

December
2019

December

St. Peter's Reformed Church

320 E. Grandview Avenue

Zelienople, PA 16063

(724) 452-8120

stpzelie.org

A PUBLICATION OF ST. PETER'S REFORMED CHURCH

The Joyful Noiseletter



“It’s A Boy!”

“She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

Holiday Greetings,

Isn't it crazy to think that Christmas is only a few short weeks away? Where did the year go? It seems as though time is flying by the older I get. I remember growing up how I wished to be 16 so I could drive and then 21 so I could 'go out' (legally) and my dad would always say “Don't rush the years away! The older you get, the quicker they go by!” Boy, he wasn't kidding!

So here we are once again journeying toward the lowly stable to witness the most blessed occurrence in the bible ... the birth of God's Son, Jesus! My theme this year for the Advent season is taken from the familiar Christmas Carol, “Away in a Manager.” Each week we will look at different characters who had a role in the Christmas narrative, from Isaiah the prophet to the Shepherds; from Mary and Joseph to the Inn Keeper and the Magi. Each one had an important role to play in one of the most famous story in the Bible.

As I began planning and outlining the messages and services for this most special time of year, I could only imagine the scene some two thousand years ago ... the hours passed in the lonely stable. Mary's labor pains increased and the moment had arrived. She cried out, straining with all her might, and fell back onto the hay. Then a tiny sound, a whimper, then a loud cry. “It's a boy! A beautiful, healthy, brand-spanking-new baby boy!”

Joseph held up the baby for Mary to see. Can't you just see the pride in Joseph? “Let me hold him,” she said. And she did. There she lay for a moment. Now the sleep she had fought for hours came to her eyes, the stress of the long trip finally catching up with her. More than anything in all the world, she wanted to go to sleep. But before she did, she picked up a rough piece of cloth and wrapped the baby tightly.

Then she looked for a place to put him. The only place she could find was a feeding trough—carved out of stone, rough and dirty with bits of food stuck to the bottom. It was perfect. She laid him in the feeding-trough and then lay down to go to sleep. It had been a long, long day. As she drifted off to sleep, she wondered where they would go in the morning.

Joseph didn't sleep just yet. Too much to think about. What a lucky man he was. He looked first at his wife-so tired and yet so beautiful-and then at the baby boy-surely the most beautiful baby in the world. How strange, yet how fitting that it should all end like this. It had happened just as the angel said it would. He didn't worry about naming the baby. The angel had taken care of that. "Give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

How strange that it should happen to him-just an ordinary carpenter. And to Mary-an innocent teenage girl. Mary, who had never known Joseph, now delivering her first child. "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son" (Isaiah 7:14). That's the way it was that first Christmas night 2000 years ago. Baby sleeping, mother dreaming, father thinking, and God watching!

And so our journey begins to the manger. We set out with one thought in mind: "Let's go straight to Bethlehem." I hope you are smiling right now because you should be. We will journey once again and witness the greatest gift God has given to us all ... His Son! Come celebrate with us ... It's a Boy!

Merry Christmas with love,

Pastor Jim

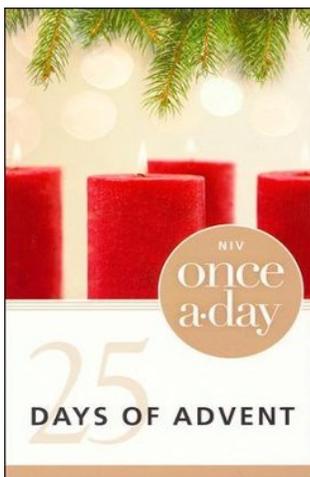
Communion Offerings for December

December 1: *Deer Ridge Ministries*

The Offering on December 1 will support Deer Ridge Ministries which was established to provide retreat experiences for full-time Christian pastors, ministers, and missionaries. They seek to encourage them in their calling, promote methods of self-care, and provide ways to help them keep their ministry and their marriages in healthy balance. They provide 5-day Sabbath rest retreats as a gift to full-time ministry gifts. Pastor Jim stayed with Deer Ridge while he was on Sabbatical in 2016 and came away refreshed and renewed by the experience.

December 24: *Billy Graham Rapid Response Teams*

Teams of chaplains have been deployed to the Bahamas after the devastating Hurricane Dorian hit Nassau and Freeport. Not only did people lose their homes and everything they owned, but some have also lost loved ones. The trauma on this island is real, and the Billy Graham Chaplains are there to pray with them, refurbish their land, and bring comfort in Jesus' Name. Your support will bring hope to the thousands of survivors living in the rubble and assist the medical teams in bringing compassion and aid to the hurting.



2019 Advent Calendar

This year we are trying something special during the Advent Season. A list of pantry items that we will put into a box for each day of the month of December is located at the Welcome Center. On Christmas Eve, families will bring your boxes to church to present to God as your gift to the Baby Jesus and to the Southwest Butler County Food Pantry.

We will supply each family with a box to fill and the "Once A Day ~ 25 Days of Advent" Devotional to read each day. What a wonderful way to say "Thank you, God for the special gift of your Son, Jesus!" by giving back to the least, the lost, and the lonely during this Christmas season.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact PJ or Heather Zeigler.

