

## 'Tis the Season to...

It's hard to believe, but the holidays are already upon us. Where has the year gone?

By the time you receive this newsletter, Thanksgiving will be over and the leftover turkey sandwiches will be eaten up, too! I don't know about you, but I just love the holidays! Thanksgiving is the start for our family get-togethers and this continues through Christmas. Being with family is one of my most treasured joys about the holiday season from Thanksgiving through Christmas and New Year's.

I've often wondered why this time of year is my favorite. When I was a kid I'm sure it partly revolved around receiving gifts at Christmas. What child doesn't enjoy receiving a Christmas gift? When I became the dad of twin children, Lydia and James, Christmas took on a new understanding for me. Now, instead of it being a season to get gifts, it became a season to give gifts! This was driven home more thoroughly since James' and Lydia's birthdays are on December 20th. Yes, December is the month to give gifts in the Shank household!

What does Christmas mean to you? What is it that makes it so special in your mind?

Many people celebrate Christmas, even non-believers, but as Christians this is one of the most important holidays of the whole year!

Christmas marks the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world, the Messiah, Immanuel - God with us. He was born in the city of Bethlehem in a

lowly cattle stall of all places. His entry into the world changed history forever! Never again would things ever be the same!

What does Jesus' birth mean to you?

The story of Christmas was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah. We Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God and our personal Savior. He has made a difference in your life, hasn't he?

Christmas is a very special season. It is the season to:

- Receive!
- Give!
- Believe!

This year, what are you receiving? What are you giving? And most importantly, what are you believing?

Oh, one more thing: if Christmas is so meaningful to you and to me, shouldn't we be sharing this with others? My hope and prayer this holiday season is that you will be touched in a spiritual way and have the opportunity to share the spirit of the season with somebody else!

Merry Christmas!



Bob Shank

# Daily Scripture Readings

**December 1**  
Leviticus 21

**December 2**  
Leviticus 22

**December 3**  
Leviticus 23

**December 4**  
Leviticus 24

**December 5**  
Leviticus 25

**December 6**  
Leviticus 26

**December 7**  
Leviticus 27

**December 8**  
Luke 1

**December 9**  
Luke 2

**December 10**  
Luke 3

**December 11**  
Luke 4

**December 12**  
Luke 5

**December 13**  
Luke 6

**December 14**  
Luke 7

**December 15**  
Luke 8

**December 16**  
Luke 9

**December 17**  
Luke 10

**December 18**  
Luke 11

**December 19**  
Luke 12

**December 20**  
Luke 13

**December 21**  
Luke 14

**December 22**  
Luke 15

**December 23**  
Luke 16

**December 24**  
Luke 17

**December 25**  
Luke 18

**December 26**  
Luke 19

**December 27**  
Luke 20

**December 28**  
Luke 21

**December 29**  
Luke 22

**December 30**  
Luke 23

**December 31**  
Luke 24

**Gather! Grow! Make a Difference!**



## TO SERVE YOU IN DECEMBER

<b>Greeters</b>	8:30
4	Norma Snow
11	Irene Goforth
18	Ray & Alice Singer
25	Janet Woolever
	11:00
4	Sue & Bill Weitzmann
11	Sue & Ron Gouger
18	Howard Steiner
25	CJ Penwell
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	Carole & Dick Everitt
<b>Ushers</b>	8:30
Bryan Hill	
Jack Hinline	
Ray Singer	
Walter Roeckendorf	
	11:00
CJ Penwell	
Eileen Sebring	
Glenn Singer	
Joni Singer	
Gary Braman	
<b>Counters</b>	
Carole Everitt & Pam Price	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	
Betty Schuler & Eleanor Bentzoni	
<b>Soup Kitchen</b>	
4	Pen Argyl UMC Tom Odenwelder
11	Faith UMC Kate Andrews
18	PA Lodge #319 "Antlers" Carol Hutson
25	Adams/DeHaven families



## OUR CHURCH STAFF:

<b>Ministers</b>	Everyone
<b>Pastors</b>	Bob Shank & Ted Good
<b>Pastor Emeritus</b>	Tom Anderman
<b>Church Secretary</b>	Jackie Herrero
<b>Choir Director</b>	Dave Lantz
<b>Organist</b>	Marti Lantz
<b>Youth Director</b>	Kim Miller
<b>Handbell Director</b>	Lynn Seip
<b>Custodian</b>	Matt Parton

