



# Carmel Courier

December 2011 and January 2012  
Carmel Presbyterian Church of Glenside, PA 19038-3099

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## A “don’t miss” event

By Melissa Deacon



"Wishing you a holy and joyous Christmas," that was my favorite sentiment on a card I received last year. You see, in my opinion, the Hallmark caption writer got the order right. Holy and joyous.

At Carmel, your Congregational Life Committee is very excited to invite you to a holy and joyous event. A Christmas Brunch to be shared with your Carmel family has been scheduled for Sunday, December 18, at 11:00 AM, immediately following services.

Breakfast foods, lunch foods, sweets, anything you can imagine will be served. Please bring your family, your friends and neighbors, anyone with whom you wish to share this meal.

Over the next few weeks you will find a flyer in the Sunday bulletin that will offer details and provide a tear off portion that you can use to let us know you will be attending.

I hope you will be there to celebrate our most holy and joyous time of year. God bless you.



# A Pastoral Message

## Christmas Is On Its Way

For most of us, Christmas is a time for fellowship with family and friends. There are formal parties and informal gatherings, complete with food, drink, and song. There are wrapped presents, glowing lights and festive hearts. There are last minute preparations and pleasurable anticipations. For many of us it includes running off to church Christmas Eve, even though your favorite pew may be filled with guests, or friends, or visitors. Hustle and bustle are all around us.

Yet, as midnight approaches, if we listen carefully we become aware of an impending stillness. It is the kind of serious quiet that arrives when something deeply profound is almost upon us. If we pay attention we sense something at the root of our being, stirring with longing, reacting with solemn glee at



the approach of the sacred. It is the reaction of John the Baptist who stirred in Elizabeth's womb as a pregnant Mary came near. Our souls stir with joy and fear and awe, preaching to us that this one day we call Christmas is indeed a holy day. They preach to us that because of this one day, there is something hallowed in progress that we instinctively apprehend as making all the difference to us and to our

world. This day is THE day of human history.

Carl Sandburg once wrote, "*A child is God's opinion that the world should continue.*" The prophet Isaiah would agree. Those who first heard the words of the prophet in person had come near to the end of the world as they knew it. War, death, oppression and exile had darkened the skies and clouded the future. But Isaiah made an announcement that started the clouds to lift and daylight to



break. "*Good news,*" he said, "*a child will be born. Even better, a royal child! And most blessed, a child of King David's line!*" It meant not only that THE WORLD would

continue, but THEIR WORLD would continue. And with it, the covenant would continue. God's promise that a Messiah would come from David's royal line lived on. This child was God's opinion that the world should continue, that Israel should continue, that God's relationship with them should continue, that hope should continue. For them, it was the good news to beat all good news. I'd guess they received the news in holy silence.

The good news proclaimed to the shepherds in Luke's gospel was even

See **JIM** page 5

# According to



# Abigail

## Advent Ideas for Families



Advent has always been one of my favorite seasons in the church year. “Advent” comes from the Latin *adventus*, - which means “coming.” It’s a time of hope-filled waiting for Christians. In this season, we remember the way that God’s people waited for the birth of Jesus, their Messiah. We remember, too, that God’s people today are waiting for Christ’s return to the world.

Advent calendars fit in with this idea of expectant waiting. As we open each little door in our calendars, we are one step closer to the coming of our Lord. For many children, however, the Advent calendar is more about the little piece of chocolate inside than the idea that we’re watching and preparing for the birth of Jesus.

Why not use this Advent season to help your children connect with this rich tradition of the church? Here are some ideas to get your family in the spirit of Advent:

1. Purchase a wooden or plastic advent calendar that you can use year after year. This leaves a lot of room for creativity. Instead



of putting just candy inside each little door, take the time to sit with your family and think of 28 people you want to pray for. Write their names on slips of paper, and as you open a door each day, you’ll have the opportunity to pray as a family for your loved ones throughout the Advent season. You can always put in a piece of candy, too!

2. Make an Advent tree. Get a mini Christmas tree for a tabletop in your home. Gather ribbon, strips of colored paper and a hole puncher. Punch a small hole in each piece of paper, and string the ribbon through. Write a scripture reference from Luke chapter two for each slip of paper, one verse per slip (28 slips for 28 days of Advent). For example, the first slip will be Luke 2:1, and the second Luke 2:2, etc... make the last slip say Luke 2:28-32 (that one is for Christmas Eve). Put the slips of paper in a box. Each day of Advent, take out a slip and read the scripture verse together as a family. Then place it on the tree. By Christmas, you’ll have a tree decorated with God’s word!



