

Trinity Christian UCC

January 2012 Newsletter

Skippack, PA



A
Message
from Our
Pastor

What Better Way With Which to Begin the New Year?

According to the Bible narrative, the baby Jesus was circumcised and formally named on the eighth day after his birth. Using December 25 as the birth date, the naming would follow on January 1. The day is not Dick Clark and the falling ball on Times Square. It is not joyous parties, usually punctuated with excessive drinking. January 1, 2012 is the day Our Lord received his official human form name.

To quote St. John 1, “the Word took on flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth.” That flesh and blood person was given the name of Jesus. His naming is foretold in St. Matthew 1:18-25. The presentation and circumcision stories are recounted in St. Luke 2:21 and 22-38.

Think of the names of the people with whom you spent the holiday season: Annemarie, Jennifer, Wayne, Diane, Steven, Megan, Harmon... Think of the names of loved ones with whom you spent earlier Christmases and New Years: Bud, Mona, Cora, Pam, Tom... Every individual has blessed you with a particular memory with which the celebration of Christmas and New Years are colored. You can't help but smile at the memory.... An empty place in your heart.... A hope.... A regret....

There is one name that swallows up all the others.

Jesus. Emmanuel. God with us.

If you will put the name of Jesus before every thought, word and deed in 2012 you will experience joys unspeakable and full of glory. What do I mean?

When you are joyful, give thanks to God in the name of Jesus and your joy will be even more full. When you want to scream and curse and cry, call out the name of Jesus. Let Jesus bear your pain and anger. Say, “Thy will, not mine be done” and step back. Take a deep breath. Soak up the meaning that before anything on earth was made or anything had happened, Jesus already was. When everything that will happen to you (or to our world) has happened and you are laid to rest, Jesus still reigns as Lord of all. To know and to trust Jesus is to make everything else relative to His great mercy.

2012 will bring its joys and challenges. You will never be alone but you do need to call upon the name of Jesus because God will seldom force himself upon you or into your business. God will allow you all the anger and heartache you wish to take upon yourself. But if you want relief, turn your problems over to Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

Pastor's message continues.....

What is the worst thing that can happen to you in this new year? What? Jesus has himself experienced the worst this world has to dish out. You can turn over the worst that happens to his loving care. Perhaps you think poorly about yourself. What do you have to offer? What good are you or your life? Well, folks, as it is said, God don't make no junk. You – just as you are – are a brother or sister to Jesus. There can be no greater position or relationship. You are blessed but you may not think that you are. Hold fast to the person of Jesus. Call out his name, repeatedly. Over and over. Claim your inheritance.

What is the worst that can happen in 2012? You may lose a job, a marriage, a child, experience the death of someone dear. These have all been covered in the blood of the Lamb. These are not the last word in your life story. Always there is a resurrection that follows a loss or death. At the graves of God's people we shout "Alleluia." At Holy Communion we proclaim together: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. These are not idle words. They are the power of hope and life where we are tempted to see only brokenness and loss and waste.

Jesus was born to redeem any loss you might suffer. Call out his holy name. Do not allow the powers of darkness to rule your life. Surround yourself with faithful people who will pray for you and who will lift you up on the wings of Emmanuel. You have been given victory over all the problems of the world. It is true, you are not in control of what will happen. Step back and give the control over to the Lord. Ask Jesus what to do in the situation. And, then, take the step of faith and give God all the room necessary to bring joy from your struggles. Remember, Jesus left the glory of heaven out of absolute, divine love for you. He knows your every hope and struggle.

At best you have but a few short years on this earth. When these days are over you will live in eternal glory because He has come to pave the way for you. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Do not wait any longer. You can begin to enjoy your inheritance as his brother or sister NOW by calling on the wonderful name of Jesus. Even now He has a plan for your life. Even now He is working out your salvation and the salvation of all those you love. Bow down before Him.

You do not have the power to control any other living human being. Give up the yelling, cursing and depression. Surrender the situation to the Name of Jesus. You will be amazed at how the Lord will work out acts of mercy now and will ultimately give you all the victory in the life to come with those who have gone before us.

