

Hope for a Weary Land... and a Weary People...

Isaiah spoke these words many years ago:

“And a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind, and a shelter from the tempest, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. And the eyes of those who see shall not be dim, and the ears of those who hear shall listen.”

Isaiah 32:2-3

It seems to me that as we face a new year and are on the heels of facing the fiscal cliff in our government, we are a weary land. Congress does not seem to agree on much of anything these days and times are very tight financially for many in our country.

Our weary land and our weary people are in desperate need of hope!

From where will this help come? Our president? Our congressman? The media? Hollywood? Our so-called national leaders? From where will our help come?

“I lift my eyes to hills--from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

Psalms 121:1-2

Our hope does come in the Lord. But first we have to ask for help. Communication with God, also known as prayer, is imperative for us in both good times and in bad times. God already knows our plight, but God does want to hear

from us. We need to pray to God perhaps more now than ever before in our lives.

Are you praying to God?

There is an old saying that goes something like this: “When the times get tough, the tough get going.” Well, as a believer, I have another perspective: “When the times get tough, we realize just how much we need God!”

We need God in our lives and I personally believe we need God in our country. Those countries who dissociate themselves from God will not be blessed. We see this in history and I believe we are seeing it now in our modern times here in this country and even in our church! We try too often to do things on our own without God’s guidance. This must stop!

God promises to listen and help in times of trouble. God did this for Jesus when he was in the Garden of Gethsemane. God did this for the people of Isaiah’s day. And God will also listen and help us in our day.

We just need to start talking with God!



Bob Shank

Daily Scripture Readings

January 1
Proverbs 6

January 2
Proverbs 7

January 3
Proverbs 8

January 4
Proverbs 9

January 5
Proverbs 10

January 6
Proverbs 11

January 7
Proverbs 12

January 8
Proverbs 13

January 9
Proverbs 14

January 10
Proverbs 15

January 11
Proverbs 16

January 12
Proverbs 17

January 13
Proverbs 18

January 14
Proverbs 19

January 15
Proverbs 20

January 16
Proverbs 21

January 17
Proverbs 22

January 18
Proverbs 23

January 19
Proverbs 24

January 20
Proverbs 25

January 21
Proverbs 26

January 22
Proverbs 27

January 23
Proverbs 28

January 24
Proverbs 29

January 25
Proverbs 30

January 26
Proverbs 31

January 27
Ezra 1

January 28
Ezra 2

January 29
Ezra 3

January 30
Ezra 4

January 31
Ezra 5

Gather! Grow! Make a Difference!

ANNIVERSARY NEWS

In 1788 a circuit rider rode into what is now Stroudsburg to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. And so it is that the Methodist Church was born in the area. We will be celebrating the 225th anniversary of that event in 2013.

Pastor Bob and the Membership and Evangelism committee have some great plans for the year. We have invited former pastors as well as pastors who grew up in the area and/or had some connection with SUMC.

Most of these guest pastors will be preaching at both services on the second Sunday of their month. Please mark your calendars for the Sunday featuring a pastor that you would like to visit with, as we are planning either a special ASF or luncheon on those days.

January 13 will feature Cliff Flick, a Stroudsburg native, who along with his wife, Wendy, sang in our Senior Choir. Cliff was also a member of Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians. He is now in his 6th year as chaplain at the Lebanon VA Hospital, and has a full time job as an Acquisition Project Officer and volunteer chaplain at the Defense Logistics Agency in New Cumberland, PA.

On June 16 we will welcome Pastor Tom Anderman.

Pastor George Rigby will be here on July 14.

Mary Jane Price Kirby will be the guest preacher on August 11.

October 6 will be the Homecoming Celebration with Dr. Milton Hartenstine as the celebrant.

Other invited pastors have yet to commit to a specific date.

A commemorative tile featuring one of the stained glass windows will be for sale as will M & E's cook book.

A new pictorial church directory is being planned.

A video of SUMC's rich history in the area with narration, photos and music has been compiled and produced by David Cook and will be unveiled at an evening performance followed by a supper.

These are just a few of the events for the anniversary year.

Stay tuned for more exciting news and plan to attend as many as possible.



Thank you for all the cards and prayers during my recent heart attack. It means so much to know that my Church Family cares and that helps in healing and getting about again. Thank you so much.

- Joni



January Birthdays

5	Elizabeth Miller
8	DeAnn Harris
17	Vivian Cobbs
22	Carole Everitt
25	Marina Maroney
25	Marge Hilbert
25	Cathy Doane
26	Phil Shaffer
27	Alberta Weber

If you would like a card on your special day, please
call the church office - 421.6020.



Through the month of Nov. our giving income is 2% or \$3,575.82 above our income at this time last year. That said, we continue to withdraw funds from P&B (Trustee) funds to meet our expenses. Through Nov. \$3,287.17 was transferred from the P&B funds to the general fund to meet our expenses and another \$15,708.24 was drawn from P&B to meet the Pastor's budgeted housing allowance. We are fortunate to have these reserve funds but we continue to draw down the principle with very little, if any, return in interest. All bills including our Conference apportionment are paid.