ADVENT

Remember: Advent begins Sunday, November 27 and ends Saturday, December 24.

# Board Updates

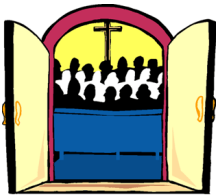
## Session Notes

By Cindy Gerhard



At a Special Meeting on November 6, the Session reviewed plans and voted to move forward with renovation of the Carmel Hall kitchen. We anticipate completion of the project in late January. During construction, our Sunday morning Refreshment Time will be held in the Fellowship Lounge. Please see related article by Janet Simon on Page .

As we near the end of a very full and productive year, the Session wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to the following elders who have served so faithfully in the Class of 2011 and are stepping down from active service at the end of the year: Robert Howard (Personnel), Edwin Lanahan (Finance), Raymond Rose (Personnel), Janet Simon (Christian Education), and Douglas Warburton (Congregational Life).



**Congregational MEETING**

In accordance with our Bylaws we will ordain and install newly-elected church officers on **Sunday, January 8**. The Annual Meetings of the Congregation and Corporation are scheduled to be held on **Sunday, January 29**. Please mark your

2012 calendars and plan to participate in these two important events in the life of our congregation!

## Deacons Notes

By Heidi Lindsay

Collections, collections, collections. That sums up what the Deacons have been and will continue to be busy with over the next few months. The generosity and responsiveness of our congregation keeps us motivated in our service to Christ, Carmel and the community.

The final tally for our recent Cradle of Hope collection was 11 bags of household goods and 5 bulk packages of diapers. Thank you again to everyone who donated.

We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for Presbyterian Children's Village (PCV) through mid-December. More detailed information can be found separately in this Courier as well as the weekly bulletin. I have had the privilege of seeing PCV in action twice and am amazed at the incredible work they do year-round.





We'll be hosting another American Red Cross blood drive very soon. The Red Cross struggles every winter to ensure that the blood banks have an adequate supply. We'll be making phone calls as the time gets closer, please consider carving out an hour of your schedule and making an appointment.

We hope to start 2012 off with a collection of non-perishables for Jackson Place, a complex of low-income housing for seniors in South Philadelphia that is part of PresbyHomes. Stay tuned for more details.



### Food for Seniors

It is that bittersweet time of year when we bid farewell to outgoing Deacons and anxiously await the arrival of new faces and veterans. Lara Clouse, David Lanahan and Lorrie Raquet are taking a brief (I hope) break and will be greatly missed. Without a doubt, your shoes will be hard to fill. Staying on for another tour of duty, I mean term, are Carol Moll and Wes Rose.



**JIM** from page 2

better. To these poor and largely outcast of their occupied land and imprisoned society came the angelic pronouncement, *“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for ALL the people: to you is born THIS day in the city of David a Savior, who IS the Messiah, the Lord.”* God’s promise that a Messiah would come from David’s royal line was no longer a future hope, it was reality. On **THIS** day - another child – another sign of God’s faithfulness, God’s love, and God’s opinion about this world. This day, for centuries so devoutly coveted, had finally come. The shepherds were aware of the honor they had in receiving this announcement and that all people would share in its blessing. It appears they received the news in holy silence.



So let us light our candles and give ear to the silence of our time. Christmas Day draws near, listen carefully for the impending stillness. The sacred is arriving once again. Pay attention to that felt sense of anticipation stirring deep within you. It is your soul’s desire to be one with God.



*Dr. James W. Thornton*



# Thank You



To all of Carmel,

I appreciated the cards, prayers and phone calls during my short stay in the hospital. Everyone at Carmel has been so kind, loving and thoughtful and I am truly thankful to be part of Carmel's family. May God Bless each and every one of you!

It means so much to have a letter, a phone call a pastor, or maybe even another member of the congregation reach out to you to say "Just thought I'd let you know, we're praying for you." God has blessed me and I am honored to have been part of Carmel's outreach program, too.