CONSISTORY UPDATE

- Due to the Resignation of John Pietrusinski, Elected Bill Allmann as Consistory President for the remainder of 2019.
- Will Present 2020 Budget to the Congregation on December 8th
- Approved a Proposal to Install a Card Access System

If you have any questions, please contact me at 724-316-0676 or via email at wgrubbs@p-r-i.org.

Thank you,
Wendy Grubbs
Consistory Secretary

From the president...

As you know from the budget mailing, the 2020 budget is designed to allow us to move forward and do more in the coming year with the addition of a second ordained minister in one of our own, Andrew Double. Because Andrew will be moving on to his career as an Army Chaplain after two years, we can and should explore any number of different ways to use this position to strengthen St. Peter's and advance God's Kingdom – and then reevaluate for 2022.

As Consistory president, you would expect me to urge you to prayerfully consider approving this budget so I won't disappoint - please do so. But, more importantly, please consider how we can use Andrew's God-given talents in 2020 to advance the church, and we can be creative since we will automatically review everything in two years. As soon as our reorganization meeting for the 2020 Consistory is held on December 15, please let any 2020 Consistory member know of your ideas so that we can begin planning.

Thanks,
Bill Allmann

St. Peter's Nesbitt Family in the news...

Nesbitt Bible returned from Europe after 75 years in Belgium.

Howard (Fritz) Nesbitt served in the US Army from 1942 to 1945 and was stationed in Belgium during the famous Battle of the Bulge, receiving the Bronze Star Metal for his service there. Apparently he gave his New Testament to an English teacher Mr. Frankignoul, who gave it to one of his students Francois Bonjean of Verviers, Belgium.

Mr. Bonjean's daughter recently found the Bible in the personal effects of her late father. Since Howard Nesbitt's address was listed as Pittsburgh, she contacted the Post-Gazette. They were able to find Howard Nesbitt's grandson in Clarion and arranged to have the Bible shipped to him. More connections were made, including niece Donna Diehl of Butler, and nephew Tom Nesbitt of Zelienople. The Post-Gazette wrote a nice article on Oct. 27th with photos of the Bible, the family members, and Fritz in his Army uniform.

Fritz Nesbitt was the older brother of Pete Nesbitt and Mary Lou Burkett. He graduated from Zelienople High School in 1931 where he was the halfback on the football team, captain of the basketball team, and was a star in track and field. He married twice and had two sons (Ronald and David) who both served with the US Marines in Korea and are now deceased.



Community Fellowship Dinner

Jesus didn't come to be served, HE came to SERVE.

THE GREATEST AMONG YOU MUST BE A SERVANT.

