

# THE THREAD



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December 1, 2011

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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### **"The Fullness of Time..."**

It is as though the calendar has played a trick on us this year. Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. At first that may seem to be a nice coincidence, but there is a deeper reality. That reality is that Christmas, because we count the season by Sundays, will be upon us almost before we know it. The fourth Sunday of Advent is December 18<sup>th</sup>, blink twice and we're there. All of which reminds me of that poetically powerful phrase, from the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Galatia, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son..." (Galatians 4:4).

Time, it seems is always rushing past for all of us and there are many things to do. And so we make lists and write in notebooks or on post-it notes. The result of our lists, schedules and notes is that if we are not very careful, God gets edged out by a small series of distractions. The car needs repair; there are last minute things that must be done for the Christmas trip. The lights, the decorations, new tinsel, not to mention all the shopping, cookies, local and family traditions must be taken care of, and on and on. The busyness of life, including the religious busyness of life can crowd God out. I have to admit, there are some days I meet and talk with people, work, make choices and barely give God a thought! Now that is me, you may be different but it seems that just possibly, we are very much alike.

Christmas tells us again in a touching way, that God is alive, that God loves us each and that God goes to the greatest of lengths to reveal that love.

I learned long ago that Christmas is the time when so many people, who never have been to church, or who were chased away from church or who just found other things to do with their time, found their way into a sanctuary. When that happens, now matter to whom, it is the fullness of time in their lives. Christmas can be that fullness of time for each of us, even in a calendar shortened season. For Christ is among us, in heart and mind and hands, and yes, in lights and music, color, traditions and stories and visits and even in schedules. In reality, we have all the time we need. What we need to do is take the time – to allow Christ into our hearts again, or for the first time – in the fullness of time. How we do that is up to each of us.

Merry Christmas,

# THOSE WHO SERVE

## ACOLYTES

12/4 Emma Ellsworth  
12/11 Ian Lohr  
12/18 Gus Yocum  
12/25 Christmas Day

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

12/4 The Garage Sale Ladies  
12/11  
12/18 C. E. Pageant/Luncheon  
12/25 Merry Christmas!

## FLOWER CALENDAR

12/4 Eldan Snyder  
12/11 Becky Mayer  
12/18 Christmas Flowers  
12/25 Christmas Flowers

## FUZZY BEAR SCHEDULE

12/4 Barb Stager  
12/11 Jennifer Stutzman  
12/18 Lisa Miller  
12/25 No Fuzzy Bear

## TREASURE CHEST



12/4 Isabella Miller  
12/11 Morgan Fetzer  
12/18 Advent Pageant  
12/25 Christmas Day

## Change of phone number:

John and Joyce Norris,  
John's number 814-243-2659  
Joyce's number 814-243-3049

## HOST GREETING ELDERS

12/4 Barry Warren – Fisk  
John Weiss – Geneva  
Tom Brownlee – Vestibule

12/11 Jesse Ditson – Fisk  
Kathy Good – Geneva  
Barb Maxwell – Vestibule

12/18 Susan McCann – Fisk  
Kurt Nilson – Geneva  
John Norris – Vestibule

12/24 **7:00 p.m. Candlelight Family Service**

12/24 **10:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service**

12/25 **10:15 a.m. Christmas Day Worship**

Gordon Smith – Fisk  
Barry Warren – Geneva  
John Weiss – Vestibule

## LAY READERS

12/4 Eldan Snyder  
12/11 Eldan Snyder  
12/18 Bernice Adams  
12/25 Bernice Adams

## NURSERY

12/4 Erin Dunlap  
12/11 Emily Ramer  
12/18 Carrie Curry  
12/25 No Nursery

## OPENERS

12/4 Ray Hrin  
12/11 Ron Good  
12/18 Denny Holtzman  
12/24  
12/25 Kevin Howell

