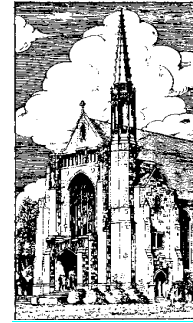


# Leaderfest 2012

Training for church leaders is being offered again by our Presbytery Christian Education Committee at Leaderfest 2012. The date is Saturday, January 14, 2012 at New Wilmington Presbyterian Church and Westminster College at 8:30am - 2 pm. A variety of seminars will be offered for officer training and for useful information on a number of church related topics. Cost is \$15 or an early bird special of \$10 if registered by Monday, January 9, 2012. Included are a Continental breakfast served as you arrive and a delicious lunch served at 1:00pm.

Registration forms are available in the church office. Please let Ella Lee (724-342-3551) know if you plan to attend no later than Friday, January 6, 2012. Car pooling will be arranged.

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship and learning experiences with members from other churches in our Presbytery.



The First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, Pa.

## E m p h a s i s



OVERHEARING

2011

The music of a string ensemble floated throughout the church. The voices of a choir soon joined in. I was at a committee meeting in another room. It was the Shenango Valley Chorale practicing for Handel's "Messiah." The glory of the music and verse flooded the church. We stopped our meeting for a moment to listen. "Comfort ye," we heard. "Comfort ye, my people saith your God."

The meeting continued. There were plans to discuss and decisions to be made, and "approved." We talked about building, budget and stewardship campaign. It was the season for such things....and the necessity. And we heard the voices of the Chorale continue, "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed."

We finished our meeting. Committee members said "good-bye," and went home. I went to my study to finish up a few things. But the music of strings, and voice of song continued, "O thou, that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem."

And as I worked, I listened. My study is close to the sanctuary. I could hear ensemble and choir well. And I thought how good it is to overhear "Messiah" as I worked and finished my day. In fact, after I had finished and was heading out the door, the music continued on, "Glory to God in the highest."

As I drove home I pondered how good it is to overhear Christmas amidst the busyness of our lives. To overhear it in candle and carol. To overhear it in Bible story and vesper service. To overhear it in traditions remembered, and the holy stillness of the 11PM Christmas Eve service. Yes, lives are busy. It is the season and necessity for much. But to overhear Christmas.....well, then, we are reminded of a concert of wonder, beauty and love....."Comfort ye"....."the glory of the Lord"....."good tidings"....."Glory to God." Or maybe we hear it for the first time. "Hallelujah!"

Merry Christmas,

Glenn

## December Preaching and Worship Schedule

- 4th 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent-Love  
Isaiah 40:1-11/Mark 1:1-8  
Advent Wreath  
7:00PM-ADVENT VESPERS IN "THE LIBRARY" COFFEE HOUSE  
Musician-Terry Leonard (guitar)
- 11th 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent-Joy  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11/Luke 1:46-55  
Advent Wreath  
7:00PM-ADVENT VESPERS  
Advent Taize led by the Notre Dame Folk Group
- 18th 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent-Peace (10:30AM worship only)  
Christmas Cantata  
Advent Wreath/Joy Offering  
7:00PM-ADVENT VESPERS IN "THE LIBRARY"  
Musician-Sarah Clark (harp)
- 24th CHRISTMAS EVE  
7:00PM-Friends and Family Service  
Carols, Candles and Nativity Play. Nursery available.  
Bring a can of food to donate to the Community Food Warehouse  
11:00PM-Holy Night Service  
Carols, Candles, Communion.
- 25th CHRISTMAS DAY (10:30AM worship only)  
Carols and Communion  
Isaiah 62:6-12/Luke 2:8-20



### Advent and Christmas Worship Notes:

\*Advent is the church season for preparation, expectation and anticipation for Christmas. Our Advent worship will include the traditions of carols, Advent wreath, special music, and familiar Biblical passages. It is also a season when people who don't regularly go to church will be looking for a church to attend. Invite your friends, and welcome those who are visiting with us.

Continued on next page

## A Tiny Seed, A Tiny Deed

By Max Lucado

Against a towering giant, a brook pebble seems futile. But God used it to topple Goliath. Compared to the tithes of the wealthy, a widow's coins seem puny. But Jesus used them to inspire us...

Moses had a staff.  
David had a sling.  
Samson had a jawbone.  
Rahab had a string.  
Mary had some ointment.  
Aaron had a rod.  
Dorcas had a needle.  
All were used by God.

What do you have? Much more than you might think. God inhabits the tiny seed. He empowers the tiny deed. Never discount the smallness of your deeds.

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*Do not despise...small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin.  
Zechariah 4:10 NLT*

## Just for Fun!

Just before Xmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and Santa Claus all got into the elevator at the Ritz Hotel. As the lift traveled from the 5th floor down to the ground level, one-by-one they noticed a \$100 lying on the lift's floor.