Thank you Deacons.  
*Dave Rice*

Some people seem to specialize  
In doing thoughtful deeds.  
Before you ask, they understand  
Your problems and your needs.  
They help because they want to,  
They find joy in being kind,  
And making others happy  
Is the first thing on their minds.  
They make this world a better place  
By practicing the art  
Of reaching out to others  
And by giving...from the heart.

AMANDA BRADLEY

To my Carmel Family,

Where do I begin to thank everyone for my party last Sunday?

Thank you, so much for your generous check. Gene and I will have to find something special to do with it!

Time passes so quickly! When I started at Carmel, Kelly was 10 and Beth was 15. Now both of our girls are married and we have 10 grandchildren, two of them in college. I have many wonderful memories of my time working for Carmel. I'll treasure those memories forever.

Thank you for everything!  
*Pat*

To all the Friends of Carmel Nursery School,

Thanks very much to all who helped and supported the nursery school's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. With your help it was truly a memorable afternoon. It was wonderful to have church members and nursery school parents working together for this momentous occasion.

Sincerely,  
*Jan Heckman*

Dear Carmel Family,

These past few months have been very difficult as I struggle with an infected leg and foot, but the Deacons' Meal in a Moment ministry provided Roy and I with delicious meals. After missing several Women's Fellowship meetings, my fellow circle members presented me with a sign-up list of meals to be brought to my kitchen. What a wonderful gift! Roy and I are enjoying not only the meals but visits from friends.

We appreciate the cards and calls from our Carmel Family and hope that we will soon be able to join with everyone in worship.

Sincerely,  
*Betty and Roy McGlade*

Dear Carmel Presbyterian Church Women:

Thank you for your generous donation of beautiful blankets and hats for our babies in the Special Care Nursery at Abington Memorial Hospital. Our tiny patients, their parents, and the staff appreciate your dedication and the countless amount of time that you put into making these precious keepsake mementos.

With Warmest Regards,  
*Dana M. Wittmer R.N.*  
Special Care Nursery

Dear Women's Sewing Group of Carmel Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of pillows, baby hats, and blankets to the patients of Abington Memorial Hospital. Your donations are always so beautiful and our units are always so happy to receive your beautiful items.

We appreciate your continuing interest in meeting the needs of our patients.

Again, thank you on behalf of the patients and staff at Abington Memorial Hospital.

Sincerely,  
*Sheila M. Hudson*  
Volunteer Resources Dept.





# *Carmel Family Activities*



## **Candlelight Carol Service**

**Sunday, December 11**

**7:15 PM** – Special music for the season performed by Katherine Reier, organist.

**7:30 PM** – All four Carmel choirs and soloists will be singing in joyous celebration of Christ's birth. Our handbell choir will ring out glad tidings. The congregation will join in singing beloved Christmas carols.

Invite your friends and neighbors to this beautiful celebration. Nursery care will be provided.



## **Christmas Eve Family Service**

**Friday, December 24,  
6:30 PM**

Music by Children's Choir, Junior Choir and Youth Choir. A Christmas program presented by the Carmel Sunday School with opportunities for all children to participate.

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**



**Friday, December 24**

**9:30 PM** – Special pre-service music: Harpist, Sophie Bruno; Cellist, James Cooper; Flutist, Lois Bliss Herbine.

**10:00 PM** – Traditional Christmas Eve celebration. Congregational singing of beloved hymns with Christmas scriptures. Service includes a celebration of the Lord's Supper and a special lighting of candles by the whole congregation. Music led by the Festival Choir.

## **Christmas Day Service**

**Sunday, December 25,  
10:00 AM**



**Christmas Day Service**

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols with Communion.



*The Angels Bring Good News*

## Pennsylvania Youth Chorale

By Abbie Palmisano



The Pennsylvania **YOUTH CHORALE** Youth Chorale will be presenting their holiday concert in our beautiful sanctuary on Saturday evening, December 17, at 7:30 PM. All are welcome!

## Christmas caroling

Join us for our second annual Christmas Caroling event! All ages are welcome to attend! Wednesday, December 21, 5:30-8:30 PM. We will be caroling in the greater Glenside area to Carmel members and friends!



Dinner, hot chocolate and fun provided! Please contact Rev. Abigail if you would like to be a driver: [revabigail@gmail.com](mailto:revabigail@gmail.com)

## An update on the Capital Steps Campaign

By Lynne Schutt

Three years ago we launched our latest capital improvement campaign – Capital Steps. As a result of your wonderful generosity and support of the various ministries of the church, the congregation pledged a total of just over



\$180,000. As of now, November, 2011, you have contributed a total of \$134,000. We are close to our goal! For those of you who fulfilled your pledges, we thank you for honoring your commitments in a timely fashion.