## USHERS

James Lisankis, Darlene Pierce, Jean Fyock,  
Tammy Germana, Nancy Gardner

*Merry Christmas*



# Happy December Birthday

1 Erin Gavin	1 Ariana Cort	1 Joshua Kerr
3 Leonard Lee	3 Bill Krupa	3 Alexandria Edwards
6 Kevin Priest	7 Darlene Pierce	8 Anne Miller
9 Betty Coleman	9 Dianne Weigle	10 Sara Wood
11 Marian Allen	12 Patty Dewar	12 Nicole Taylor
15 Marian Walter	15 Richard Hess	16 Doug Stevens
17 Dwight Bumford	18 Rex Brown	19 Joseph Mohney
19 Robert Ramer	21 Lindsay Dachille	24 Sally Holtzman
26 Jean von Blohn	26 Richard Stevenson	27 Karl Scott Jr.
27 Clint Hasenohr	27 David Price	28 Carolyn Casey
28 Donna Davis	29 Adele Dovey	30 Robert Rigdon
30 Thomas Brownlee	30 Linda Krupa	30 Jennifer Nilson

**Congratulations** to Brittany Baumbaugh and Michael Priest on their marriage on November 9, 2011 at WPC.

**Congratulations** to Douglas W. Stevens III and Tamara Lyn Wade on their wedding, which was held on November 18, 2011 in Key West, Florida. Rev. Stevens officiated.

**Congratulations** to Sally McClintock and Eldan Snyder on their marriage on December 2, 2011 at WPC.

**Thank you** – We would like to thank everybody who participated in the Alternative Gifts Sunday Program. Each of you did a fantastic job and we appreciate your talented gifts as you presented each international mission project. Thank you, Jean Livingston and committee.

## **Sponsorship of Bulletin's**

If you would be interested in sponsoring the Epiphany bulletin, please call the church office at 536-0796.

## **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service  
Candlelight Family Service

10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service  
Traditional Candlelight Service

10:15 a.m. Christmas Day Service



## **Office Hours**

The office hours for the week of Christmas are as follows:

Closed on December 26,  
December 27 thru 30 open until noon.  
Office closed on January 2.

## **DEACONS' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

The holiday season means the Deacons are at work to create a special Christmas for those families who are less fortunate than we are. Each year this program provides food, clothing, and gifts for needy local families.

We need your help again this year. Why? Because without your generous assistance each year the Board of Deacons would not be able to provide food, clothing and gifts for these needy local families. We need your help in several ways: **\*Take a Family** – Have your family take one of the needy family's (we have great instructions). **\*Pray for Us** – Your prayers will guide our project and us. **\*Donate Money** – Checks should be made payable to the church and designated for the Deacons' Christmas Program. **\*Donate Food and Household Items** – Watch the Sunday bulletins for weekly updates on items being collected. **\*Take a Star** – On December 4 we will have stars available for our star project. Each star will contain the special wish of a small child from one of our needy families. Take a star - purchase, wrap and deliver the gift to the church no later than the morning of December 12.

Thank you, The Board of Deacons

## HOW TO BE A DEACON STAR.....

Each **STAR** on the Christmas Tree represents the wishes of a needy child from our area. Please consider taking a **STAR**. It's easy and fun! Here is how the program works: \*Take a **STAR** (stars will be available on a table or the tree in front of the Sanctuary on Sunday December 4.) \***Register** your **STAR** number on the list that will be on the table. \*Shop for your **STAR** (we are asking everyone to spend about \$20 on each child's gift). \*Wrap your **STAR** gift. \*Attach the **STAR** to the gift-wrap. \*Bring your wrapped gift to the church **no later than Sunday morning**, December 11. That's all there is to being a DEACON STAR. Thank you.



### Christmas Deacon Program

For some of the larger families we would like to have the following contributions that will be collected in the White Baskets placed in the Narthex and by the Church Office:

*Sunday, December 4,*  
Toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo,  
and band-aids.

**Women's Circle** will meet at noon on Tuesday, December 13.

**The Elderberries Christmas Party** will be Friday, December 16 at noon in the Koinonia Room. Please RSVP to, Barbara Swanson 255-3101 or Helen Swatsworth 255-6568.

## **First Presbyterian Church Presents our 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of the Nativity**

This Christmas season approaches and, once again gives us the opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for the love of God's gift of His only begotten Son. Please join us for our 28<sup>th</sup> annual Festival of the Nativity on Friday, December 2, and Saturday, December 3 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 4 from 1:15 to 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. This emotional and exciting opportunity is offered to our community at no cost and we hope that you will take time to enjoy this gift.