Which one picked up the \$100, and handed it in at reception?

Santa of course, the other two don't actually exist!



		<p><i>A World of JOY @ First!</i>  <i>Small group discipleship opportunities</i>  <i>just for you!</i></p>	
<p><b>Mary/Martha Circle</b>          2nd Monday; 12-2 p.m.          Bring a sack lunch.          Enjoy fellowship while          studying the Be-          atitudes. Desert          included!</p> 	 <p><b>PICK          ONE:</b>  <b>Adult          Sunday          Mornings</b>          9:30 Bill's Bunch Or          Discuss-In          Come feel the spirit!</p>	<p><b>Men's Fellowship Group</b>          Panera Bread: 1st/3rd Wed.          @ 7 a.m.          Hot Coffee &amp; The Good News</p> 	
<p><b>55 &amp; Alive Seniors: Friday, Dec. 16th</b>          Dinner at the Tavern &amp;          John Tesh's Big Band Christmas          Show          Meet at church at 5:00 p.m.</p> 		<p><b>Christmas Party          Dec. 9th, 7 p.m.          Place: TBA</b></p> 	
 <p><b>Mom's          On The          Town</b></p> <p>Next Date: TBA          Hostess: Cassie Nespor</p>	 <p><b>YoYo          Sisterhood</b>          Bible &amp; YoYos          Host: Deb Derrenbacher          Meet at Deb's every          other Thursday 7 p.m.          Dec. 1 &amp; 15</p>	<p><b>Lonely Hearts          Cardmaking Class</b>          Next Class: January          Teacher: Linda Goodridge</p> <p>Learn how to make cards!</p>  <p>Lift people up          with your home-          made love!</p>	
 <p><b>Sundays @ 9:30 a.m. Feb. 5/12/19</b>          Leader: Dr. Hink          Combined Sunday School Class          N.T. Wright's          "Hope of the Second Coming"</p>			

Continued from previous page

- \***Christmas Concert**-Saturday, December 10, 7:30PM-The Shenango Valley Chorale, directed by Ed Groves, will be joined by an orchestra and the Shenango Area Youth Choir for their annual concert at FPC. Come early for a seat.
- \***Christmas Cantata:** Our choir will be presenting a Christmas cantata for worship on Sunday, December 18th. There will only be 10:30AM worship on this Sunday.
- \***Christmas Eve @First:**  
**7:00PM**-Friends and Family Service-This is our busy, active service, especially for children and families. It will include the Christmas story, a nativity play, carols and lighting candles. As the Magi brought gifts to the Christ Child, so we are invited to bring a gift of canned food to this service. All food can be put by the bales of hay in the front of the sanctuary when people arrive for the service. The food will go to the Community Food Warehouse.

**11:00PM**-Holy Night Service-This is our quiet, reflective, holy service with dim lights and quiet music. This service is special in our sanctuary. It will include a Christmas meditation, communion and candles.

- \***Christmas Day**-We will celebrate Christmas with one service at 10:30AM. The service will include Christmas communion, a brief sermon, and lots of music.



**Mary/Martha**



**Circle**

Mary/Martha Circle will meet on December 12th at 12:00 Noon in Fellowship Hall. The Bible Study, "Confessing the Beatitudes," will be led by The Rev. Dr. Glenn Hink. We will be looking at chapter 4 in the study guide.

Everyone is welcome to come to the Circle meeting as we enjoy a brown bag lunch, fellowship, and our study. Dessert and beverages are provided.

## The Peace and the Promise of Christmas

The Advent season is a time filled with stress and exhausting listings of things to do. For others it is a difficult season, as grief and losses seem to be felt all the more. Some people long for a time and place of peace, prayer and hope. We are pleased to be able to respond to these needs with vesper services on Sunday evenings at 7:00PM. These services will be in our coffee house, and be quiet times of music, scripture and prayer. Lights will be dim, and candles be lit as signs of hope. Fellowship time will follow. The musician schedule is:

November 27 - Rev. Pam Maloney (keyboard) and Missa Eaton (flute)

December 4 - Terry Leonard (guitar)

December 11- Notre Dame Folk Group leading a Advent Taize service in the sanctuary. This will be a special service of candles, prayer, music and scripture.

December 18 - Sarah Clark (harp)

These Advent vespers services are for FPC members, friends and our community. Come and bring Friends.



## Christmas Concert

### CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Join the Shenango Valley Chorale and Chamber Orchestra as they celebrate Christmas with their 40<sup>th</sup> winter concert here at FPC on Saturday evening, December 10<sup>th</sup>

at 7:30 PM. The SAY (Shenango Area Youth) Choir will also perform at this concert. Tickets are available at the door or from any Chorale member.