For those who may be a little behind, we ask that you bring your pledges up to date as soon as you can. Although the three year campaign officially ends in December, we will gladly accept your contributions into next year. However, the sooner we reach our goal of \$180,000, the sooner we will be able to begin working on the exciting and necessary projects we planned.

So far, we have repaired the organ (that seems so long ago), replaced some windows in Carmel Hall, and air conditioned Fellowship Lounge. Still on the drawing board are renovating the game room and bowling alley, replacing the ceiling tiles and carpet in the chapel area, and finding a way to improve the back entrance to Carmel Hall and the gym. We will be tithing 10% of the total contributions to mission, as originally promised. Thanks to the extraordinary work of Abigail, the youth leaders and the entire Christian Ed team, our youth ministry is growing in numbers and enthusiasm. What a wonderful gift it would be to provide them with comfortable and up-to-date spaces to grow and be nurtured in their walks with God. Please complete your pledges as soon as you are able.

Thank you.

## Carmel's kitchen will be renovated

By Janet Simon



Work on Carmel's long-awaited new kitchen is expected to be underway before the end of November and is targeted for completion by February 4, 2012. The plans introduced by Karen Bogle, Carmel Kitchen Renovation Task Force chairperson, and presented by architect John Teets were approved by Session at a special meeting on November 6. The existing kitchen has served Carmel for more than 60 years.

"The Carmel Kitchen Task Force is delighted to announce that Session has approved the renovation of our kitchen as planned," Karen Bogle stated. Our architect, John Teets, has worked tirelessly to bring us to the final plan. George Wetton (GJW Builders) has been chosen as our general contractor and together with John and the equipment provider, Mike Garfinkle of Benjamin Foods, promises to create a clean, up to date and code kitchen."

The renovation plans include a six burner stove with attached grill, a convection oven, ventilating hood, stainless steel moveable tables, great storage, three hand washing stations, air cooling and circulation, greatly



improved lighting, attractive and easy to clean walls and floor surfaces, and much more!

The Kitchen Renovation Task Force has been hard at work since January, 2011. Also serving on the Task Force along with Karen Bogle have been Nancy O'Brien, Florence Dyer, Dan Sweeney, Gene Morris, and Dick Thomas. Additional participants in the early stages included Carmel kitchen veterans Floss and Harry Gutekunst. Session thanked the Task Force for their extensive work and dedication.

The chairperson adds, "The doors will be closed and sealed so no peeking! Grand opening is planned to be no later than February 4, 2012 (a little longer than hoped due to the holidays). It's time to start listening to the whispers of God for the future use of His kitchen!"

Some relocations will occur while the kitchen is closed for the renovations. Coffee/refreshment time on Sunday mornings will be held in the Fellowship Lounge. The Sunday Adult Education class taught by Jim Thornton will move to the Chapel. Meals on Wheels will move to temporary quarters elsewhere and return upon completion. The Congregational Life Committee promises a spectacular December 18 Christmas brunch in Carmel Hall, even without the kitchen.



The bulk of the funding for the Carmel Kitchen renovations presented at a cost of \$142,836 will be coming from the Donald W. Jones Fund, with additional funds from an anonymous gift and Capital Steps funds redirected by donors to the Kitchen Renovation.

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## Mission Trip Update

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There are eight slots left for our mission trip to Joplin, MO this summer (and we need at least one more adult!)

To sign up, please submit a deposit to Rev. Abigail in her office mailbox or via a check mailed to the church. A deposit is \$30, and all checks should be made out to "Carmel Presbyterian Church" with "Joplin - (participant name) in the memo line.



Our next fundraiser is a hoagie sale for Superbowl Sunday! Keep an eye out for order forms and information in our Sunday bulletins! Our next Mission Trip meeting is December 11, after worship, from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM.

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## Central File needs update

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We are coming to the close of another year. As we remember all the projects we have been involved with, it is now time to gather our experiences into the Central File. There they will be ready for the next

time whether for the same person or their successor. Your experiences can be very helpful the next time around.

The Central File is in front of Kristin's desk facing the office door. The drawer is labeled "Special Events."

