



**Pleasant Hill
Church of the Brethren**

Brethren Visitor

January 2010

Putting Away the Manger Scene

I will soon wrap, one by one, the small ceramic figures from the manger scene under the Christmas tree and put them away for next year. As I put away these figures I will wonder what happened in the lives of these persons they represent. How were the shepherds changed after seeing angels? What were they thinking as they knelt before the baby in Bethlehem? What stories did they tell their grandchildren in the years after this night? And the wise men; how were they different after seeing the baby? Did they understand the stars in the same way as they did before? Did they treat their servants more gently on the trip back home and what kind of men were they after their trip to Bethlehem? Did Joseph have self doubts as he tried to parent this child and how did he see himself as the husband of the one who bore the Messiah? Did he try his best and still wonder if he could do the job? Mary is the one I think most about. How did she feel when she became pregnant with Jesus and how did she manage the talk among the women of her home town? How did she manage this birthing in an animal stall? And this heavenly child; she knew she would teach him to talk and to walk and say his prayers. She must have prayed for wisdom and strength. And we think we have challenges in life! We certainly aren't the only ones on earth who must learn to trust completely in our Heavenly Father.

Pastor Phil

Volunteering at Camp

I have been asked to write something about my experiences at Camp Harmony and my volunteer work out there. Some of the volunteers are James Cameron, Jack Harrison, Lew Mackell, Herb Ewald, John Eash, Howard Harmon, Ed Boyd, Ernie Croyle, and others. Some of these guys I have known for a long time, but by working together with them I have gotten to know them on a personal level and have been really blessed by knowing them. Our regular volunteer day is Tuesday. We do repair work, carpentry, painting, roofing, splitting and stacking fire wood and many such jobs. Also watching Camp Harmony grow and become an influence in the lives of the campers and their families is a real blessing, along with seeing God's hand in it and how the people have really pulled together to make it a success.

Jerry Bassett

Sundays In January

January 3 Epiphany Sunday

Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn Sing at Resurrection
Parish Catholic Church, 7 PM

January 10

Luke 3:15-22

Covenant Bible Study, 6 PM

January 17

John 2:1-11

Covenant Bible Study, 6 PM

January 24

Luke 4:14-21

Covenant Bible Study, 6 PM

January 31

Luke 4:21-32

Covenant Bible Study, 6 PM

OUR SHUT-INS

AT HOME: Pauline Caton

Elsie Matula, Gladys Kovach, Mabel Rose,
Janet Roberts, Bob & Anna Craft, June Berg

AUTUMNS VIEW: Mildred Rager

HARMONY HOUSE: Agnes Mae Harrison

PRESBYTERIAN HOME: Belva Rager

HOSPITALIZED SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER:

Verda Turndrup, Eddie Saintz Jr., Renee Bell, John
MacEwan Sr., Lee Moore, Bob Hay, Michael Lonsinger,
Bonnie Plunkard, J. Craig Beltz

NEXT COMMISSION & BOARD MEETING(S):

Monday, January 11, 2010

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, January 25

NEXT DEACON MEETING: Tuesday, March 2

DEACON(S) FOR THE WEEK

January 03 – Terry and Bonnie Bouch

January 10 – Jim and Shirley Cameron

January 17 – Jeff and Cindy Day

January 24 – Jim and Cindy Gossard

January 31 – Jack and Carol Harrison

8:00 AM NURSERY CARE

January 03 – Doris Bassett

January 10 – Taylor and Garrett Harrison

January 17 – Jack and Carol Harrison

January 24 – Cameron Carr

January 31 – Jocelyn Lonsinger

10:30 AM NURSERY CARE

January 03 – Jim and Angela McKendree

January 10 – Justine Marye and Aleah Dishong

January 17 – Stephanie and Lauren Natta

January 24 – Jim and Angela McKendree

January 31 – John and Heather Pudliner

8:00 AM FRONT DOOR GREETERS

January 03 – Roger and Marcia Metzgar

January 10 – The Bell Family

January 17 – Jeff and Tammy Horner and Kids

January 24 – Chuck and Sue Graham

January 31 – Thair and Jean Bush

10:30 AM FRONT DOOR GREETERS

January 03 – Jim and Shirley Cameron

January 10 – Dolores, Jody, and Hailey Berg

January 17 – Terry and Bonnie Bouch

January 24 – Richard Cameron Family

January 31 – Jay Carney

TWO CENTS A MEAL

The bucket will be in the back on Sunday, January 3, for your use as it is on the first Sunday of every month. The next day to give will be February 7.