Featuring: Bell Choirs, Church Choirs,  
Johnstown Reed Band,  
Displays of Nativity Scenes, Creches, Art Works  
*The Choir from WPC will be participating.*

First Presbyterian Church  
309 Lincoln Street  
Corner of Lincoln & Walnut Streets  
Johnstown, PA 15901  
Call (814)536-8141 for more information.

### ***A Spirit Gift To All The Community***



**The Fun Bunch** is having a Progressive Dinner on Saturday evening, **January 21, 2012**. They will have appetizers at one home, the main dinner at another home, and dessert and a Yankee Swap at a third home. If you would be willing to provide your home for any of the three parts of the Progressive Dinner or you would like to participate in the fun, call Bernice Adams (255-3784) or Jean Fyock (266-4272). To sign up for the use of your home, we must know by January 7. To attend, you must sign up before January 12. We need to know how many plan to attend and also give them assignments as to what they could bring. **Each person attending** must bring an item to swap, funny or not, not expensive, or even something lying around the house. This package must be wrapped with no name on it. If you want more information, call Bernice or Jean.

## PRAYERS AND SQUARES

Hello All,

Happy Veteran's Day. Had only around 90 Soldiers and one dog team on the flight today. Everyone in good spirits. Troops arrived around 0930 hours and had a hot lunch around 1200 hours.

Handed out 10 sets of dominos, 30 Quilt Patch Prayers, 30 packs of playing cards, 15 elastic exercise bands, 10 Catholic rosary beads, 8 Bibles, 6 Daily Bread Pamphlets, 2 cases of new books from the Library, about 100 used Paper Back Books, candy, crackers, cookies, bubble gum, 28 audio books and many magazines.

Got about five boxes of used books from the employees at AFLAC and another three boxes from Sarah Garrett in Phenix City this week. Really keeping our supplies of books up. I still have a lot of Quilt Patch Prayers left from my trip to Johnstown. Got enough to last past Christmas. Also have plenty of dominos and cards to last awhile. Don't hand out as much stuff now that our flights are about half the size they usually were.

Information is that we have many flights bringing troops back from Iraq landing in Atlanta and other airports scattered around the USA. We still only have about 75 that return to Freedom Hall on Sunday from our Friday flight. As long as they get home that's the big thing. They need to start bringing them home from Afghanistan too. Well that's it for now. All you fine fokes have a Happy Thanksgiving and drive carefully. All is well in Georgia. GOD BLESS

Ken Sines



**Food for Families** - We will assist the local food bank by bringing non-perishable food to church the first Sunday of each month, place the bag of food in the shopping carts located by the elevator and in the Narthex. Brown paper bags will be available at church to fill, or you can bring the food in your own shopping bags. Monetary donations are gratefully accepted. Make the check payable to WPC and mark it for "Food on the First."

## 2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2012 offering envelopes are available for pick-up in the Koinonia room, December 4 through 12. They are in alphabetical order. To help reduce the postage cost, please remember to pick-up your church envelopes. Thank you.

**All mailed contributions must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2011. You may also bring your 2011 contributions to the church office by 11 a.m. December 30, 2011.**

**Events and Activities at the Church-** Please consult the webpage at [www.westmontpc.org](http://www.westmontpc.org). Go under *news and calendars*, click on *events*. This will get you to the **Master Calendar** that you can review before planning any events or activities at the church. Thank you.

### *CANONS and CAROLS* *An Advent of Christmas Concert*

An Advent of Christmas Concert will be held on:  
Saturday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.  
St. John Gualbert Cathedral  
117 Clinton St. Johnstown

The Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir and Cathedral Catholic Youth Chorale under the direction of Cathedral Music Director Evonne Yanzetich-Homway will perform works by Rutter, Gebhardi, and Pachelbel as well as many arrangements of traditional Advent and Christmas Carols. The choirs will be joined by Johnstown-based instrumental ensembles Hilltop Brass and Vivace Strings.

