
The Light On The Hill



Monthly Newsletter of the First Church of the Brethren, Carlisle, PA

December 2018

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

From the Pastors' Desk

"One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly." ~ (1919-), American writer, producer, humorist." ~ Andy Rooney

One of the least sanitary places in the world is a stable in a cave. There is no wind to blow the smells out. Cleaning a rough, rocky floor can be difficult. All sorts of animals lived in a stable. We tend to think of cattle, horses, donkeys, goats, but there were probably also chickens, pigeons and mice. And the manger...well a stone manger is filled with food for the animals, which they tend to lick out. So there would probably be a nice layer of various animal salivas. Really not a sanitary place at all; these were not deluxe accommodations.

We are a people who are quick to judge on cleanliness. Some people won't invite others in their house for fear of criticism about how messy or dusty the house is. Some people insist that shoes come off and no drinks or food be in the living room to keep it clean. Some people happily live with floors of dirt or straw. Some people want everything picked up right away, and others just let it sit.

Sometimes we forget that life is messy, that it leaves refuse behind in our hearts and minds. Some of it is not refuse, but great things, good memories, love and forgiveness shown. We want to clean it up before time...before the whole scene is played out.

What I think Andy Rooney is telling us is...don't rush around. Enjoy the season. Leave the wrapping paper out. So the pie burnt, trim it off. Forgot a present, apologize. Let people just sit and look at their gifts. Because my birth family is large, and the place we meet to give presents small, we tend to clean away the paper instantly, and tell kids to look at their gifts, but not enjoy them until it is all over. It is necessary for us...but for a smaller group, let it sit. Enjoy the gifts, watch others, have a snack or drink of water.

Life is messy but good things come out of that mess....Merry Christmas!

Pastor Marla

News Of The Congregation

WITNESS COMMISSION

WITNESS COMMISSION's focus for November has been collecting articles for three Disaster Relief Buckets. We appreciate everyone's contributions to help make them happen. There are those in our country who are in great need of these clean up buckets. We ask for God's blessings for each family that receives a bucket.

We thank Jeanne Bobenage for taking charge of the Children's Shoebox Gifts. We hope that we have at least 20 to share with some children! Seeing those wrapped, colorful shoeboxes makes us proud and grateful that we are able to share them.

The Witness Commission will again be sharing a Christmas ornament with all congregational members and visitors at the Christmas Eve service. We want to thank everyone for the ways to support the Witness Commission over this past year. We hope you will look forward to seeing what it will be, come December 24th.

The Carlisle Area Religious Council has shared a small container of cookies with each of the prisoners from the Cumberland County Prison for the last several years. We often pack those cookies at our church but this year the cookies will be packed at Project SHARE. We have need of A LOT OF COOKIES, homemade or purchased. ...Last year we placed about 5 to 8 cookies in each of 500 plastic containers. Multiply those numbers to get an idea of how many cookies are needed!

We will be looking forward to January when we prepare for the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 20th. The Witness Commission will again share hot chocolate with the walkers who march together. It has been appreciated by those who walk as it usually occurs on very cold days. Please look for our church's ad if you attend the service.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Gloria Ramirez has had an overwhelming schedule thus far this year to handle and has not scheduled too many activities for the women's fellowship. However, "I am working toward a simplified Women's Christmas Banquet on Friday, December 14 at 5pm at the church social hall. The meal will be an unconventional Christmas meal of a stew and bread meal, and yes, there will be a game or two. Each attendee is asked to bring a miniature loaf of their favorite bread. I am also looking for 2 to 3 male volunteers to help serve the dessert and drinks. We hope for a great attendance to celebrate Christ's birthday! A sign up chart will be placed on the hall bulletin board by the last Sunday of November."

The Women will also be sharing the name of a family from the Salvation Army families. Pat Tritt will be sharing the names of a family with whom we can share some Christmas gifts to make their Christmas a little more fun and enjoyable.

SECRET SISTERS!!!! To save everyone some time, we will have our 'Meet Your Secret Sister' time right after the Deacon Christmas Banquet has ended on December 16. Have you guessed who your secret sister has been for this past year yet? It will be the last time you share a card, gift, or food!

The Nurture and Women's Fellowship thank everyone who has contributed cakes for funerals and other occasions, pies for Camp Eder, those who have peeled apples for the Brethren Home, different foods and dishes for picnics and carry in meals, and all the other ways you support each other,

December's Birthday Breakfast will be held on December 19th at the Farmer's Market Diner, rather than December 26, which is the day after Christmas.