STEWARDSHIP STATISTICS

Date	8:00 AM	Sunday School	10:30 AM	Evening	Offering
11-22	90	116	143		\$4,549
11-29	80	112	155		\$4,957
12-6	104	113	119		\$6,505
12-13	63	No count taken (bad weather)	58		\$2,563
12-20	85	116	154	145 (Children's Christmas Program)	\$7,265 (morning) \$156 (evening)
12-24	6:00 Candle-light: 320 8:00 Candle-light: 134				\$1,347
12-27	79	86	164		\$6,422

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

January 03 – Aleah Dishong and Lauren Natta

January 10 – Chad Cameron and Jordan Schroll

January 17 – Hannah Cameron and Paige Hunter

January 24 – Hannah Davis and Ashley Wallace

January 31 – Chase Davis and Austin Pudliner

The Acolytes begin serving their church when they are willing and able. This is a very special way to represent Jesus, The Light of the World! If you are unable to make your scheduled day, please call April Mackell at 536-1589, so the change can be made in the bulletin.

SYMPATHY

Pleasant Hill Church offers its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of BETTY JANE ELLSWORTH, who went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, November 21, 2009.

Pleasant Hill Church offers its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of HELEN "RUTH" COX, who went to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, November 25, 2009. Helen was the mother of Joyce Oaks.

Pleasant Hill Church offers its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of RICHARD GILLIN, who went to be with his Lord and Savior on Wednesday, December 16, 2009. Richard was the father of Marsha Smith.

LIVING/MEMORIAL TRUST FUND

A number of donations have been made to the Living/Memorial Trust Fund in memory of Betty Ellsworth.

Given by Dean and Janet King and Children

Given by Betty Sanders, Brenda Sanders Parrish, and Kathy Sanders Taylor

Given by the quilters of Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren

Given by Margie Cameron and Family

THANK YOU

We thank our church family for their support and prayers during the past years and most recently for Becky and Steve's surgery. We have been blessed with God's healing because of prayerful intervention.

The Gossard and Lambie families.

Praise God for Life! A big thank you and grateful heart to the church and community families who remembered me and Phil with cards, prayers, gifts and meals. Thanks again.

Judy and Pastor Phil

We are humbled by, and grateful for the outpouring of love we have received during this entire kidney transplant experience. Many thanks,

Becky Lambie & Family and Steven Gossard

Dear Members of Pleasant Hill Church,

Thank you for caring enough to send flowers. It was greatly appreciated by my sister Diane, myself, and the family of Ruth Cox.

Love, Joyce Oaks

Thanks to all who participated in this year's Christmas Card Project. A total of \$1,028 was collected, with \$514 donated to Camp Harmony, and \$514 donated to New Day.

We want to say Thank You to the Pleasant Hill folks for your support and encouragement in our recent loss. Thanks for the flowers, prayers, cards, visits and gifts of food. You are very special people.

With our love and appreciation, The Gillin Family

GOD'S BLESSING

Willow Nevaeh Blue Chamberlain was born on Monday, November 30, 2009. The proud parents are Steve and Erikka Chamberlain; grandmother is Trudi Blue.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

The entrance of a new year is a good time to remember God's faithfulness in the past and His reliability for the future. The Spiritual Renewal Team would like to encourage each one to increase our focus on the Word of God this year. We offer the following scripture for your consideration. Perhaps you would like to commit it to memory if you have not already done so.

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." Genesis 8:22 (NIV)

ATTENTION DEACONS

We will be having a luncheon meeting regarding shepherd lists after church on Sunday, January 10.

YOUTH WINTER EVENTS AT CAMP HARMONY

January 15, 16 – Jr. High Blizzard – Grades 6, 7, 8

January 29, 30 – Sr. High Blast – Grades 8 through 12

February 5, 6 – Arctic – Grades 3, 4, 5

See Pastor Russ or Camp Rep Marlene Cameron to register for these events, or visit www.campharmony.org.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

We want to recognize those who graduated in December. Congratulations to Shawna Kosakowski, who graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Master's Degree in Social Work; Elisa Cekada, who earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Special Education from Clarion; and Katie Rhodes, who graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature.

CHILD CARE

At October's Business Meeting, we voted to create a staff position for the nursery and voted to include an additional line item for this in our 2010 budget. We now need to find a qualified person who will fill this role. The Sunday morning times will be from 7:45 until 11:45 and can also include other special service times during the year. A job description is available in the church office. The Executive Committee will interview qualified individuals. Call Ed Jones (536-1293) or the church office (536-3685).

NEW FLOWER CHART

The flower chart for 2010 is posted on the door between the vestibule and the hall leading back to the Sunday School wing. Please write your name by the date you wish to have flowers placed on the altar table. Take one of the envelopes clipped to the chart and turn in to the church office at least one week before your date with your desired message for the bulletin and payment for the flowers (\$20 for one arrangement, and \$30 for two).

