys and kept a limited number of toys available for the children. We then cloroxed everything that remained in the room. We formulated "Nursery Guidelines" which include using a Clorox wipe on toys after each use.

Thanks to the following who labored 3 hours to accomplish our task: Susan Kolmer, Bob Remaley, Bev Weber, and Phyllis Dowd. Through their efforts, we hope to keep our little ones as safe as possible!



Mission Bright Star

On **Sunday, November 22nd** you will have an opportunity to participate in our church's annual Mission Bright Star program. Mission Bright Star is a ministry in which members of our congregation purchase gifts for children whose father or mother is a resident in the Adams County Prison during the holiday season. Our church has been involved with this local ministry since 1993.

Details regarding participation in Mission Bright Star will be announced during the church services on November 22nd. Sign-up for the program will occur immediately after each service in Fellowship Hall. As in the past, your willingness to share the love and compassion of Christ with others is greatly appreciated. Thank You.

The Word-word by word!

The Nativity Stories. On two Sunday evenings, November 22, & 29 our "WORD—word by word" Bible study will examine the Christmas story as presented in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. We will ponder fascinating details presented in the context of society in the Ancient Near East. Magi, prophets, shepherds, angels, inns, the Roman census, King Herod, a magnificent star, gold, frankincense, myrrh... what does it all mean? Bring your favorite Bible with you to the MacAskill Room at 6:00 pm. We will thereafter take a break for the holidays and resume our verse by verse study on **January 10**.



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 13th 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 25th and Monday, December 28th. 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, November 29th. We cannot accept orders after that date.

Christmas Poinsettias 2009

Given by: _____

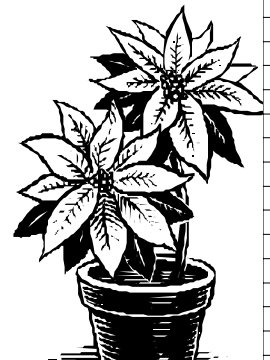
Phone #: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

of plants you will pick up _____

of plants to be delivered to shut-ins _____



New Mission Project for 2010: MEXICO

Summer 2010 will bring a new mission option for GPC! Pastor Dave will be leading a group to the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico, where he has led teams for over 20 years. It will be available to youth who have finished 9th grade and adults. The group will do some construction, lead a vacation Bible school, and run a glasses ministry. We will live, fellowship, and worship with our Mexican brothers and sisters. Cost is anticipated to run under \$1000. For more information or if interested in going to Mexico, please contact Pastor Dave at 334-1235, ext. 3. We invite you to consider participating in this new adventure!

**GETTYSBURG ADDRESSES
LINCOLN**

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church

4:00 - 5:00 pm

Thursday, November 19

“How Lincoln Came to be ‘Under God’ at Gettysburg”

Wednesday, November 25, 7:00 pm

The Gettysburg Ministerium invites everyone to a Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 pm, at Mt. Joy Lutheran Church, 2615 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg.

Plate offerings (cash and coin) will be given to the Gettysburg Ministerium Fund to help those in need in our community. Individual church offering envelopes will be returned to each respective church.

Let us join together in worship! As Christ has blessed us with the riches of His life, so we are called to give ourselves freely to all in need.

Pastor Dave will be preaching.

GPC Website Team



The internet is quickly becoming the first choice among people to find information regarding their areas of interest. People go online to discover restaurants available to them while on vacation; to find a church they will visit or to locate specific information about ongoing activities and ministries available to them within their church. The Evangelism Team is in the beginning stages of looking at our church's website to make it more appealing, up-to-date and user-friendly. Are you able to use a computer to search for information? Are you able to give your input as to what would make a website more eye-catching, user-friendly and useful? Then you are able to be part of this team. Reply with your name, phone # and email address to Rev. Lou Nyiri at 334-1235, ext. 4 or gpclou@embarqmail.com.

Please consider a contribution to the **THANK OFFERING** again this year. The poster in Fellowship Hall lists the newest recipients. A sampling includes:

- | | |
|-------|---|
| Haiti | 1. aid to U.S. Medical Team |
| | 2. Vocational training & orphanage support |
| | 3. water treatment, sanitation |
| India | 1. help for abandoned women & those forced into human trafficking |
| | 2. Doppler ultrasound machine for pregnant women |

South Carolina - transportable cottages for elderly

Zimbabwe & Malawi - Presbyterian hospitals

Plus 19 other charities - please check them out on our PW bulletin board.

Thank you,
Amy Deitch

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, November 19, 2009**

November 2009

GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Services @ 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

Contemporary Service @ 9:30 a.m.

- November 15 ***Pledge Sunday***
The Parables of Jesus:
Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders
- November 22 ***Thankgivers Sunday***
- November 29 ***Advent I: Christmas Certainties***

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING! — Psalm 100:4