Pastor Michael +



For your prayers and preparation for Sunday worship:

Jan 15 I Samuel 3:1-10
John 1:43-51

Jan 22 Mark 1:14-20
Guest preacher, The Rev. Dr. Geneva Butz Associate Conference Minister of the Penn Southeast Conference. She will preach including references to "congregational revitalization." She will have a formal presentation with question and answer period immediately following the service for members of the consistory and all other interested persons. This is a 3 year program designed to help us improve the spiritual life and the numbers of participants in our ministry.

Jan 29 Deut 18:15-20
Mark 1:21-28

For the month of January

- 1/04 Sydney Perla
- 1/05 Bell Lopez
- 1/07 Emma Becker
Melanie Cunningham
- 1/09 JoAnn Davis
- 1/12 Pam Morris
- 1/13 Tyler Perla
- 1/15 Eunice Buck
Annemarie Evans
- 1/21 June Fretz
- 1/23 Tom Brown
- 1/24 Skip Dickey
Anthony Venezia
- 1/26 Elaine Becker
- 1/26 Laura Parker



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Human Services Committee

Our Christmas outreach project for the seniors that rely on the Jerusalem Community Food Pantry, located in Schwenksville was a complete SUCCESS! The members of our church and the staff of the Residence Inn of Montgomeryville donated 94 scarves and 84 containers of homemade cookies. We were also able to collect a large number of toys, books, clothes, gift cards and other items for the children that rely on the Food Pantry. Please see the list of donations below. The Human Services Committee would like to say THANKYOU to everyone who helped make Christmas a little happier for many members of our own community who are experiencing a difficult time.

The Jerusalem Community Food Pantry lost their corporate sponsor this year and do not anticipate getting a new one in 2012.so be on the lookout throughout the year for great deals on gloves for the seniors and gifts for the children for Christmas 2012. We also want to thank everyone who donated food and personal care products throughout the year. We probably delivered over 200 bags of goods to the Food Pantry this year. On December 29th, our church sponsored another Red Cross Blood Drive, but it wasn't as successful as the previous ones. The Red Cross Blood Drive coordinator thought this date would attract people off from school and work for the Christmas holiday but we were only able to collect nine pints of blood. We will give it another try at a later date, but we would like to thank those members who took the time to donate. It was greatly appreciated. Nancy Gallagher



Stewardship Committee

One of the responsibilities of the Stewardship Committee is to review the designated charities periodically, and recommend changes to Consistory. This year the committee recommended that we focus our giving on four charities, rather than having a different designated charity each month. The recommendation was approved by Consistory, and as a result 10% of the loose and envelope giving will be distributed equally between the four charities. The charities that we selected are Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), Jerusalem Community Food Pantry (Schwenksville), and our missionaries. These changes will be effective starting January 2012.

We are also currently reviewing the work of our missionaries, Angie and Andris Barto located in Hungary with the Word of Life Fellowship, to determine if they will be the missionaries that we will continue to support.

We also discussed how we could get more people to use the SCRIP prepaid cards to help the church financially. We placed an order in November with five people ordering a total of \$1,770.00 worth of cards and the church making a profit of \$71.01. We placed another order in December with twelve people ordering a total of \$3,770.00 worth of cards and the church making a profit of \$266.43. A total of seven people ordered SCRIP cards to donate or use to buy gifts for the children that rely on Jerusalem Food Pantry. Thank you to all those members who have supported the SCRIP gift card program to raise money for our church. Nancy Gallagher

**Here is a list of donated gifts
for the Jerusalem Community
Food Pantry for**

Christmas!!!!!!!