News Of The Congregation, Community & Letters We Get . . .

CROSSKEYS VILLAGE

Celebration of Lights: Annual video tribute and candle lighting ceremony memorializes and honors loved ones with intergenerational musical entertainment. Refreshments will be offered. Contact the Brethren Home Foundation at 717-624-5208 for more information and to learn how to receive a commemorative ornament. December 2nd, 3:00-4:30 pm.

Louis & Clark Expedition, The Medical History. Presenter Conrad Richter will tell the story of the medical and health problems of the Corps of Discovery on their long journey across the continent, ranging from ferocious attacks by giant grizzly bears to near starvation and death from freezing. Free event, open to all in the Encore Room, Harmony Village, December 4th, 1:00-2:00 pm.

York College Health Fair: Meet Professor Johanna Geister and York College nursing students at Cross Keys Village, as they share their knowledge on useful health-related topics with the help of displays. You will be able to ask questions and take handouts on each topic. This activity is part of their final course assignment in nursing, so please come and help them pass the class! Light refreshments will be served. This is a free presentation open to all. Encore Room, Harmony Village, December 11th, 10:00-12:00 pm.

Hershey Handbell Ensemble, Professional Artists Series: This auditioned community handbell ensemble was formed in 2004 to fulfill the need for an auditioned community ensemble comprised of persons able to play advanced literature, interested in advancing the art of handbell ringing through education and performance, and interested in uniting people through this heavenly musical art. This free concert is open to all, December 15 from 7:00-8:30 pm @ Nicarry Meetinghouse.

Gingerbread House Competition: Everyone is welcome at the 2nd Annual Gingerbread House Competition. Your friends have worked hard on those dazzling confectioneries, and you may vote for your favorite house - or houses - more than once: votes are a quarter apiece, and they'll have change at the ready! Nicarry Meetinghouse, December 18th, 11:00-2:00 pm.

CAMP EDER

Deck the Halls, a one day, family event to bake cookies, hang the lights, decorate for Camp Eder's Christmas Tree Festival and enjoy some camp traditions. Parents or guardian must attend with children. Enjoy a free hot lunch, camp fire and hot cocoa, have joyous fellowship and make memories. Saturday, December 1st - 10:0 am to 5:00 pm.

The Stewards Commission thanks the following persons for mowing the church property this season: Bernie Koontz, Dick Miller, Dave Wampler, Mike Strickler, Gary Damiter, Elmer Stump, Landon Billman and Dale Miller. A thank you also goes to Royer's Gulf for maintaining the mowers.

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Any person not receiving the Messenger Magazine, who would like to subscribe to it for 2019 should contact Bernie Koontz. The cost is \$14.50 for one year or \$27.00 for two years.

If you are celebrating a 50, 55, 60, or above wedding anniversary, let Bernie Koontz (249-4884) know and he will have it placed in the magazine. Thanks!

The Search Committee is requesting all active church members and friends to help with the process of finding new pastoral leadership. The congregation will be asked to complete part of the congregational profile, entitled "Congregational Orientation Description". This information will be passed out in church on December 9 for you to take home and prayerfully complete to the best of your ability. The committee would like the completed forms brought back to church no later than December 23. The form should take you no longer than 30 minutes to complete. Thank you.

WE HAD 21 CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES TO SHARE WITH CHILDREN THIS YEAR...THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Sunday, December 2- Hanging of the Greens service. The congregation will be invited to help decorate the tree and place the Nativity figures on the altar table. All other decorations will be set up before that day.

Monday, December 24th, 7:00 p.m.- Christmas Eve service. We will be celebrating Christmas Around the World. Come and enjoy learning how four other countries celebrate the Christmas holiday. There will be special treats after the service!

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF CROSS KEYS AT THE BRETHERN HOME

As your Keyperson, or representative to the Brethren Home, I wish to relay some information presented at the Annual Fall Meeting on the November 10th. There will no longer be a penny a day contribution. Donations will resemble Olympic medals. Thus, a \$10 dollar donation will be in the Bronze Medal category, \$50 will be a silver medal category, and a \$100 donation will be a gold medal category. Donations can be given to Gloria anytime during this year and next year. The financial goal of The Friends is going to be \$66,000, mostly to help the Good Samaritan Fund, for those whose resources have been depleted. The Brethren Home will not send people home if their monetary resources are gone.