MATTHEW 23:11 NLT

~~~~~  
Community Dinner Friday, December 13, 2019

5:00-6:30 p.m.

December's Menu is:

Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Desserts and Beverages

### Sweet Blessings

December 7, 2019 ~ 9:00 am to noon (Basics Room, Upper Level of Educational Building)



Please join us to bring "Sweet Blessings" to others through fellowship and baking. Participants are asked to donate their favorite cookie to our cookie bank, where we will then distribute them to others who may need a little extra Christmas Cheer!

## KITCHEN CLEANUP

The church kitchen is in need of a cleanup, so we will be holding a "Christmas Cleanup"! We will be tossing out of date and unclaimed items in the two refrigerators in the kitchen after December 15th. So please label or take home any items you wish to keep. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



## Women's Ministry News

The following ladies of St. Peter's Women's Ministry visited the Bethlehem Haven Women's Shelter in Pittsburgh on November 9th: Tonya Reynolds, Dottie Schulte, Thelma Jacobs, Pam North, and Marla Clouse. A meal of meatball subs, tossed salad, and cookies was delivered to them. The ladies at the shelter were thrilled! No chicken or green beans!! Several ladies came back for second plates of salad. Such a simple meal, but greatly appreciated and enjoyed. I would also like to thank everyone who donated food or monetary donations to make this trip successful.

We joined the ladies during their meal time engaging in conversation and listening to them share their stories of what they are going through in their lives. They thanked us over and over again for the meal and expressing how thankful they are to have food and a shelter where they sleep on mats on the floor. This is a haven of warmth and protection for them. It certainly made us realize how blessed we are for our homes and the food we have available to us.

On **December 7th** we will help Amy George and Karen Thomas with their "**Sweet Blessings**" project by donating and packaging cookies to give to our shut-ins of St. Peter's and also for the "Feed My Sheep" Ministry. Please have your cookies to the Basics classroom (top floor of the educational building) no later than 9a.m. that morning. We begin packaging the cookies shortly after 9a.m. After all the cookies are packaged, Sue Frankenstein will help us in designing homemade Christmas cards to give to our members that are shut in. Sue has donated the materials to make these beautiful cards. In lieu of paying her for the materials, she would like a monetary donation to be given towards helping students attend church camp in the summer. Thank you again, Sue, for your generosity in supplying the materials so that we are able to provide aid to those going to church camp this summer. Please come join us for a time of fellowship and spread some Christmas cheer!

A brief planning meeting will follow.

We hope more women in the church will join us in December and for the New Year.

Wishing everyone a very blessed Christmas,  
Marla Clouse



## *Ellwood City Civic Chorale*

*Christmas Concert!!*

Zion Lutheran Church

557 Perry Hwy

Harmony PA

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 p.m.

Cookies and Refreshments Following the Concert

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

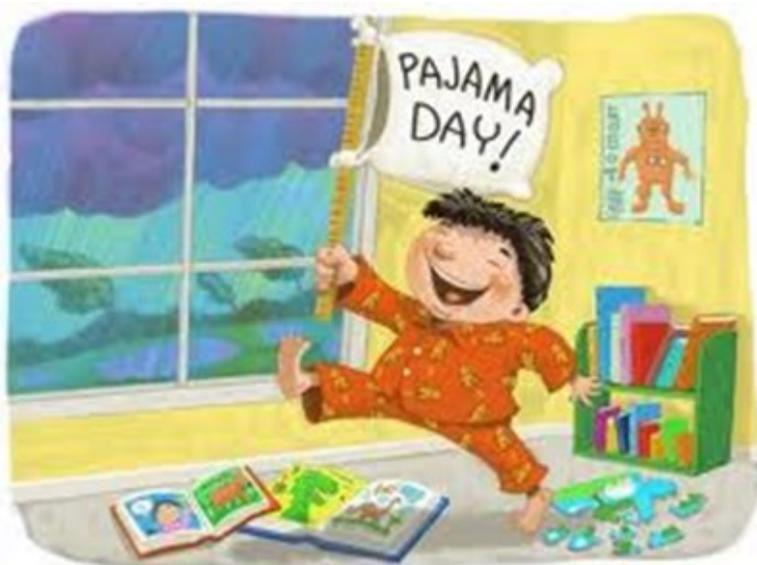
**REMINDER: DON'T FORGET TO COME OUT ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST TO ENJOY SHARING A MEAL TOGETHER AND THEN ENJOY A SHOW PUT ON BY OUR OWN MEMBERS OF ST. PETERS!! DETAILS BELOW**



*Merry Christmas*

**St. Peter's Christmas Dinner & Show Night  
Sunday, Dec. 1st at 5:00 pm**

Let's have our church family come together before the hustle and bustle of the season takes over. Please join us to remember the true meaning of Christmas while sharing a meal and watching the very talented people of St. Peter's. See Heather Zeigler to get involved. Sign-up sheets will be out closer to the date.



**KIDS PAJAMA PARTY  
SUNDAY, 1/5/20**

**@ 9:00 am**

**Come in your PJs have  
breakfast and a movie with  
your friends.**

**WORSHIP NURSERY  
& JR. CHURCH SCHEDULE  
FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY**

Please remember to always clean up space after you are done on your assigned schedule. Place nursery items in bins/shelves. All Jr. Church supplies/material belong in the hallway closet, please do not leave lay on tables/desks in rooms. Jr. Church lesson will be emailed to you the week of your assigned date.

Switch among yourselves if the date assigned does not work with your schedule. We ALL need to keep this commitment, families are counting on you to show up.

**WORSHIP NURSERY**

12/1 Becky Bichler  
12/8 Sarah McMaster  
12/15 Lucy Palmer  
12/22 Jordan Caldwell  
12/29 Taryn Zeigler

1/5 Heather Zeigler  
1/12 Betty Kraynik  
1/19 Lucy Palmer  
1/26 Judy Caldwell

**JR. CHURCH**

12/1 Marley & Geis  
12/8 McGuinness & Carly  
12/15 Joy Zalar  
12/22 Emily & Sarah McMaster  
12/29 The Caldwells

1/5 Becky Bichler  
1/12 Erin Palmer  
1/19 Brandy Crosson  
1/26 Emily Bertoti

*Happy December Anniversary to:*

*Ken and Judy Williams ~ December 20 ~ 61 years  
Larry and Karen Martino ~ December 20 ~ 50 years*



*Happy December Birthday to:*

*Mary Lou Pietrusinski ~ December 2 ~ 88 years young  
Frank Szakelyhidi ~ December 3 ~ 99 years young  
Betty Lighthiser ~ December 7 ~ 87 years young  
Ruth Gross ~ December 15 ~ 84 years young  
Mary Lou Burkett ~ December 23 ~ 93 years young  
Flo Gross ~ December 23 ~ 87 years young*



# StP Youth

I am so thankful for each of you that prayed over our 2020 mission trip considerations. I truly heard God speaking to me as I decided on a mission location and am so excited to say that in July we will be traveling to Lumberton, North Carolina to assist with disaster relief. I know that our youth are going to have an amazing time giving back to the Lumberton community and cannot wait to see the opportunities God presents through this adventure. Please continue to pray for our trip preparation and keep an eye out for our fundraising efforts!