\$400 worth of SCRIP gift cards(\$150 to Old Navy, \$50 to Target, \$50 to Kohl's, \$50 to Kmart, \$25 to WalMart, \$25 to Bath & Body Works, \$25 to Dick's Sporting Goods, \$25 to Boscov's)

Veggie Bush

Foam Football

Barbie Ballerina

Connect 4

Handy Manny Nuts and Bolts

Barbie Princess Doll

Scrabble game

100 piece puzzle

3 snowman gift sacks

4 bubble makers

4 animal statues

2 set of water balls

4 Jesus yoyos

4 flying disk games

2 small toy cars

2 small toy helicopters

6 Vera Bradley "Little Princess" purses

Doug Herbert trailer diorama with Doug's tow van

1950's Snappy's Diner diorama with 1957 Chevy Bel Air

2 small Hess trucks

7 large Hess trucks

Pooh's Go Together Game

Sesame Street Surprise Ink Game Book

Care Bears Color Blast Magic Picture Book

Sesame Street Color Blast Magic Picture Book

Bob the Builder Magicolor

3 of My Favorite Seasons Books

Bob the Builder Toys

Bath Fun Foam Stickers

LINQ game

Urban Myth

Disney Princess Dominoes

Disney Toy Story 3 Dominoes

Religious stickers

Various coloring books and crayons

Nerf dart tag and extra darts

Pop bottle science

3 Harry Potter "Deathly Hallows Part I" DVD

"A Grandpa for Christmas" DVD

5-IN-1 Sports Activity Center

Monopoly

Bath & body products, bath towel & gloves

Radio control car & batteries

2 Artist kits

Musical play tea set

Wooden chunky farm puzzle

Make Your Own Friendship Bracelets

Isotoner slippers
3 Old Navy boys fleece jackets
4 Old Navy boys t-shirts
20 Questions game
Yahtzee game
Hide and Seek play toy
2 pairs of cozy socks
Jumbling tower game
Eagles sweatshirt
Bath & Body kit
Face lotions & lip glosses
Bracelet & \$20 Walmart gift card
Boys watch & wallet
Wallet & \$20 Walmart gift card
Girls pajamas
4 bracelets
Eagles nerf football, pens & backpack
Body products & \$20 WalMart gift card
Target gift card for \$50
Target gift card for ?
Scarf & \$10 WalMart gift card
Hat & gloves and \$15 WalMart gift card
Panoramic 350 piece puzzle
Wooden Paddle Ball
Sudoku book

Brain bender puzzle
TV Guide magazine crossword puzzle book
Farkle game
Pass the Pigs game & \$20 Target gift card
\$30 gift card to Old Navy

Thank you, thank you, one and all for your generous support this **Christmas**.

Remember, these families need our help throughout the coming year with your food donations.

If you have any questions, contact Nancy Gallagher @ 610-584-1468.



Calendar of Events

Sunday	January 15	9AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Men's Prayer (Nursery) 10:15 AM Service Annual Report Information due to Secretary
Tuesday	January 17	Noon Lunch and Bible Study 7PM Finance Committee
Weds.	January 18	9:30 AM Aerobics
Thurs.	January 19	7PM 150th Committee
Friday	January 20	9:30 AM Aerobics
Sunday	January 22	9:00 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Men's Prayer 10:15 AM Service (Guest Speaker)
Monday	January 23	6PM Brownie Troop Meeting
Tues.	January 24	Noon Lunch and Bible Study
Weds.	January 25	9:30AM Aerobics
Thurs.	January 26	7PM Outreach
Friday	January 27	Aerobics
Sunday	January 29	9:00 PM Sunday School 9:15 AM Men's Prayer 10:15 AM Service
Tuesday	January 31	Noon Lunch and Bible Study

This is Trinity's Consistory for 2012.

***John Becker III
Marge Brown
Harry Crossgrove
Janet Crossgrove
JoAnn Davis
Nancy Gallagher***

***Gary Gallagher
Don Souder
Bill Vogl
Susan Vogl, Treasurer
Pastor Michael Evans***

***Trinity's Annual Congregational Meeting
is February 12, 2012 after the 10:15 Service.
Please plan on attending
this important meeting.***

A Great Big Thank You!



Here's something you have never thought about as an act of service done by one of our members. Do you know we have over 80 graves that fly miniature American flags because they are graves of military veterans? Well, we do. And one person sees to it that those flags are placed and updated. That person is Milton Nuss. And while we are at it, who volunteers to lay out the cemetery plot when someone is laid to rest in the cemetery? You are right if you guessed the same person, Milton Nuss. Thank you, Milt, for doing this unseen but important service among us and our families.

Pastor

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