

NEWSLETTER

CENTRE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Centre is a Christ-centered, community focused, fully alive church that grows as it serves



JANUARY 2012

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From the Pastor's Pen...

"A New Year...A New You"

I know it. I admit it. My office could be a lot neater. Part of the problem is I have more stuff than nice concealed places to put it. Also, it seems I no sooner throw something away and someone says, "Do you have...?"

In spite of my excuses I have made two New Year's resolutions. One is to straighten up this disaster area and the second is to arrange my sermon files.

I have files and files of sermon illustrations, stories and ideas. The problem is I have yet to devise a good way of cataloging or arranging them. When I hear or read of something worth saving, it will be jotted down on the most convenient piece of paper, which could be an old envelope or some other piece of old scrap paper. I tear things out of newspapers, magazines and journals, so the pages are never uniform; therefore, my files tend to be as sloppy as they are disorganized.

My attempt to get organized, however valiant, was also I'm afraid, at this point at least, in vain. But I did manage to reap some reward. I found this article, which is about ten years old. I'd like to share it with you both to decrease the size of my file and because it is especially appropriate at this time of the year. It is entitled:

"A Prayer for Another Year"

"Lord, another year is dawning. I'm still 39 and holding. However, my grip does seem a little weaker this year than it did the last five. My mirror tells me it's going to take a lot of work to hang on another year.

"Lord, I'm not really too concerned about getting older. Although the outer beauty may fade as a flower, I know because of Your love, the inner me can become more and more beautiful with each year if I do my part as You direct.

Lord, help me to attain the beauty of patience, the beauty of proper priorities, the beauty of serving, the beauty of giving and forgiving, the beauty of prayer, the beauty of wisdom through worship and Your Word, the beauty of living – there is so much to be had by an abiding faith in You.

Lord, this new year may love and holiness so shine through me that all the wrinkles go unnoticed. Amen."

As the popular hymn states, "Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be, in working or in waiting, another year with Thee; another year of progress..." A new year can mean a new you. With Jesus Christ in our lives it's not that we're getting older, we're getting better.

Please join us in 2012 for worship and other activities as we seek to grow more and more into the image of our Savior and Lord. Have a blessed new year!

With You in His Service,
Jim

WINTER COMMUNION



Please be with us on Sunday, January 8th at 11:00 a.m. as we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Having just celebrated our Savior's birth, this service reminds us exactly why Jesus came to us that first Christmas Day.

The cradle of Bethlehem led to a cross on Calvary and salvation for all who believe. Let us express our gratitude to Jesus for His sacrifice for us by our presence at His table.

DEDECORATING THE CHURCH

It's not as much fun, but it has to be done – what goes up must come down, so on Sunday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m. we will gather in the sanctuary to take down the Christmas decorations. Please do come out and give us a hand. Refreshments will be provided afterward in the Social Hall.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

February newsletter items are due in the church office by Monday, January 9th.

WOMEN OF CENTRE

This month's circle meeting is scheduled for January 10th at 7:00 p.m. Our 2012 Bible Study is Seeing Him More Clearly: Jesus. The six sessions will help you see our Savior more clearly. When He walked on this earth, Jesus revealed Himself as a man, a great teacher, a physician, a servant, a good shepherd and a king. When combined these portraits give us a full picture of who Jesus Christ is, and why He left heaven to live and die on earth. The January study leader is Susan Biller guiding us on the topic of "Jesus the Man." The hostess is Nathalie Clugston. All women are welcome.

Coordinating Team Meeting will be on January 10th at 6:00 p.m., prior to the circle meeting. All officers and coordinators should attend.

Updating you on Women of Centre 2011 projects: eight tied fleece blankets were delivered to Mason/Dixon Community Services to be given to those in need this winter and 250 bus tickets were given to York Rescue Mission Women's unit to allow those residing there to get to jobs and make other necessary trips. Both facilities expressed extreme appreciation and thank you for your generosity.

PARTNERS IN CHRIST

The Partners In Christ Bible Study group is ready to begin following our holiday break. We will be resuming on Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m. Our meeting place is the Sunday School room/Library next to the Pastor's Study in the Education Building. Everyone is welcome. There is no need for preparation. Just come with an open mind and an open heart.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 6th we will be participating in the National Souper Bowl of Caring collection. This is a grassroots movement begun to raise funds, around the time of the Super Bowl, to be given to local soup kitchens or food banks. Our collection will be on both January 29th and February 5th.