DISASTER MINISTRIES

The Western PA District continues to perform much needed work. There are jobs for everyone regardless of experience or skill level. Please contact Herb Ewald, at 814-539-8530 or hjewald@atlanticbb.net to sign up.

Feb. 9 New Windsor (one day)

Mar. 14-20 Chalmette, LA

HOW TO HANDLE DOUBT AND QUESTIONS

Teaching your children that it's okay to express doubts and ask questions is crucial for their faith development. "When the doubts get ignored, it could eventually result in serious skepticism of one's worldview and personal faith," says professor Dean Hardy. Use these tips to help kids wonder and open up:

~ **Don't feel threatened when children want to ask questions.** These queries help kids verbalize their doubts. View tough questions not as a sign of rebellion but as opportunities to teach and learn.

~ **Listen intently, and don't shame kids for asking questions.** Reflect on what children say and affirm their feelings with phrases such as "You seem afraid" or "You look like you have a question."

~ **Make your family a "safe zone."** Foster attitudes that say it's okay to question and doubt. That will encourage children to feel free to think critically and explore honestly.

-The Parent Link

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2
3 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 6:00 PM C.B.Y.F. 7 PM Hymn Sing at Resurrection Parish Catholic Church	4	5 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	6 Volunteers to CoB Home 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Promise Keepers 6-8 PM Youth Small Grp 7 PM Choir Practice	7 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry	8	9
10 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 12:00 Deacon Luncheon 6:00 PM C.B.Y.F. 6PM Covenant Bible Study	11 6:30 PM Commission Meetings 7:00 PM Board Meeting	12 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	13 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Promise Keepers 6-8 PM Youth Small Grp 7 PM Choir Practice	14 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry	15 —— Jr. High Blizzard at Camp ——	16
17 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 6:00 PM C.B.Y.F. 6PM Covenant Bible Study	18	19 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	20 Volunteers to CoB Home 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Promise Keepers 6-8 PM Youth Small Grp 7 PM Choir Practice	21 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry	22	23
24 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 6:00 PM C.B.Y.F. 6PM Covenant Bible Study	25 7:00 PM Congregational Business Meeting	26 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	27 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Promise Keepers 6-8 PM Youth Small Grp 7 PM Choir Practice	28 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry	29 —— Sr. High Blast at Camp Harmony ——	30
31 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 6:00 PM C.B.Y.F. 6PM Covenant Bible Study						

January Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Carol Harrison | 11 Annie Cekada | 23 Marcella Huet |
| 1 Zachary Lambie | 11 Mike Saintz | 24 Karen Miller |
| 2 Galen Carney | 12 Matthew Demchak | 25 Kristin MacEwan |
| 3 Ed Saintz, Jr. | 12 Mike McIntire | 25 Jamie Robertson |
| 3 Erica McCombie | 13 Sara Rhodes | 25 Dolores Saintz |
| 3 Amy Weinzierl | 13 Marcia Lewis | 25 Nathan Saylor |
| 3 Lilly May Mort | 14 Faith Murray | 25 Marilyn Stiffler |
| 5 Thomas Browning | 14 Alicia (Delso) Miske | 26 Cindy Cummings |
| 5 Emerson Carney | 14 Corinne Abrams | 26 Stacy Rhodes |
| 5 Sandy Harrison | 14 Becky Swick | 26 Tracy Rhodes |
| 5 Nicole Pello | 15 Elaine Tarbay | 27 Uriah Peruso |
| 6 Mary Jane Harrison | 15 Tom Leventry | 27 Corrine Kornprobst |
| 6 Kathryn Diamond | 17 Michael Blue | 27 Caleb Foshee |
| 7 Alexander Malek | 17 Kody Scott Miller | 28 Sue Graham |
| 7 Brian Kovach | 18 Sophie Moschgat | 28 Baylee Pudliner |
| 7 Karen Moulton | 19 Carrie Metzgar | 29 Angela Cameron |
| 8 Betty Allison | 20 Kary Roberts | 30 Fred Bouch |
| 8 Braden Heider | 20 Connor Serenko | 30 Ron Covalt |
| 8 Starr Selders | 21 Jamie Mackell | 30 Janet Pudliner |
| 9 Scott Carver | 21 Bob Plunkard | 30 Kim Robertson |
| 9 Cathy Jo Clawson | 21 Alison Rhodes | 31 Marcee Finch |
| 9 Jeff Tarbay | 22 Katelynn Horner | 31 Diane Myers |
| 9 Gail Miller | 23 James Covalt | 31 Melanie Hastie |
| 10 Tannasue Bush | | 31 David Schroeder III |

Happy Anniversary!

- 12 Lee and Rosalie Carney
- 12 Lloyd and April Mackell
 - 21 Ray and Joyce Oaks
 - 27 Larry and Viona Blue
 - 28 Tim and Cathy Sherer