## Youth Fundraisers:

Comfy Cozy Pancake Breakfast – Join us at 9am on Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship room for a breakfast to support the Youth 2020 Mission Trip. Donations are appreciated and all proceeds will go towards our trip to North Carolina in July. If you have one, make sure to wear your new HeBrews Café t-shirt!

AmazonSmile – when placing an order on Amazon this holiday season, be sure to go through this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-6050542>. By doing this, the Youth to receive a percentage of your purchase back towards our mission trip!

Willing Worker – please continue to submit your WW requests to Aubrey or the church office

## Coming up in December:

### Youth Group:

Meeting/Dinner and Variety Show – Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> 4:30pm

Volunteer at The Strand for “The Polar Express” – Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> 10-1 and 1-4

Mission Trip Info Meeting – Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> 9:30-10am (youth room)

Stuff-a-Truck present wrapping – Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> 7pm (Harmony Fire Station)

Stuff-a-Truck gift delivery – Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> 9am-1pm

Meeting – Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm

Family Dinner (host needed) – Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> 6-7:30pm

Coffee Talk – Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup> 9-10am (Wunderbar in Harmony)

Christmas Dinner – Monday December 23<sup>rd</sup> time and location TBD

Mission Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast – Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup> 9am

### TNT:

Meeting – Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8pm

Volunteer at The Strand for “The Polar Express” – Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> 10-1 and 1-4

Christmas Event – Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm (dinner provided)

By His Grace,  
Aubrey Rader, Director of Youth Ministries



## JAMES ALLMAN MASONRY INC.

~ Specializing in Hand Built Fireplaces ~



Commercial and Residential  
Brick and Block Work  
Masonry Heaters • Finish Fireplaces  
Outdoor Fireplace and Kitchens  
Brick Ovens Rumford Fireplaces  
Concrete Countertops • Custom Built Homes  
All Types Stonework

[allmanmasonry.com](http://allmanmasonry.com)

James: 724 272-5245

Don: 724 272-0403



## TRAVEL Remedy

... Catch the travel bug!

**Kristine Butcher**  
Independent Travel Agent

606 Ciderberry Drive  
Wexford, PA 15090  
e-mail: [travelremedy@yahoo.com](mailto:travelremedy@yahoo.com)

Tel: 724.799.8181  
Cell: 724.766.4098  
an affiliate of Nexion, LLC

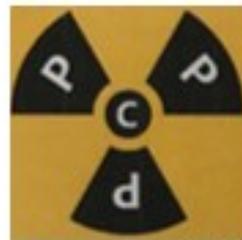
Like us on Facebook!

### Specializing in Corporate Finance Law

**Peter C. Butcher**  
Partner  
[pbutcher@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:pbutcher@mcguirewoods.com)  
412.667.7940 Direct Line  
412.667.7974 Fax

**McGuireWoods LLP**  
EQT Plaza  
625 Liberty Avenue  
23rd and 27th Floors  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Tel 412.667.6000  
Fax 412.667.6050  
[www.mcguirewoods.com](http://www.mcguirewoods.com)

McGUIREWOODS



### Power Plant PC

**Eddie Crosson**

Email: [eddiecrosson@gmail.com](mailto:eddiecrosson@gmail.com)  
Phone: 724-766-9604

415 Sunny Dale Drive  
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

PC Repair and Upgrading  
Data Backup and Transferring  
Custom PC Builds  
Help Installing Consumer Electronics

### HOME REPAIRS & REMODELING

No Job to Small

Call Mickey Flood  
@ 724-431-7099



### TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Can provide transportation to appointments,  
grocery shopping, etc.

Call Alecia Flood  
@412-417-8091



### BABYSITTING AND PET SITTING



Call Avery Flood  
@ 412-417-8091



Darla Frederick [britchesnstitches@gmail.com](mailto:britchesnstitches@gmail.com) 724-272-5667

## BRITCHES 'n Stitches

Custom Embroidery • Alterations  
Photo Embroidery

# Eclectic Electric

Dave Hamilton  
724-822-1854

Electrical Contractor  
Residential / Commercial

Fully Insured

Rentfrew, PA  
PA # 130272

## Michelle Hamilton, DPT

Early Intervention Physical Therapist  
and IMHS Infant Mental Health Specialist

Pediatric Therapy Professionals

1-800-692-7288  
www.connectpa.net  
Cell: 724-421-9647  
Office: 724-656-8814  
mrs5333@gmail.com



### OFFERING EGGS FROM HAPPY HENS



\$2.00 - 1/2 Dozen  
\$3.00 - 1 Dozen  
\$5.00 - 2 Dozen (if purchased @ same time)

Pick up at our home or can deliver to church on Sundays.

Email: [hilltopeggs7@gmail.com](mailto:hilltopeggs7@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook!

See Matt or Sara Jacobs with any questions

## DK Construction

PA112069

INSURED

Darrin Kaelin  
Owner

Home: 724.452.0398  
Cell: 724.944.5154  
Email: [bandkaelin@zoominternet.net](mailto:bandkaelin@zoominternet.net)

196 Bessor Rd.  
Fombell, PA 16123

**All Phases Interior & Exterior**



## Malec, Herring & Krause

Putting Lives In Balance

Edward McGuinness, MS, LPC  
Licensed Professional Counselor

Phone: 814-573-7533  
Fax: 724-625-4949

[McGuinness.Edward@gmail.com](mailto:McGuinness.Edward@gmail.com)  
195 Crowe Avenue Mars, PA 16046

## Norwex® 25 YEARS

Aubrey Rader, Sales Consultant

Email: [ajs1461@gmail.com](mailto:ajs1461@gmail.com)

Norwex is on a mission to create safer home environments by providing chemical-free household cleaning and body care products. Pitch your over-the-counter, chemically-laden products for Norwex and be confident that your home, kids, pets and self are chemical free!

## THOMAS ELECTRICAL & GENERAL CONTRACTING

724-368-8474

P. O. Box 124  
Portersville, PA 16051

David L. Thomas, Owner



AVON

THE COMPANY FOR WOMEN

KAREN THOMAS

Independent Sales Representative

724-368-8474

[www.youravon.com/kthomas8847](http://www.youravon.com/kthomas8847)

We're not just makeup anymore! Call today.  
Gift Certificates Always Available.

Mary Williams Art



Mary Williams  