*Somebody's thoughtful and*

*Somebody's true,*

*Somebody's wondering all about  
You;*

*Somebody's hoping the day's  
Bright and fair,*

*Somebody's sending a song on  
The air;*

*Somebody's dreaming – if dreams  
Can come true,*

*There will be days  
full of gladness*

*For you.*

*From the writings of  
James W. Foley*

*To all the people who have helped me  
this past year in Children's Ministries and now Small  
Groups, thank you. You are a blessing to me. Merry Christ-  
mas and Peace to you all.*

*Debbie Derrenbacher*



**Sunday, December 4: noon - 2:00**

*Christmas Pancake Brunch,  
Games & Crafts for  
children and their families!  
Third Floor @ First!*

*The party is free, but please bring your loose change so we can fill a stocking to help give homeless kids a home. Over 1.5 million children in the United States are homeless. HEAR US is a unique, effective national nonprofit organization dedicated to giving voice and visibility to homeless children and youth.*



## Stewardship Campaign Reminder

Our stewardship campaign concluded on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards can be mailed to the church office (First Presbyterian Church, Att. Financial Secretary, 600 East State Street, Sharon, PA 16146), or put in the offering plate during Sunday worship. If you have returned your pledge card; thank you. We are able to continue our faithful ministry and mission because of the generosity and faithfulness of many.

Finally, as the 2011 budget year draws to a close we are also thankful for generous giving. Many members have continued their faithful giving, and others are "catching up" with their giving after being gone for a number of Sundays in the summer and fall. Due to strong giving, and tight budget control by lay leaders and staff, we have a good opportunity to finish "in the black" for 2011. This is great news at a time when our local economy continues to struggle, as we can continue our ministry and mission in a time of great need.



Sarah Clark will be performing with the Youngstown Youth Symphony in Powers Auditorium in Youngstown on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. As a special feature, Sarah will be playing her harp before the concert at 3:15 PM as people gather for the concert.



### Church Attendance for October

2010		2011	
3rd	150	2nd	183
10th	116	9th	142
17th	122	16th	139
24th	166	23rd	170
31st	<u>136</u>	30th	<u>168</u>
690 (26.6%)		802 (32.8%)	



Our annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival will be held on Sunday afternoon, January 8, 2012, at 3:30 PM. We hope you will save this date on your calendar and join us for a wonderful celebration as we end the Christmas season

in grand style. A "meet and greet the cast" reception will be held following the Festival. If you are able to donate 2 dozen cookies for the reception, it would be greatly appreciated. Please bring the cookies to Church that morning, or when you come for the Festival that afternoon.

### Financial Giving News October 2011

#### Operations Budget

1st Sunday	5,562.15
2nd Sunday	3,218.15
3rd Sunday	3,166.15
4th Sunday	4,463.70
5th Sunday	4,216.15
Total for October	20,626.30
Budget for October	16,720.84
Balance for October	3,905.46
Total for Year to Date	159,780.23
Budget for Year to Date	167,208.34
Balance for Year to Date	(7,428.11)

#### Mission Budget

1st Sunday	1,487.10
2nd Sunday	668.60
3rd Sunday	858.60
4th Sunday	258.60
5th Sunday	763.60
Total for October	4,036.50
Budget for October	4,036.50
Balance for October	4,036.50
Total for Year to Date	25,549.90
Budget for Year to Date	25,549.90
Balance for Year to Date	25,549.90

### NOTES FROM SESSION from the November 20, 2011 meeting:



Approved Pairs and Spares Christmas party at a location yet to be named

Approved having the Christmas Eve benevolence offering be used for the Pastor's Crisis Fund and the Salvation Army

Approved having "Cana's Corner" Christian coffee house meet in FPC "The Library" on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings each month, September thru May, beginning in January 2012

# The Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival



## **An Invitation to our Congregation and Community**

Join us in this offering of praise to Jesus Christ at His Epiphany—remind us of the great gift of Love given to us in the person of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Come and participate and be part of history at First Presbyterian Church of Sharon. It will be a magical afternoon complete with beautiful music; a story filled with wonder; and giving glory to God; bring your family and friends and participate!

**The Shenango Valley Chorale Madrigal Singers and The Sanctuary Choir, and members and friends of First Presbyterian Church, have planned a special performance on January 8, 2012 @ 3:30pm.**

The Boar's Head is probably the oldest continuing festival of the Christmas season. The Boar's Head, symbolic representation of evil, is overcome by good through the teachings of Christ (symbolized by light). The Yule Log—lit from last year's embers, symbolizes the rekindling of Love. The old year passes, the new is born: yet the same Love lights each.