## OUR CHURCH LEADERS:

### Daniel's Dream Team

Chairperson, Boyd Butz  
[boydbutz@stroudsburgumc.com](mailto:boydbutz@stroudsburgumc.com)

### Worship

Chairpersons, Ralph Harrison, Pastor Bob Shank  
[bobshank@stroudsburgumc.com](mailto:bobshank@stroudsburgumc.com)

### Property & Building

Chairperson, Carl Karchner  
[carlkarchner@stroudsburgumc.com](mailto:carlkarchner@stroudsburgumc.com)

### Servant Resource Team

Chairperson, Beryl Hellgren  
[berylhellgren@stroudsburgumc.com](mailto:berylhellgren@stroudsburgumc.com)

### Stewardship

Chairperson, Carole Everitt  
[caroleeveritt@stroudsburgumc.com](mailto:caroleeveritt@stroudsburgumc.com)

### Missions

Chairperson, Alberta Weber  
[albertaweber@stroudsburgumc.com](mailto:albertaweber@stroudsburgumc.com)



### December Birthdays

- 1 Tim Stewart
- 5 Carol Romansky
- 11 James Lewis
- 11 Emily Louise Vail
- 13 Eleanor Bentzoni
- 13 Ella Mae Kitson
- 14 Jimmy Stewart
- 18 Brittney Fiedler
- 18 Carole Vuchak
- 20 Lydia Shank
- 20 James Shank
- 25 Gil Bennett
- 26 Betty Michelin
- 26 Doris Widdoss
- 28 Rose Schwedler
- 28 Cindy Transue
- 29 Ben Miller

If you would like a card on your special day, please call the church office:  
421-6020



### Christmas Concert

**The Pleasant Valley Choral Society will present its annual holiday concert on Saturday, December 10th at 7:00 pm and Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 pm at the Pleasant Valley High School auditorium in Brodheadsville, PA. This year's concert will feature traditional favorites, as well as lesser-known songs, both secular and sacred. Attending the concert would be a great way for you and your family and friends to begin your celebration of the holiday season.**

**Tickets are \$8 for adults and children under 12 are free. For additional information, please call 570-620-1570. You may purchase tickets at the door.**



## **Family Promise Volunteers are Needed at the Day Center**

**On the weekends, volunteers can actively engage in the families or simply monitor the Day Center and serve as a positive role model. Bring your knitting, your jigsaw puzzles, or whip up a batch of your favorite recipe, whatever you do to relax.**

**It's our hopes that families will be encouraged by your example and include enjoyable activities in their lives during this stressful time.**

**With holidays approaching, Family Promise would like to help guests provide homemade gifts to their families. Once a week, we'd like the Day Center to serve as a workshop where cookies, knitted items and other crafts are being made. If you have a skill or talent and would like to offer your services or materials please feel free to make arrangements.**



## **Welcome Home, Kyle!**



**Boyd & Eileen Butz would like to invite everyone to a welcome home party for Kyle on Sunday, December 18 @ 3 pm in the Fellowship Room.**

**Please join them in welcoming Kyle home safe and sound and to thank him for his service! Kyle appreciated the cards & letters that were sent to him and he would like to thank everyone in person for their thoughtfulness!**

**Please RSVP to the church office or to Boyd & Eileen.**

## Holiday Mail for Heroes

I am collecting holiday cards to send to our military men & women. Please address cards with a generic greeting such as “Dear Service Member, Family or Veteran”, sign your card and include a short note if you wish. Please do not use cards with glitter. You do not need to enclose the cards in envelopes. You can either drop the cards off to me or leave them in the box outside my office. The deadline is December 9th.

Thank you! Jackie



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### UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

UMW Christmas Tea - December 10th 2:00 PM Downstairs Dining Room

Choir Cantata - December 11th 8:30 & 11:00 AM  
UMM will serve breakfast to the Choir

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service - December 24th 7:30 PM "Hotel Bethlehem" - Directed by:  
Marti Lantz

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service & Communion - December 24th 11:00 PM

December 25th - one service at 10:00 AM

## **Training for Worship Media Operators - We need your help and it's easy!**

The weekly worship experience at Stroudsburg UMC involves interaction with the congregation as we sing hymns, recite creeds, pray prayers, and experience other elements of worship. The congregation finds it helpful to project these elements up on the screen. This means we need some people who can simply press a button to project these worship elements at the appropriate time. We also need sound operators to mix the sound properly in each worship experience.