Our funds will be going to the Mason-Dixon Food Locker. **Only monetary donations will be collected on these dates.** Baskets will be on the tables in the back to receive your donations.



CHURCH CANCELLATION

In the event of inclement weather we use to instruct you to listen to radio station WSBA. However, their new policy is to announce a cancellation only once, instead of repeating it every half hour. Therefore, we are placing greater emphasis on the Emergency Phone Chain to get the word out. Please make certain you make your calls.



If you ever have any doubt if an event will be held, please call the church (993-2345) before venturing out.

We have registered our church with WGAL-TV Channel 8. That way our church cancellation will be listed on the screen during their broadcast and you could also access church closings on their website.

Because of the volume of organizations involved the News Director at WGAL-TV will use his discretion as to what churches and organizations

appear on the screen. We should always be listed on WGAL.com.

The most timely and dependable manner to find out if a service or event has been canceled is just to call the church at 993-2345.

CHRISTMAS THANKS

My special thanks to all who helped in any way to make this Christmas a joyful and blessed one for our Church family.



Thanks to all the families and individuals who have taken part in our worship service by lighting the Advent candles.

We want to thank Robert Lloyd for donating the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and Dennis and Nathalie Clugston for the one in the Social Hall of the Education Building. Our thanks to those who put up the Christmas trees and to all those who helped decorate them.



Thanks to Lois McElwain and her crew who arranged the poinsettias so beautifully in the sanctuary. Thank you to all who helped decorate the inside and the outside of both buildings.

Thanks to all those who came out and with their voices proclaimed the birth of our Savior through their caroling.

Thanks to all the young people who brightened the sanctuary by serving as acolytes.

Thanks to Hugh, Janine, Annie and Ian who once again graciously opened their home and their hearts so that we could get together as a Centre Church family during this joyous season.

Forgive me if I have missed anyone! Thanks again for your dedication to Christ and His Church.

Pastor Biller

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children love to sing! During Sunday School children practice songs to be sung in church once each month. Please mark your calendar for the 2012 Children's Choir dates: January 22, February 26, March 18, April 22, May 13 (This is Children's/ Youth Sunday. Children will take part in the church service. Additional details will be provided in early April.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY NEWS

Let's welcome Linda Neal as our newest teacher team member! Linda will be leading the nursery Sunday School classes each Sunday along with our teacher alternates. Thank you Linda for filling this much-needed position!!

2012 Sunday School Nursery Teacher Alternates Schedule

January – Barb Schneider

February – Brianna Bennett

March – Diane Stockley

April – Barb Schneider

May – Janine McPherson

Cleaning Party!

During the Sunday School year, the toys in the nursery and preschool room get dirty. Let's get together for a fun few hours of fellowship and cleaning! If you would like to volunteer to help clean the toys, books, etc. please contact Joy Chester at 717-382-4749. Volunteers, we will work together to set a date that works for all.

New Moderator for the Presbytery of Donegal

On Tuesday, January 24, 2012 the Rev. Michael R. Wilson will be installed as the new moderator of the Presbytery of Donegal. The installation will be during the regular stated meeting at Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church, Quarryville, PA.

The meeting begins at 9:15 a.m.; worship to begin at 9:30 a.m. The installation will be part of the worship service. Kathleen Wilson, mother of the new moderator, is Centre's elder commissioner. The entire Centre family is invited.

Rev. Wilson, son of Roger & Kathleen Wilson, has been the pastor at Chestnut level for 10 years. Prior his pastorate at Chestnut Level he was associate pastor at Clairmont Presbyterian Church, Decatur, Georgia. His wife Tricia is now the Christian Education Director at Chestnut Level. Their daughter Julia is in seventh grade, son Clinton is in fifth grade, and daughter Emma is in first grade. Rev. Wilson graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey in 1996 and from Fuller Theological Seminary,

Pasadena, California in 2008 with a doctorate of ministry degree.