**First Presbyterian Church of Sharon presents this Festival as a gift to our community.**

**First Presbyterian Church  
600 East State Street, Sharon, PA**

# Missions



## **VISIT FROM NANCY MCGAUGHEY**

On Monday, November 14th, about 15 people from First Presbyterian Church of Sharon and other churches in our presbytery welcomed Medical Missionary Nancy McGaughey (pronounced McGay) to the Fellowship Hall for dessert and discussion. Nancy is a Healthcare Coordinator for ACROSS (the Association of Christian Resource Organization Serving Sudan) at the clinic in Adol, Republic of South Sudan. Nancy's educational background is nursing, home economics, and vocational training. She trains Sudanese staff in basic healthcare, HIV/AIDS, and household security, which they then utilize in villages with little or no access to medical care.

## *New to the Emphasis!* **FOR SALE AND HELP WANTED CORNER**

With the way today's economy is, wouldn't it be great to find a real bargain or be able to place a Help Wanted or looking for a job Ad in the Emphasis? Each month we will help our church community with various postings. This edition of the Emphasis are two items for sale (these are advertised at a lower price than advertised in local newspapers):

- ◆ Brass plated traditional chandelier with six candles with glass globes - like new and less than 8 years old - \$15 (originally \$90)
- ◆ New! Remnant linoleum flooring used in a recent bathroom remodeling - flagstone design with soft hues of beige, browns, blue-grays and a hint of light peach color. Size: 9 ft. x 4-1/2 sq. ft. - priced to sell!

Please call 724-346-2841 for more details. NOTE: All listings must be turned in by the 20th of each month - call above number also for these listings. Thank You!

Henry David Thoreau once said, “Could a greater miracle take place than to look through each other’s eye for just an instant?” An interesting thought to ponder on. Unfortunately, we find it hard at times to really put ourselves in someone else’s shoes for a moment. At times it is hard to set aside our judgment and just simply ask ourselves the question, “Why” without following the thought with judgment after judgment, assuming we can guess what someone’s problem could be or what we like to say “probably is.” As Christians, the one hat we should be wearing at all times is an empathetic one. It is not enough from us trying to change our jobs or roles due to what we want to understand or how we should understand it. I do not see anywhere in the New Testament or any teachings of Jesus that say, “Be understanding and have empathy but only in one role you have to play in your life.” Let us be honest, many of us play many roles in our daily lives. For instance, my mother plays the role of a mother, home maker, wife, at times nurse for the occasional scraped knee, bump on the head and illness, yoga instructor, teacher, and probably ten others throughout the day. In my life, I play the role as brother, full time college student, youth director, part time employee of Nike, devoted fiancé, friend, hockey player, and a few others thrown in there. If I picked only a couple of those roles to be empathetic and the others not, does it not take away from the roles I am showing empathy? I hate the saying, “Wear different hats in your job” or “I hear what you’re saying and wearing this hat I understand but wearing this other hat...” I remember a lesson I gave to the youth group once. The ultimate question that was asked in the lesson was do we hold any place to judge anyone else? Of course, the answer is “No” we do not. If Christ is able to forgive and show empathy and be accepting of everyone and everything, what makes us so much better that we cannot do the same. When it all comes down to it, we are all equal. No one is higher than anyone else and no one is lower. It is the way God made us. "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Colossians 3:13. It says it all right there....We are not the judge....We are merely the ones watching the trial. All we can do and are supposed to do is hold back our judgment and do what we know we ought to do according to God and Christ’s will.

Andrew Kraus  
Director of Youth Ministries



Advent is going to be a very special time here at FPC. There will be beautiful music at all the worship services – music in praise of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We hope you will be here for worship on Sunday mornings and for Vespers on Sunday evenings. Here is the schedule:

#### **November 27<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 AM – Missa Eaton, flute  
10:30 AM – Daniel Byerly, Tenor; Melissa Byerly, piano; Missa Eaton, flute; Terry Leonard, guitar; The Sanctuary Choir  
7:00 PM – Missa Eaton, flute – in “the Library”

#### **December 4<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 AM – Robyn Ruth, Alto  
10:30 AM – Terry Leonard, guitar; The Sanctuary Choir  
7:00 PM – Terry Leonard, guitar – in “the Library”

#### **December 11<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 AM – Carol Scholl, Soprano  
10:30 AM – Brass Ensemble; The Sanctuary Choir  
7:00 PM – Advent Taize Service – in the Sanctuary

#### **December 18<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM – One service only. “A Celtic Christmas” cantata featuring the Sanctuary Choir, soloists, and a Celtic Consort of instruments; the Carillon Choir; Sarah Clark, harp  
7:00 PM – Sarah Clark, harp – in “the Library”

#### **December 24<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 PM – The Sanctuary Choir; Justin Ray, soloist  
11:30 PM – The Sanctuary Choir

#### **December 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM – One worship service only; a festival of carol singing