109 Timberlee Drive  
Evans City, Pa 16033  
412-629-4788  
william0923@gmail.com

Pencil Portraits & Illustrations  
See me on Facebook: Mary Williams Art

Detailing Services at Water Werkz

Exterior Detailing [4-12 hrs]

Interior Detailing [4-9 hrs]

Full Detailing [1-2 days]



For further information,  
call or text Walker Zeigler @  
724-996-9986

Email: Wzeigler3@gmail.com

*We take pride in exceeding our customer's needs!*

*You can view the  
Business Directory on our church website  
or request a hard copy from Sheri.*

***Please Note:***  
*The Business Directory will be published  
as we receive requests for revisions.*

*Thank you for interest and support!*

*Dan & Joan Banyay and Becky Kaelin*

## THANK YOU'S

Dear St. Peter's Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and love from everyone during my diagnosis, a few more hurdles to jump over! God is so good in so many ways to me. I am so blessed.

Love, Thelma Jacobs

Dear St. Peter's,

We want to thank you for helping get our father (Bob Yohn) to church today (11-3-19)! It was truly wonderful and a nice memory! Dad really enjoyed seeing everyone. So glad and blessed for this day.

Thank you, Carol Baptiste (Brent)

Nancy & Ted Meals

Dear St. Peter's,

I would like to thank you for the lovely throw you presented us at my mother's service. I also want to tell you how much the family appreciates the support you gave us during our time of grief.

Sincerely, Dave Graham & Family

Dear St. Peter's Family,

Thank you so very much for all of your prayers and support during this most difficult time. We truly appreciate all the support and care you've given our family. The delicious luncheon made by the ladies of the church allowed us to spend additional time with family and friends. Time spent reminiscing and comforting one another.

Thank you again for everything!

Jean Wittenmeyer & Family

Dear St. Peter's Congregation:

Once again I am writing to thank you on behalf of the Circle of Friends Choirs. First, I want to thank you for allowing us to rehearse in your sanctuary with our risers to best see how we all "fit," how and when to enter and leave, etc. There are many things that must be rehearsed besides singing, ringing, and playing instruments, and you allowed us to get many of the "kinks" out by allowing us to rehearse in your sanctuary. Thank you also for allowing us to park the trailer in your parking lot. This will really alleviate a lot of problems, as our driver lives in Baden and the trailer is now in Portersville. Again, as I've said before, you are honorary members of our choir because we couldn't use our gifts of music to serve God and the community without you. God bless all of you.

Colleen Cotherman, President of ACOF Choirs

Dear St. Peter's Church Family,

As we go through this season of giving thanks for all of God's blessings, Jim and I want to express our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to our wonderful St. Peter's family for all of your love, support, cards, expressions of concern, and especially all the prayers that you offered for us during Jim's very long and mysterious illness this summer. The encouragement we received from all of you brought tears to our eyes and smiles to our faces. You have truly been a blessing to us! Jim continues to recover at home and will be recuperating for several more months. Again, thank you for your love and support through this long journey.

God Bless,

Debbie and Jim Kanell



## Volunteer Ministry News

### *From the pen of Pam*

TO THE FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS AT ST. PETER'S:

Some of you might remember the children's song titled "I Am The Church" and if you do, you know that even though it is short and sweet, the words express a powerful and profound message. Here are the lyrics of this musical gem:

"I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together.  
All who follow Jesus all around the world - yes, we're the church together!"

I was reminded of this song as I began to reflect upon all of the ministry that has been done within and also outside our church walls this past year by many, many faithful followers of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, so as we come to what has been a very busy 2019 for those faithful followers in all of our volunteer service and worship ministries, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been involved in any way in any of our ministries. Our ministry leaders certainly deserve thanks for all that they do to serve God, but I also want to thank the vast network of participants in our various ministries for their dedication and commitment to the ministries they have chosen to be part of. I'm sure Pastor Jim knows this better than any of us, but if those who lead don't have followers, not much can ever get done. For both our leaders and participants, giving back to the Lord through the gifts He has given to each of them, and being able to do that in a church fellowship where people value and edify each other, is a tremendously rewarding privilege. So if you are currently involved in a ministry where you are 'loving the Lord God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and also loving your neighbor as yourself' (Mark 12:30-31), may you continue on with even more zeal and excitement, and if you have not been involved with any of our ministries, PLEASE consider doing so in 2020. This may be exactly the time He is calling you to do for Him what nobody else but you can do!

What a great Christmas gift we could give to God if each of us could put into action the words of our mission statement: 'To know, love, and follow Jesus Christ as devoted disciples by doing together what we cannot do alone in reaching the least, the lost, and the lonely by reaching up, reaching out, and reaching in.' Let's all work together to make these powerful words even more of a reality for even more of us in the coming new year - remember that the words of the song proclaim "Yes, we're the church TOGETHER!"

May God give each of you a most blessed Advent and Christmas season as you celebrate this important truth - 'Christ'mas begins with Christ!