CHURCH FLOWER URNS

Out by the lamp posts at the front of the church are two flower urns. These urns have been a part of the landscape of the front of the church for many decades. They have been repaired on several occasions and they are in need of repair once again. The Trustees, along with the concurrence of the Session, have decided it would be counterproductive to seek to have them repaired again.

Both boards felt that they may have sentimental attachment to some of our members. Therefore, if you would be interested in one or both of the urns please contact the President of the Trustees, Donald Marsteller at 993-3064.

Thank You

The blankets are beautiful and will keep people warm this winter! Many thanks!

Susan Bowen,
Delta Center Director
Mason Dixon Community Services, Inc.

Breakfast Fundraiser

The Children's Sunday School hosted a breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, November 20th. This event was held to help raise money for the Sunday School account from which curriculum and classroom supplies are purchased. Forty generous guests helped us raise \$260.00! To EVERYONE who made this a successful fundraiser, THANK YOU!!

Mom/Dad Day Out

On Saturday, December 3rd from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. a special Mom/Dad Day Out event was held. Seventeen children joined us and enjoyed activities such as:

- Creating Christmas ornaments and wreaths
- Decorating cookies which were delivered to shut-ins while caroling
- Playing ball (inside & outside)
- Creating canvas works of art
- Decorating the tree in the Education Bldg.
- Pizza/fruit lunch
- Practicing for the Children's Christmas Program

Thanks to the parents for entrusting us with your children! We had a blast!!

Joy and Jody would like to give a special thanks to Linda Neal, Bill Chester and Caitlynn Hickey for your dedication throughout the day and we would like to thank Jen Scarborough, Jackie Smithson, Deanna Trout and Hugh McPherson for helping to clean afterwards!

JANUARY



Happy Birthday to ...

- 1 – Charlie Shotton
- 2 – Betsy Renfrow
- 5 – Kim Huber
- 12 – Carson McElwain
- 13 – Garrett McElwain
- 16 – Don Wilson
- 16 – Robbie Edie
- 21 – Norman McElwain
- 21 – Jennifer Renfrow
- 23 – Mescal Wiley
- 23 – Joe Brown
- 23 – Kristina Wilt
- 27 – Jake Bennett
- 28 – Chad Marsteller
- 30 – Rosanna Gemmill
- 30 – Beth Hash

Ushers

Thomas Gemmill Bill Chester
William Harrison Paul McPherson
Mike Lannon

Nursery

- 1 Deb Lannon and JoAnn Clement
- 8 Lisa & Rhoda Marsteller
- 15 Joyce & Bob Edie
- 22 Jackie Smithson & Deanna Trout
- 29 Barb & Meredith Wilson

Another Year Is Dawning

Another year is dawning!
Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee;
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies,
Of Faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness,
In the shining of Thy face;
Another year of leaning
Upon Thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above;
Another year is dawning!
Dear Father, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee.
Amen.



Six Resolutions for the New Year

During the new year I resolve to:

Forget the past and honor God more.
Live for Christ in the world.
Trust God with a strong faith.
Remain faithful to my church.
Witness to the lost.
Cultivate whatever talents God has given me for
His glory and His church.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5th following our Congregational Luncheon. One of the items we will be dealing with is the election of church officers to the class of 2014. The names submitted by the Nominating Committee are:

Elders: J. Nathalie Clugston
Thomas H. Gemmill
Deacons: Margaret A. Graybeal
Timothy C. Schneider
Trustees: John Hope Anderson, Jr.
Shane L. Smithson
Financial Secretary: Barbara A. Wilson

Another item of business for our voting will be our budgets for 2012. The proposed Local Mission Budget and General Mission Budget are attached for your consideration.

At last year's Annual Meeting the Session was asked to develop an investment policy. In that regard the Session will be presenting the following proposal: "Because we are not experts in investing in the stock market, it is our policy to sell securities that we receive as gifts to the church, and then invest them in more secure investment funds. This will provide a more secure, long-term financial status for the church."

Then finally we will be taking action on two usual items of Annual Meeting business, the election of an auditor to the class of 2015 and the election of the Congregation's Representative to the 2012 Nominating Committee. Perhaps you would be willing to serve in one of these positions?

Please give these matters thoughtful and prayerful consideration.