Just to inform you on the questions about lifetime members...I was given a list of lifetime members from Carlisle, which include: Pearl Ditmer, Trudy Donnelly, Linda Kulp, Carole Miller, Mary Hall Miller, Nell Royer, Glenna Trimmer, Blair Walker, David and Robyn Walker, and Linda Young. If you are interested in seeing what year you donated a lifetime membership amount, check with Gloria Ramirez.

We viewed a great video of The Ark Encounter by one of the Village residents. I am hoping to get it for one of our programs here. The Ark is a replica of the ark built by Noah and his family. The Ark is located in Williamstown, Kentucky. It was opened on July 7, 2016 and cost over a million dollars. The date corresponds to scripture in Genesis 7. It is a very informative video. The presentation was wonderful. Everything about the Ark is Biblical. Even more important, the funds came strictly from donations. No governmental funds were used! It truly is an amazing place!

They have a great money maker of selling gift cards. If you call the volunteer office, they can provide a list of gift cards available. You order them ahead and The Friends get a percentage of sales. Used books help provide a lot of funding, too. The Paparazzi Jewelry Sale brought in \$305.00. I pray we can continue to help The Friends provide as many services as they do for our senior citizens. Gloria Ramirez

Consider this...

Once upon a time, a decree went out from Caesar in August that everyone should be taxed so that the deficit would not get too big. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. Mary rode on a donkey named Rudolph, who was embarrassed to be seen carrying a pregnant mother. He blushed so at the thought that his nose glowed red.

Upon arriving at Bethlehem, they could not find a place to stay. (It was, after all, the Christmas season, and the press of tourists was crushing.) As they knocked at the door of the last inn in town, the innkeeper pushed back the shutter and threw up the sash.

His figure appeared so nimble and quick. They knew in a moment his name must be Nick. "Nick," said Joe, "we need a place to stay."

"Joe," said Nick, "there just ain't no way unless you're willing to stay in a donkey stable. And from the looks of the Mrs., I'm not sure she's able."

"Nick, you're a saint," Joseph said. "The hay will make a dandy bed."

Rudolph, however, was not filled with glee—"Uh uh, that woman ain't staying with me!"

Mary responded pleadingly, "Do this good deed, Rudolph, and you'll see. You'll probably go down in history."

Rudolph relented and all slept in the stable:

A baby was born and Joseph was able to fashion a crib from manger and straw, and all watched the baby with wonder and awe.

Meanwhile in a field nearby, seven dwarfs who were shepherds were startled to hear a group of angels singing Handel's *Messiah*. At the end of the concert they were told to stand up (that, by the way, has become a tradition, even to this day) and to go to Bethlehem. So off they marched to the beat of their friend, the little drummer boy. When they arrived at the stable, they met Joseph, Mary, the child and a fat little man made famous in song, Round John Virgin.

While the shepherds worshipped, the little drummer boy insisted on playing his drum—Rum a bum bum! Rum a bum bum! Rum a bum bum! - for hour after hour, until finally the baby was crying, the mother was sick, and Joseph was so agitated that he picked up a stick and smashed the little pest's drum!

That night three men arrived bearing gifts. They introduced themselves as the three kings from Orientare. They warned Joseph that a local evil king, The Grinch, wanted to kill the baby. So the little family boarded a flight to Egypt.

Eventually, they were able to return to Nazareth where the baby grew up and became such a bad carpenter that he had to make a living by going around telling inspiring tales. He is still revered today because people always like a good tale.

—The Christian CENTURY
Michael Martin

Christmas ideas that help the Earth

Although this has been my plan for Christmas for the last few years, I do want to share some ideas that come from Madeline Sommerville on the website Earth 911. Most people just don't know what to get for others...what are the grandchildren now playing with? What do the sons and daughters still need? If I buy clothing, will they like it, and will it fit? What do I buy my older friend who is downsizing, or people just starting out living in a small apartment?

I decided to invest in experiences, not objects. Yes, I still get the grandchildren presents to unwrap, but for others, I gift something they can do. As Madeline says, "create memories and fill up photo albums, not shelves."

It could be lessons, or pedicures or manicures or a spa visit. Maybe membership to a museum. How about classes? Or a two day getaway? Certificates to restaurants? A meaningful retreat? The idea, says Madeline, is to shift from consuming, to creating memories and relationships.

What about children? How about a trip to a farm, or show? Going mini-golfing or visiting a museum together? A hike, or special meal? We women like taking the girls to a Tea. What about a child friendly movie followed by eating out to talk about the movie?