In His love,  
Pam



## UGANDA MISSION TEAM NEWS



Greetings St. Peter's,

This will be the last Uganda update before arriving in Uganda. There are a few things I would like to cover before we go. Our annual big fundraising dinner is **Friday, December 6 at 7:00 PM.**

We are holding it at the church this year and limiting it to 50 people.

We still need raffle baskets for Chinese auction prizes and we are still accepting reservations, please give me a call at 724-766-1029 to reserve your place. Funds are a little tighter than in the past few years and we could use some help. Coming to the dinner is something that you can do. Also, any monetary donations will help. The well is paid for and so is the medical treatment, but when we get there can be many unexpected needs that arise. We never know what we are going to be up against. The past couple of years we sent people to the hospital for treatment, bought 200 pair of shoes, needed to do more jigger treatment than expected and purchased antibiotics for severe wound treatment. We work very hard to pull this trip off every year and we really need your help. St. Peter's has supported us in this mission and we will make you proud of our sister village. If you would like to be on an email list for updates while we are there, please contact me with your information.

Yours in Christ,  
Randy Herbe



## "THANK YOU" FROM FEED MY SHEEP MINISTRY

Dear St. Peter's Family ~

Sue and I would like to thank you for all of your generous donations and continued support for the "Feed my Sheep" ministries.

We really do have the best church family. Every time we have a need for something you always go over and beyond with your donations.

We could not do this ministry without your help. It is truly incredible when we pull up to hand out the winter wear to see how happy the people are to see us and to receive the items that will keep them warm. Your generosity is appreciated more than you will ever know.

As a reminder, I will list the items that we are always in need of:

Men's and Women's coat size large and larger, gloves, hats, scarves, blankets, socks, hand and feet warmers and tarps.

We collect all year as we have a storage unit that we keep the items in until we need them.

You can bring your donations to the church and drop them off at the coat rack or I will gladly come and pick them up from your home.

Thank you and God bless,  
Tonya Reynolds and Sue Kniess



## Intercessory Prayer Update

Starting in January 2020, the Intercessory Prayer Group that meets every Wednesday at 9 a.m. will now be meeting in the Sanctuary. If you are interested in joining this Prayer Group, please see Bea Barna at church or call her at (724) 776-2419.



## Library Highlights for December - READ All About It!!



In this very busy season of Advent that is now upon us, it is highly unlikely that any of us has much free time, but sometimes it's good and relaxing to just take a break - and what I would suggest is that your break would involve reading one (or more, depending on how much of a break you might give yourself as you're preparing for Christmas) of the following previewed books (there's even a DVD) or anything else you might find if you come to the church library.

Here are the new books and the DVD (with their synopses) that have just been added:

Author Dani Pettrey has written the first book in her new **"Coastal Guardians"** series and this one, titled **"The Killing Tide"**, might keep you on the edge of your seat: 'When one Coast Guard officer is found dead and another goes missing, Coast Guard Investigative Service special agent Finn Walker faces his most dangerous crime yet. His only clues are what little evidence remains aboard the dead officer's boat, and the direction the clues point to will test Finn and the Guard to their limits. The already volatile situation is complicated even further by the arrival of Gabby Rowley - Finn's boss's sister and an investigative reporter with unrelenting questions about the crime. Now that she's returned, the tug on Finn's heart is strong, but with the risks she's taking for her next big story, he fears she might not live through it. Thrown together by the heinous crime, Finn and Gabby can't ignore the sparks or judgments flying between them. But will they be able to see past their preconceptions long enough to track down an elusive killer, or will they become his next mark?'

The first of the non-fiction books new to the library is Anne Graham Lotz' book titled **"The Daniel Prayer - Prayer That Moves Heaven and Changes Nations"**, a very meaningful title indeed: 'What is the secret to the revival of the church? The spiritual restoration of America? How can you renew your own relationship with God? It's prayer - but not your everyday "now I lay me down to sleep" kind of prayer. It is the kind of prayer that storms the gates of Heaven until things change. It is passionate, heartfelt, "I won't let you go until you bless me" (reference to OT patriarch Jacob) pleading until you get an answer. It's The Daniel Prayer! Bestselling author Anne Graham Lotz (daughter of Billy and Ruth Graham) unpacks the ancient prayer of Daniel, a prayer that moved heaven and changed a nation, to help you unlock a powerful pattern for your prayers today.' From start to finish, when you read this book, you'll know for sure that it's definitely time to pray The Daniel Prayer!

The next selection covers an area of life that many of us have dealt with - this book is written by Rev. Louie Giglio and is titled **"The Comeback - It's Not Too Late and You're Never Too Far"**: 'Have you ever needed a comeback? We all know what it feels like to have life disappoint us and not work out as we'd hoped. We all know what it's like to long for something different, something better, something more. **"The Comeback"** celebrates new beginnings - it offers encouragement and perspective, and it's for you if you feel frustrated or confused, if you're enduring hardship or pain, if you've made mistakes or are grieving, if you're defeated or feel as though you've lost your way. The good news is that God is in the business of giving fresh starts to people. He gives hope to the hopeless - direction to the directionless - help to those who need help. God's plans will always prevail, even when our plans don't.'