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## Many items sent to mission

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The sewing group has distributed many sewn, knitted, crocheted and donated items to Children's Village, Cradle of Hope, Project Linus, Abington Memorial Hospital, and Foundation for Peace for Dominican Republic.

Lida Coulter and her friend, Esther Welch, continue to knit preemie hats, mittens, scarves and hat and mitten sets.



Karen, of SAAC's Meals on Wheels, has taken crocheted afghans to Project Linus and her clients to whom she delivers meals.

Several Carmelites have donated knitting yarn, fabric and sewing notions to the sewing group for which we are very thankful.



## Green and white post cards

By Dave Rice, Evangelism Committee

Have you ever had a wonderful new experience or a fresh understanding of something and then wanted to share it with someone you cared about? Of course you have. Maybe it was something you did on vacation or something that happened during the week. Wouldn't you agree that whenever you come upon something interesting or important to us, we find a way to tell someone? We find a way to get the word out. As Christians this is very important when it comes to our faith. We believe that what God did in sending his only son, Jesus Christ, a part of Himself, to us and our world is the most fantastic event to ever take place in our world, but do we tell others this?



During this holiday season, you will find green and white postcards found on the table in the back of the sanctuary listing ALL of Carmel's special services held at our church. We ask that you take a few and hand them out, maybe give one to a neighbor, friend, or family member. Use these cards as a tool to invite people out. Gospel means "Good News". In short, the Gospel shows us that God loves us and cares for us. For ALL that God has done for us, He has called us



to share with others. Jesus calls us to go fishing for people.

Like the disciples in the boat that day, we are called to put the boats of our lives out into the deep waters and put our nets down hoping for a catch. God asks us to "Throw out your net" of care and compassion and see how great the catch will be. The "theological" word for this is Evangelism.

Why is it that we are so reluctant to share the good news of Jesus Christ? How many times do we try and sell something to our neighbor or ask someone



to join something that may be of interest, yet never mention our church. Maybe sometime we have been talking to somebody at a party about baseball or something political or even sensed someone might be struggling in their life, yet we never say a word about Jesus Christ. Too many times we may think that we are not one of "those kind" of Christians. Our prayer is that you not only share your faith with someone this holiday season, but invite them out to our services. God will surely bless you. Carmel is a wonderful place to worship and our prayer is that you will take this opportunity to share the "Good News" and be courageous to stand up and be a witness so that we can Evangelize to others about Him.

We pray you have wonderful holiday season and a happy new year in 2012.

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to: the family of **Jane Gerhard** who entered eternal rest on November 5. Please keep the Gerhard family in your prayers as they deal with their sadness of separation.

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Year to Date October 31, 2011

Anticipated	\$229,875.46
Received	\$223,860.83
Difference	(\$6,014.63)

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Dear Lord,

I thank You for this day I thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me. Forgive me this day for everything I have done, said or thought that was not pleasing to you. I ask now for Your forgiveness. Please keep me safe from all danger and harm. Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and

every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You. Please broaden my mind that I can accept all things. Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. And It's the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits. I know that when I can't pray, You listen to my heart. Continue to use me to do Your will. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak... Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those that are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those that are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those that don't believe, but I thank you that I believe. I believe that God changes people and God changes things. I pray for all my sisters and brothers, for each and every family member in their households. I pray for peace, love and joy in their homes that they are out of debt and all their needs are met. I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than God. Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight. I pray that these words be received into the hearts of every eye that sees it.

God Bless!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Just repeat this phrase and see how God moves!!



# Stewardship *Stewardship is Work*

## Christmas Joy Offering

By Bill Miller

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC(USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes alongside specifically designed to bring *Good News of Great Joy* to the poor in circumstance or spirit. The message of promise and fulfillment in Luke's Gospel, we also hear the clear call to God's people to respond in faith as Christ calls us: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (Luke 12:48).

Undesignated gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



## What is the Christmas Joy Offering?

For more than 70 years, Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas to support the unmet needs of families who have devoted their lives to the mission of the PC(USA). Today this Offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical assistance to Presbyterian church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling. The Offering dates back to the 1930s, when the former Presbyterian Church in the United States began an offering to supplement inadequate retirement income and provide supplemental medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families.

## Gratitude

What is being grateful? According to Webster it means **THANKFUL** **DESCRIBE** an appreciative attitude for what one has received. Given that we are grateful, what does it mean to have a grateful attitude?