*Admission is free and open to the public.*



## THE MATTHEW PROJECT

We are collecting certain items for Torrance State Hospital Patients for Christmas. The collection deadline is December 12, please pick-up a list of the items that are needed. Remember not to wrap your gift, no strings, no razors, no glass. Please drop your items off in the collection box outside of the church office. We are also in need of shoe boxes. This project is in honor of Matthew Smith, son of Linda Smith, daughter of Nels and Polly Wheeler. Thank you for helping.



### TORRANCE STATE HOSPITAL GIFT AND STOCKING SUGGESTIONS FOR PATIENTS

#### CLOTHING (Men and Women)

Any new clothing (**sweat shirts and sweatpants without drawstrings**), jeans, tops, underwear, flannel shirts, t-shirts, sweaters, jackets, etc. Preferred sizes: **X Large to XXX Large** Slippers, non-skid - Larger sizes Men's PJ's and Women's pajamas and nightgowns, socks, gloves, mittens, ear muffs and knitted hats (**especially warm men's gloves in larger sizes**) and ball caps.

**COSMETICS - (NO GLASS CONTAINERS)** Any NEW make-up for women (lipstick, powder, foundation, mascara, eye shadows). **NO NAIL POLISH, NAIL POLISH REMOVER, NAIL FILES OR CLIPPERS**

**TOILETRIES, Shampoo and conditioner**  
Hair spray, mousse and gels (**non-aerosol**)  
**MUST NOT CONTAIN ALCOHOL**

**Body washes and gels (NO Bar Soap) MOST NEEDED ITEM**

Deodorant for men and women, hand and body lotion, toothbrush cases, emery boards, combs and brushes, hair items for women (scrungies, ponytail holders, cloth headbands) and small packs of tissues.

Shaving supplies for men (**NO RAZORS, ONLY NON-ALCOHOL AFTERSHAVE**)

## ACTIVITY ITEMS

Jigsaw puzzles, craft kits (paint by number and hobby kits) (**NO NEEDLES**), coloring books and crayons, magic markers, playing cards, adult activity books, large print books, hand held video games, games (Checkers, Dominoes, Monopoly, Scrabble, etc.)

### Relaxation tapes

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Watches, CD players, Batteries (especially AA)**

Small bedside clocks (no cords/ must be battery operated)

**Small denomination phone cards**

**Portable radios with earphones**

**Change purses, wallets**, chap stick, writing paper, tablets, stationary, etc. (**NO WIRE BINDINGS**)

### Sports memorabilia

### FOOD ITEMS

Individual snack items (crackers, raisins, cookies, snack cakes, etc.) (**NO NUTS**), PLASTIC JARS or packets of DECAF drinks (coffee, tea, instant cocoa, fruit drinks).

Individually wrapped gum or candy  
Diabetic or sugarless items

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND GLASS OR BREAKABLE ITEMS, RATTAIL COMBS, AEROSOL CANS, SHARP OBJECTS, MIRRORS, TWEEZERS, NAIL CLIPPERS OR NOTEBOOKS WITH WIRE BINDING.**

**DUE TO FIRE REGULATIONS, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS CANNOT BE USED**

**NO AFGHANS**

**NO BED THROWS**

**NO DECORATIVE PILLOWS**

**NO STUFFED ANIMALS**

Most of all, I want to express my appreciation for this generous and thoughtful gift! Thank you for helping to provide a more enjoyable Christmas for our patients.

Donnalee Fleming  
Volunteer Resource Coordinator  
Torrance State Hospital

# DECEMBER

\*Sunday School, December 4, 11, 18 - NO Sunday School 25

\*Children's Worship, December 11 - NO Children's Worship 4, 18, 25

\*PAC, December 4, 11, 18 - NO PAC, 25

\*PFC, December 4, 11, 18 - NO PFC, 25

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The "Fumbly Bumbly Angels" is the Advent Pageant for this year.

Pageant will be during our December 18 Worship Service.

K - 4th grade students will have singing parts (some solos), but we still need some brave young souls to handle the speaking parts.

Contact Tracy if you or your children are interested.

## DATES THAT YOU WILL NEED TO BE AVAILABLE FOR REHEARSALS

DECEMBER 4TH  
FOLLOWING CHURCH

DECEMBER 11  
DURING CHILDREN'S WORSHIP AND FOLLOWING CHURCH