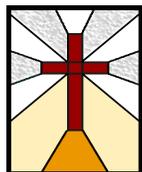
The third non-fiction offering is the newest book by Dr. David Jeremiah and tackles the subject of the end times. Its title is **"The Book of Signs - 31 Undeniable Prophecies of the Apocalypse"**: "The apocalypse" "the end times" "the day of judgment". Terms such as these are both fascinating and frightening for any student of God's Word. They point to key questions people have wrestled with for centuries, including: What does the Bible tell us about the future? Why is biblical prophecy relevant for Christians today? What signs and signals will precede the end? Which of those signs have already come to pass, which are we experiencing now, and which are still to come? Drawing from decades of experience as one of the world's most respected Bible teachers, Dr. Jeremiah once again brings his signature wisdom, depth, and compassion to the discussion of biblical prophecy - a discussion that becomes more and more critical with each passing day. Join Dr. Jeremiah as he lays out the signs of the end times and helps you prepare for the days ahead in 31 easy-to-understand chapters. Filled with engaging illustrations and practical application, **"The Book of Signs"** is a must-have resource for Christians seeking to navigate the uncertainties of the present and embrace God's promises for the future.'

## LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS continued...

Our DVD feature has been donated to the library by Aubrey Rader and the youth group. **"Breakthrough"** came out earlier this year and is based on an impossible, but true, story that has become an inspiring film for the whole family. The back of the cover states: 'When Joyce Smith's (Chrissy Metz) adopted son John (Marcel Ruiz) falls through an icy Missouri lake, all hope seems lost as John lies lifeless. In the face of every bleak medical case history and dire scientific prediction, Joyce's unwavering belief inspires her community to pray for John's recovery. Based on the incredible true story, **"Breakthrough"** is an enthralling reminder that faith and love can create a mountain of hope, and sometimes even a miracle.'

If one of these previewed selections doesn't pique your interest, remember that our library has many other books as well as some DVDs and a great inventory of Biblical resource materials that are housed in the Berean classroom (where Bob Nolte teaches). If the end of this calendar year just doesn't allow you much time for reading, viewing, or studying, perhaps you can make a New Year resolution to check out all that our church library has to offer.

In closing, I want to say that it has been my privilege to serve as librarian for the past two and one-half years. During my tenure I truly enjoyed getting to know more about our fine library and all the enriching material it houses, but after a period of time it became clear to me that I just didn't have the time to do everything that is integral to this position. I truly would have been floundering if it wasn't for the help of Ruth Gross and Janet LaRocca who are in the library every Sunday morning and who maintain our Christian fiction section very well. Janet has also taken time to do some reorganizing of the books, and both ladies are always most helpful when people stop in with questions or if they are simply seeking something to read - Janet and Ruth are very good at pointing people in the right direction and I thank them for doing such a fine job promoting all that our library has to offer. I'm glad to say that our new librarian will be able to count on their help, and I know that she will do an awesome job of handling all the duties that this position entails - I know firsthand that she is an avid reader and she utilizes our library on a regular basis. I am very grateful for her willingness and very happy to hand the card catalogue and other library essentials over to none other than Sheri McMaster!! Thank you, Sheri, for all that you will do to keep the library up and running in the tradition of our library's founder, Betty Nesbitt, for St. Peter's!!



## SOUTHWEST BUTLER FOOD CUPBOARD

557 Perry Highway

Harmony, PA 16037

Phone: 724.453.4184

Website: [www.swbfoodcupboard.org](http://www.swbfoodcupboard.org)

The Southwest Butler Food Cupboard is gearing up for the Holiday season. It is our busiest time of the year. The number of people needing food always increases around this time. Keeping that in mind, below is a list of food needs for December. Please help us get the word out. Thank you.

|                   |                |                     |                |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Canned fruit      | Soup           | Dessert mixes       | Toiletries     |
| Stuffing Mix      | Boxed potatoes | Canned chicken      | Paper products |
| Gravy             | Sloppy Joe mix | Tuna                |                |
| Cereal            | Helper meals   | Egg noodle          |                |
| Canned Vegetables | Rice           | Juice               |                |
| Pasta             | Rice sides     | Chef Boyardee       |                |
| Pasta sauce       | Pasta sides    | Peanut Butter/Jelly |                |

Blessings,  
Sharon Klaiber, Director