A grateful attitude is not being thankful for what we have in the terms of what others may not have. I believe

our lives, lessons we learn and challenges we face. We should even be grateful for our failures; for it is from those that we gain wisdom. It means not taking anything for granted, even the basic necessities and changes our consciousness from what we are lacking to the abundance we already possess. Practicing gratitude acknowledges all of the blessings in our life.



For each new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food, for love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Just as faith without works is not enough.  
Gratitude in silence is just silence.

Be thankful for your blessings and please consider your sharing plans for next year and complete and submit your pledge card.

God Bless you, from us.  
God already has.



*Sing psalms, hymns and  
spiritual songs with gratitude  
in your hearts to God.*

*Colossians 3:16*



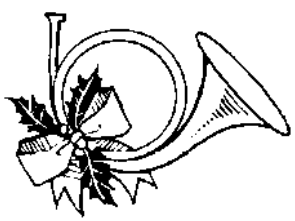
# Christmas Music Memorial



A special music memorial at Christmas time is intended to provide instrumental music to enhance our Christmas services. If you wish to contribute to this special music memorial please fill in the form below and place it in the music memorial box in the office.

If you have any questions, please call Abby Palmisano at 215-887-9138.

The deadline for these memorials is **Monday, December 5.**



Cut here

*Please place in the music memorial mail box in the church office.*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

or IN MEMORIAM BY \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ ENVELOPE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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# *This and That*

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## Excitement at Nursery School

By Jan Heckman

December brings excitement to Carmel Nursery School as we prepare for Christmas. The children are busy making decorations and gifts and have already started practicing for their Holiday Music Program. On Wednesday, December 14, the students will be performing some holiday favorites in the sanctuary for their families and friends. The beauty of the poinsettias and the trees added to the cheery voices of the children is sure to bring the joy of the season to all who attend.



## Pajama Party



As winter sets in, the children will stay nice and warm in cozy pajamas that they may wear to school. In January we will have our annual pajama party. This is a time for the children to relax, watch a movie, eat popcorn, and play some games. The students like to bring their favorite snuggly and blanket from home.

In this article I would like to introduce you to two of our newest teachers. Leslie Rupp is the lead teacher and Kim Keck is the aide in the three-day

four's class. Leslie started in the education field before her children were born and is a certified teacher. Both of her daughters are graduates of Carmel Nursery School. Every time there was an opening for a teacher, I would ask Leslie if she would consider it. She turned me down several times. However, last year the time was right and she started teaching the class that her daughter had just completed.



Kim was a nurse before her children were born. With both her son and daughter in Carmel Nursery School, Kim helped us many times by volunteering and substituting. Kim's son had also just completed the class where both a teacher and an aide were needed. I do not usually start two new teachers in one class, but rather pair a new teacher with someone who has worked here for a while. Though with Kim and Leslie's knowledge of the school and ability to work so well together, it turned out to be a wise decision. This is their second year together at Carmel Nursery School. They make a fantastic team and do an incredible job!

Carmel Nursery School offers programs for children aged two to five. Each program is geared toward that age group while catering to the needs of the individual child. If you are interested in

any of the programs that Carmel has to offer, call the nursery school office at 215-886-7677. Better yet, schedule a tour and see why amazing things happen here!

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## You Shouldn't Have!

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Are you one of those people who hates compliments and deflects thank you's? Then December must be especially hard on you because you're bound to get at least one gift during the holiday season. Be prepared this year! If you can take the focus off of your discomfort and instead tune in to the giver's desire to bring holiday cheer, you may be less stressed.

Here's a simple approach. When you're given a gift, take it and make eye contact with the giver. Smile and say with as much warmth as you can muster, "For me? Thank you. May I open it now?" (Part of the other's joy is seeing your enjoyment of the gift.) Comment on the wrapping (it took some time and thought) and then - no matter what's inside - simply say, "Thank you. How thoughtful" and smile again. Congratulations! You've just completed the cycle of giving by receiving well, which is a gift in itself. Well done!

If you continue to have difficulty receiving gifts or compliments, you might benefit from exploring the source of your low self-esteem. (Call: **215-247-6077** for the **Samaritan Counseling Center** nearest you.)