For teenagers, one could pay for a sport, buy uniforms or equipment. Travel with them to a special interest place of yours or theirs. One year, our family explored the places of Abraham Lincoln. Another year we did Civil War sites. History becomes more relevant as we see the places where things happened.

Adults can take dance or cooking classes for together time. Or take a small weekend away. You can find some inexpensive rentals on various sites, or look for Bed and Breakfasts or AirBnBs. Go visit a relative or good friends together.

I have found some deals on Groupon. But they do have expiration dates. Sometimes nothing we give is appreciated...but we tried! Save the earth and stop accumulating stuff.

On the Personal Side...

Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns

FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION who have been ill, hospitalized, or needing prayer this past month include: 230+ Nigerian girls kidnapped by Boko Haram. Dorcas Yakubu remains in captivity after three years. Her family holds little hope for her return, but we can continue praying that God bless and protect her.

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS THIS PAST MONTH TO:

Prayer List:

PERSONS FROM THE CONGREGATION who have been ill, hospitalized, or needing prayer this past month include:

SYMPATHIES To

Serving You In October . . .

Worship Greeters

Hospitality

Ushers

Head Ushers

December 2—
December 9—
December 16—
December 23—
December 30—

Children's Time

December 2—
December 9—
December 16—
December 23—
December 30—

Nursery

December 2—
December 9—
December 16—
December 23—
December 30—

Worship Leaders

December 2—
December 9—
December 16—
December 23—
December 30—

Sound Room

December 2—
December 9—
December 16—
December 23—
December 24—
December 30—

Our Record of Faithfulness

November 2018 **Y-T-D** **2017** **Y-T-D** **2017** **Y-T-D**

God Himself doesn't propose to judge a man until he is dead; so why should you?

"I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord."
Psalm 116:17

RECIPES OF THE MONTH

Baked Herb Chicken

4 boneless chicken breasts
¼ cup butter or ½ cup margarine
1 tablespoons parmesan cheese
1/2 tablespoon parsley, dried
1/2 teaspoon paprika
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
¼ teaspoon oregano
¼ teaspoon garlic salt
¼ teaspoon sweet basil
¼ teaspoon salt
⅛ teaspoon pepper

Combine all ingredients except for the chicken & butter.
Arrange chicken in shallow baking dish.
Melt butter and pour over chicken.
Turn chicken pieces over so both sides are coated with butter.
Sprinkle chicken with about 1/4 of the spices.
Every 10-15 minutes, sprinkle another 1/4 of the spices on the chicken pieces.
Bake at 375 for 55 minutes.

*Happy
Birthday*

*Happy
Anniversary*

First Church of the Brethren
1340 Forge Road
Carlisle, PA 17013



The Light On The Hill

Address Service Requested



Pastors: Jim & Marla Abe
Secretary: Judy Moore
Church Office 717-243-4984

A Christian Community Sharing the Love of God

Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Worship 10:15 AM
carlislecob.org
office@carlislecob.org

The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in *His* 
presence

December 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 Deck the Halls @ Camp Eder
2 8:30 am Coffee Time First Sunday Advent 3:00-4:30 Cross Keys Village - Celebration of Lights	3	4 9:00 am Central PA Pastor's Mtg 1:00 Quilting	5 7:00 pm Choir	6 2:00 pm Nurture Com 6:30 Board	7 Christmas Tree Festival @ Camp Eder	8 Christmas Tree Festival @ Camp Eder
9 Second Sunday Advent	10 1:00 pm Witness Commission	11 9:00 Quilting 6:00 pm SOPA 7:00 pm Stewards	12 7:00 pm Choir	13 6:30 pm District Exec. Com.	14 5:00 pm Women's Fellowship Christmas Banquet	15 7:00-8:30 pm Hershey Handbell Ensemble @ Nicarry Meeting-house
16 Third Sunday Advent Secret Sisters' Mtg after Deacons Banquet	17	18 9:00 am Quilting 7:00 pm Church Board Mtg 11:00-2:00 Gingerhouse Competition @ Nicarry M	19 9:00 am CCNS Holiday Concert/ Cookie Sale 7:00 pm Choir	20 9:00 am CCNS Holiday Party	21 9:00 am CCNS Holiday Party for Pre-K	22
23 Fourth Sunday Advent	24 Xmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed	26 7:00 pm Choir	27 6:30 pm District Ministry Commission	28	29
30	31 Office Closed					