# December 2019

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Mon                                                                                                                                                                                      | Tue                                                                                                                                   | Wed                                                                                                                                                                                           | Thu                                                                                                    | Fri                                                                                                                               | Sat                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Sunday School<br>9:00am<br>Worship<br>10:15am                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                       | Head Usher<br>For<br>December<br>Consistory                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1 Communion<br>9am Confirmation<br>11:30am Mom-to-Mom Ministry<br>College Care<br>Packages assembly<br>11:30-4:30pm<br>Christmas Show<br>rehearsals ~<br>Sanctuary<br>5-8pm Christmas<br>Dinner/Show ~<br>Fellowship Rm./<br>Sanctuary | 2<br>5:30pm AA Mtg. ~<br>Fellowship Rm<br>6pm Ding-a-Lings<br>bell practice ~ Bell<br>Rm.<br>6:30pm Elder's Mtg.<br>~ Ed. Bldg.<br>6:30pm Family<br>Christmas Bible<br>Study ~ Ed. Bldg. | 3                                                                                                                                     | 4<br>9am Prayer Group<br>7pm Choir<br>practice<br>7pm The Journey                                                                                                                             | 5<br>11:30am<br>Ministerium ~<br>Fellowship Rm.<br>6:30-8pm TNT<br>Mtg. ~ Youth Rm./<br>Fellowship Rm. | 6<br>9-6pm Randy<br>Herbe using<br>Kitchen &<br>Fellowship Rm.<br><br>7pm Uganda<br>Mission Team<br>Fundraiser<br>Dinner ~ F. Rm. | 7<br>9-1pm Sweet<br>Blessings Cookie<br>Collection ~ Ed.<br>Bldg. (Basics<br>Classroom)<br>10-2pm Moms of<br>Multiples<br>Christmas Party ~<br>Fellowship Rm.<br>5pm Brandy<br>Crosson using<br>Fellowship Rm. |
| 8<br>9am Confirmation<br>9:30am Youth<br>Mission Trip Info.<br>Mtg. ~ Youth Room<br>11:30am<br>Congregational<br>Mtg. ~ Sanctuary                                                                                                      | 9<br>5:30pm AA Mtg. ~<br>Fellowship Rm<br>6pm Ding-a-Lings<br>bell practice ~ Bell<br>Rm.<br>6:30pm Family<br>Christmas Bible<br>Study ~ Ed. Bldg.                                       | 10<br>12:30-3pm "We<br>Care" Visitations<br>1pm 500 Card<br>Club ~ F. R.<br>7:15pm<br>Consistory Mtg.<br>(All Welcome) ~<br>Ed. Bldg. | 11<br>9am Prayer Group<br>12:30-3pm "We<br>Care" Visitations<br>5pm Feed My<br>Sheep<br>7pm Choir<br>Practice<br>7pm The Journey<br>7pm TNT & YG<br>Stuff-A-Truck<br>wrapping ~ Youth<br>Room | 12                                                                                                     | 13<br>5pm Community<br>Dinner ~ FR<br>6:30-8pm TNT<br>Christmas Party                                                             | 14<br>9am TNT & YG<br>Stuff-A-Truck<br>Delivery<br>12pm COF setting<br>up and rehearsal<br>for concert ~<br>Sanctuary<br>7pm Circle of<br>Friends Concert ~<br>Sanctuary                                       |
| 15<br>9am Confirmation<br>11:30am COF<br>Rehearsal for<br>concert ~<br>Sanctuary<br>2:30pm Circle of<br>Friends Concert ~<br>Sanctuary<br>6pm YG Mtg. ~<br>Youth Rm/F. Rm.                                                             | 16<br>5:30pm AA Mtg. ~<br>Fellowship Rm<br>6pm Ding-a-Lings<br>Christmas<br>Gathering ~ Ed.<br>Bldg.                                                                                     | 17                                                                                                                                    | 18<br>9am Prayer Group<br>5pm Feed My<br>Sheep<br>6pm YG Family<br>Dinner<br>7pm Choir<br>practice<br>7pm The Journey<br>7pm AFSP<br>Support Group ~<br>Ed. Bldg.                             | 19<br>6-8pm TNT<br>Christmas Event                                                                     | 20                                                                                                                                | 21<br>9am YG Coffee<br>Talk at<br>Wunderbar in<br>Harmony                                                                                                                                                      |
| 22<br>9am Confirmation<br>6pm YG Christmas<br>Dinner<br>29<br>9am Comfy Cozy<br>Pancake Breakfast                                                                                                                                      | 23<br>5:30pm AA Mtg. ~<br>Fellowship Rm<br>30<br>5:30pm AA Mtg. ~<br>Fellowship Rm.                                                                                                      | 24<br>9:00pm Christmas<br>Eve Service<br>(Communion)<br>31                                                                            | 25<br>9-3pm Feed My<br>Sheep Christmas<br>                                                                 | 26                                                                                                     | 27                                                                                                                                | 28                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

# A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



## *Ringling and Singing Choirs*



### 2019 Christmas Concert Schedule:

**Friday, December 6, 2019 - 7:30 pm**

Hope Lutheran Church in Cranberry Township

*Benefit: Grove City Community Food Pantry*

**Saturday, December 7, 2019 – 7:00 pm**

Harmony-Zelienople United Methodist Church in Harmony

*Benefit: Pine Valley Camp*

**Sunday, December 8, 2019 - 7:00 pm**

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Butler

*Benefit: Katie's Kitchen*

**Friday, December 13, 2019 - 7:30 pm**

St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Allison Park

*Benefit: North Hills Community Outreach*

**Saturday, December 14, 2019 - 7:00 pm**

St. Peter's Reformed Church in Zelienople

*Benefit: Zelienople Historical Society*

**Sunday, December 15, 2019 - 2:30 pm**

St. Peter's Reformed Church in Zelienople

*Benefit: Michael Clawson family*

*Joy to the World,*

*The Lord has Come*