These behind-the scene media operators are invaluable in worship and provide some who are not comfortable in being up front to still be actively involved in leadership. We need you!

If you can press one button, then you can be media operator. It really is that simple! Equipped with a few important bits of information you can easily become a worship media operator. The sound system looks much more complicated, but with the right knowledge, this also is a manageable task.

On Sunday morning, December 11th at 10 o'clock in the sanctuary we will provide an overview of the importance of this ministry and details on how you can be a media operator. We will begin with prayer, share the "big picture" of how important this ministry is to worship, and then provide detailed steps on how to be a worship media operator. Some of you are not available at this time due to Sunday school class, but don't worry; we will provide this training again on January 8th at 12:20 pm.

Remember, if you can press one button, you can be a worship media operator. Join us on December 11th or January 8th to find out how. We need your help and it's easy!

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### **DASH YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

The youth have been busy since our start up in August. Some of the things we have accomplished in 2011: sold food and clothing and the yard sale, served at the soup kitchen on Labor Day weekend, hosted after church fellowship, raked leaves for our "Leaf It Up To Us" fundraiser, had a lock-in, held several business meetings, served food at the Holiday Boutique and went on our annual retreat to Mountain Springs Lake. Many of our youth are also involved in the Christmas Eve service program.

We would like to thank everyone in the congregation who has supported us throughout the year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

The DASH Youth Group

## STEWARDSHIP

Thank you to all who submitted a Commitment Card November 20th. Unfortunately we received only 30 cards with a financial commitment of \$82,008.00. Our budget for 2011 is \$246,760.12 so we have a ways to go. If you have not submitted your financial commitment please consider doing so. It can be mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday. We continue to work on the 2012 budget and it is helpful to know the resources we can count on.

Through October our apportionment and all bills have been paid. We continue to draw funds from our savings or Trustee's account to meet our expenses. Our giving did increase slightly this past month and we are now only 2.4% behind last year's giving or \$4,057.45 less than last year at this time. Our income through October is \$165,241.48 with need of \$81,518.64 by the end of the year to meet our budget. If you are behind on your giving please give prayerful consideration to your commitment to SUMC.

Through memorial gifts and weekly envelope giving \$224,069.62 has been contributed to the elevator fund. To date \$239,919.00 has been paid to Edinger Construction Co. with an estimated balance of \$110,591.00 due. We need to raise \$126,440.38 to totally fund the elevator project. We ask for your consideration as to what you can contribute toward this project.

The Stewardship Committee asks for your continued prayers for our church and our committee as we complete 2011 and move forward to 2012.

Stewardship Committee: Carole Everitt, Paul Edinger, Fran Harrison, Dan Butz, JoAnn Calkins,  
Kirsten Lee, Ruth Weber

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### **Luke 2:9-14**

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

### **Matthew 2:1-2**

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

### **Matthew 1:21**

And she will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.





## Terrific Tuesday Dinner



Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:00 pm

### MENU:

Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli,  
Tossed Salad, Rolls & Butter, Cheesecake

\$8.00 per person  
under 10 (chicken nuggets) ~ \$3.00

If you plan on joining us for an evening of “terrific” food, fellowship,  
and fun. . . sign up at the rear of the sanctuary

*We always need assistance with set up (3 pm Tues.) **and** cleanup after the meal.*

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### “Christmas Traditions” an Advent experience for all ages! Sundays 7:00 to 8:30 pm

**Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> – Advent Wreath Making** – bring 4 candles: 4 purple or blue. Or 3 purple/blue and one pink. We will supply the Advent wreath ring and pine boughs.

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> – Celebrate St. Nicholas Day** by making cookies – enough to taste and some to bring home! \$2 per person (max. \$5 per family) to cover cost of materials.

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - Christmas ornaments** – Make Chrismons and folded paper ornaments for your tree. No cost.

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Carol & Hymn sing** with cookies & hot chocolate. The singing is optional – please join us for the fellowship!

**Sign up** at the rear of the sanctuary or  
by calling Jackie in the church office (421-6020)



**ATTENTION ALL YOUTH**

**Take a Chrysalis Flight or take a Journey**

**Girls flight: April 19-22, 2012**

**Boys flight: April 26-29, 2012**

**About Chrysalis:**

Before it becomes a butterfly, a caterpillar goes through a growth stage during which it is called a "Chrysalis". On the surface it may not look like much is happening, but the delicate chrysalis process changes the fuzzy caterpillar into an awesome butterfly with wings of intricate designs and intense colors. The chrysalis process symbolizes how Christ can transform you into something beyond your dreams. It happens when you grow beyond yourself, opening your life to Jesus' power and love.