The elevator project saw \$645.00 in funding for the month of Nov. for a YTD total of \$270,120.31. To date payments to Edinger Construction for the elevator are \$327,325.00 with an additional \$41,685.00 due upon completion. Again, funding for this project not covered by congregational giving will be coming from the P&B funds. Please give prayer consideration as to how you can financially support SUMC with this project. To date we have received 34 pledges for 2013 for a total of \$77,862.00 toward our 2013 budget with an estimated expense line of \$256,063.34. Again, we ask for your prayerful consideration of your financial support of SUMC. Thank you to all who have submitted pledges as it is so helpful for our committee and the budget process. The Stewardship Committee has completed the budget and we are awaiting the review and acceptance of the budget by DDT the end of Dec. Copies of the budget will be available to the congregation once it has been accepted.

The 2013 giving envelopes are available to be picked up in the fellowship room. The Stewardship Committee would appreciate your help in delivering envelopes to a neighbor or friend who has not been able to pick up their envelopes.

We continue to ask for your prayers for our church and it's growth and to our committee as we face the financial challenges of 2013.

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



UMW News

Thank you to each and every one who supported our projects this past year. We look forward to your support in 2013.

There will be no regular meeting in January or February.

Our January trunk collection item will be hand soap - cake or liquid.

This past month, My Brother's Keeper donated 6 large quilts to PATH, and 6 to the youth for soup kitchen distribution.

Little Quilts donated 36 to various hospital departments.

We meet Thursdays at 10-11:30 am in the downstairs dining room. Come and join us!

2013 Altar Flower Chart & Church Event Calendar Are Up!

Please consider placing altar flowers on the altar in memory of or in honor of a loved one or special event.

Also, remember to mark the main church calendar with your meetings, events, small group dates and times so they will be included in the weekly bulletin, in the monthly newsletter and on the calendar online. Thanks!

After Service Fellowship

Greeting and welcoming newcomers to our church is critical. Are we really a welcoming and friendly church? How can we show this? After Church Fellowship is a great

way to show this but we need more help from you to pull it off. I asked if we could do After Service Fellowship each Sunday after each worship service. I said it doesn't have to be complicated or fancy - just coffee, a cold drink, and a light snack like pretzels. That's pretty simple, isn't it? We just want to have a way to greet visitors and make them feel welcome in our church family. Can you help lead an After Church Fellowship?

I am hoping you can and are willing to do so several times a year. If more people participate in this simple request, we can spread the

responsibility around. Please help us! Sign up by contacting the church office by phone or email. We really want this important ministry to succeed but we need your help!

If you have any questions, like how to start the coffee, or whatever, please ask us. It is easy; even I can do it! - Bob Shank



To Serve You in January

Greeters 8:30
6
13
20
27

11:00
6 Vivian Cobbs
13 Sue & Bill Weitzmann
20 Sue & Ron Gouger
27 Joanne Reed

Ushers 8:30

11:00

Altar Guild
Joni Singer & Betty Michelin

Counters
Lynn Seip & Janet Woolever

Soup Kitchen-Sundays
6 Reeders UMC-Pastor Larry Mark
13 Christ Hamilton-Debbie Larnson
20 BPOE Antlers-Carol Hutson
27 Stbg. Senior High-Cecilia Yost

Tuesdays - Daughters of Thunder Outreach

Fridays
11 Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
Father Nicholas Solak
25 Holy Cross Green Orthodox Church
Evelyn Rouchester & Eleni Skarlis



OUR CHURCH STAFF

Ministers Everyone
Pastors Bob Shank & Ted Good
Pastor Emeritus Tom Anderman
Church Secretary Jackie Herrero
Choir Director Dave Lantz
Organist Marti Lantz
Youth Leader Vincent Zelizo
Handbell Director Lynn Seip
Custodian Matt Parton

CHURCH LEADERS

Daniel's Dream Team
Chairperson, Boyd Butz

Worship
Chairpersons, Ralph Harrison, Pastor Bob Shank

Stewardship
Chairperson, Carole Everitt

Property & Building
Chairperson, Carl Karchner

Servant Resource Team
Chairperson, Beryl Hellgren

Missions
Chairperson, Alberta Weber

Membership & Evangelism
Chairperson, Peggy Stewart

Lay Leader
Beryl Hellgren

Activities Coordinator
Jeremy Stoeckel

JANUARY 2013

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	Sunday 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	31	1 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen	2 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Den Meetings 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge	3 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 5:30 PM Getting Ahead-SUMC 7:30 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen	5 7:00 AM Cub Pack Pancake Breakfast
6	8:30 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 6:00 PM Cub Leaders Planning Meeting	7	8 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM Dig Deeper- Small Group-Conference Room	9 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Den Meetings 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	10 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen	12
13	8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	14	15 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM Dig Deeper- Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group	16 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Den Meetings 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	17 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 5:30 PM Getting Ahead-SUMC 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	18	19 4:00 PM Troop 86 Spagheti Dinner Fundraiser
20	8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	21	22 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 6:30 PM Property & Building Meeting 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM Dig Deeper- Small Group-Conference Room	23 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Den Meetings 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	24 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	25 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen	26 8:00 AM Cub Scout Pinewood Derby
27	8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 12:00 PM Pizza with the Pastors 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	28	29 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM Dig Deeper- Small Group-Conference Room	30 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Pack Meeting 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	31 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	1	2

**STROUDSBURG UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

547 MAIN STREET

STROUDSBURG PA 18360

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT No. 122

Stroudsburg, PA

January 2013