**What happens on a Chrysalis Flight or Journey?**

You'll spend three days with other people your age in worship, prayer, fellowship, creative expression, recreation, singing and discussion. You'll experience the love of God through prayers and the acts of service from a loving support community. Think of it as three days for you to discover or rediscover your spiritual self, to analyze and realize who you are in Christ.

**How to get involved:**

Chrysalis is open to young people of any Christian denomination. The ages include 15-18 (completed 9th grade) and young adults (The Journey) 19-24 and out of high school. We invite you to join in a flight or journey, an exciting three days of experiencing God's love in a fresh new way.

**Cost:**

There is no cost, not even spending money, there is nothing to purchase. Transportation, food and all accommodations are provided.

**Application:**

A simple, couple page application must be provided to JoAnn Calkins (570-402-1210) on or before January 15, 2012. Get your application in early!

**References:**

Chrysalis is the youth version of the adult "Walk to Emmaus". The official organization is The Upper Room.

**Other adults in the congregation you may talk to are:**

Kathy and Dave Cook, Diane and Cliff Rogell, Cathy Doane, Roz Evans, CJ Penwell or Jeff Weber.

**Adult weekends occur in October. Applications may be obtained from JoAnn Calkins or any of the above persons.**

**Mark your calendar for December 29th: 7-11 pm - RUSH (Re-uniting Serving Hearts) at Emerald UMC. Transportation provided. No cost. All youth are invited.**

# DECEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Dash Youth Group-Youth Room 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 7:00 PM M & E Christmas Traditions	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM Small Group "Gifts"	<b>29</b> 7:00 PM UMWV Meeting-Lounge	<b>30</b> 6:00 PM Bear Cubs 6:00 PM Tiger Cubs 6:00 PM Webeles 6:00 PM Wolf Cubs 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	<b>1</b> 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 12:00 PM Birthday Party-Downstairs
<b>4</b> 8:30 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Dash Youth Group-Youth Room 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 5:00 PM Family Promise 6:00 PM Cub Leaders Planning Meeting 7:00 PM M & E Christmas Traditions	<b>5</b> 5:00 PM Family Promise 7:00 PM Alberta Weber's Small Group 7:00 PM Small Group "Gifts"-Downstairs Blue Sunday School Room	<b>6</b> 5:00 PM Family Promise 7:00 PM Small Group Conference Room 7:10 PM M & E. Blue Sunday School Room Downstairs	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 2:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group 5:00 PM Family Promise 6:00 PM Bear Cubs 6:00 PM Tiger Cubs 6:00 PM Webeles 6:00 PM Wolf Cubs 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs 5:00 PM Family Promise 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen Holy Trinity Orthodox Church-Downstairs	<b>10</b> 2:00 PM UMWV Christmas Tea-Downstairs 5:00 PM Family Promise
<b>11</b> Christmas Cantata Family Promise End 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Dash Youth Group-Youth Room 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 7:00 PM M & E Christmas Traditions	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:00 PM Missions 7:00 PM Small Group Conference Room	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Bear Cubs 6:00 PM Tiger Cubs 6:00 PM Webeles 6:00 PM Wolf Cubs 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	<b>15</b> 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 2:00 PM Baptism
<b>18</b> 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Dash Youth Group-Youth Room 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 3:00 PM Welcome Home Party for Kyle Dougher-Fellowship Room 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 7:00 PM M & E Christmas Traditions	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:00 PM Terrific Tuesday Dinner 7:00 PM Small Group Conference Room	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Pack Meeting 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	<b>22</b> 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 9:00 AM Poinsettia Delivery	<b>24</b> 7:30 PM Worship - Sanctuary 11:00 PM Worship - Sanctuary
<b>25</b> 9:45 AM Dash Youth Group-Youth Room 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 10:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed	<b>27</b> Church Office Closed	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Bear Cubs 6:00 PM Tiger Cubs 6:00 PM Webeles 6:00 PM Wolf Cubs 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	<b>29</b> 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**STROUDSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
547 MAIN STREET  
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**December 2011**