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## Hot Under the Collar

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What's the best way to let off steam when you're mad? Pound a pillow? Let out a primal scream? Do aggressive laps in a pool? Give someone a piece of your mind? Trick question! The answer is *none of the above*. Recent psychological research has shown that "venting" actually churns up anger rather than siphoning it off.



So when you're in a hot-under-the-collar moment, you need to take the screaming tea kettle off the stove and let it cool down. Here's how: 1) Step away from the situation 2) do some deep breathing 3) let your escalated heart rate and flushed face get back to normal 4) once you're calm, assess the situation in your own mind or with a friend 4) come up with a plan to negotiate more fairness, or decide to *let go and let God* if you can't change the situation.

If your anger continues to overwhelm you and scare others, consult with someone who can teach you effective anger management skills. (Call **215-247-6077** for the **Samaritan Counseling Center** nearest you.)

# Kids Korner



## GOD'S PLAN

*When we ask God for guidance, he will show us his perfect plan for our lives.*

**Directions:** Use the shape code to the right to write out Jeremiah 29:11, NIV.



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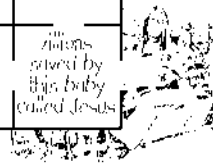
Answers: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

# The Story of Jesus' Birth

Jesus' birth is recorded in three New Testament chapters: Matthew 1 and 2, and Luke 2. Follow some important words about our Savior's birth by starting at a word beginning with the letter **A** and finishing with a word starting with the letter **Z**.



	angels	Bethlehem	car	dance	erase
cut	hour	child	donkey	egg	fast
holy	glory	flocks	Earth	frathers	gap
im	jackal	grapes	peace	quiet	tax
Joseph	king	Lord	only	righteous	shepherds
knit	loop	Mary	night	unique	tidings
last	mate	paper	wise men	virgin	water
open	nest	word	excitement	young	zillions saved by this baby called Jesus



Answer: angels, Bethlehem, child, donkey, Earth, flocks, frathers, gap, holy, im, Joseph, king, Lord, Mary, night, only, peace, quiet, righteous, shepherds, tidings, unique, virgin, wise men, excitement, young, zillions (saved by this baby called Jesus)



# Christmas Memorial Flowers



If you wish to contribute to the Christmas poinsettias this year, please fill in the form below and place it in the flower mail box in the office. A contribution of \$10.00 will adequately meet our needs. The flowers are delivered by our Shepherds to congregation members who are homebound, have been ill, or who have

suffered the loss of a family member in the past year. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please call **Florence Dyer** at 215-576-8067.

The deadline for these memorials is **Monday, December 5.**



----- Cut here -----

If you would like your memorial to read the same as last year, simply write "same as last year" on the appropriate line.

*Please place in the **FLOWER MAIL BOX** in the church office.  
Thank you.*

*DEDICATED TO* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*BY* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*CONTACT PERSON* \_\_\_\_\_

*PHONE NUMBER* \_\_\_\_\_

*AMOUNT ENCLOSED* \_\_\_\_\_ *ENVELOPE NUMBER* \_\_\_\_\_



# Mission Yearbook



By Betty McGlade

The Synod of South Atlantic is comprised of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida and supports 967 congregations with 260,286 members. This synod emphasizes service through study, fellowship and prayer and their leadership has stepped out in faith to fulfill God's vision for their children and youth programs.

## Growing in faith

The Presbyterian Student Center is a campus ministry at the University of Georgia that is supported by Northeast Georgia Presbytery and its congregations. This ministry began in 1940 and since that time untold numbers of students have come to this community and matured in their faith while growing into disciples and leaders.

Students worship together every week, join to form small groups, and seek to serve others in the community in various ways. On Wednesdays, students gather to prepare a meal for a homeless shelter. They



MEALS  
for the HOMELESS

buy the food, cook the meal, then take it to the shelter and serve it to those who are guests of the shelter.

Students have begun a composting project and recruited other campus minis-

tries to compost food waste. They use the compost in their garden to grow vegetables that they use to prepare meals for the shelter. This tight cycle of consumption is seen as an act of worship in itself. They are caring for their neighbors, growing in faith together, and reducing their impact on the environment.

## Learning to use talents

Imagine this is a warm June evening in a southeastern town. Over 80 teenagers are sleeping in tents in a field, eager to be up at 6:00 A.M. to be part of a week-long event for which they've each paid \$95. No, this is not Woodstock II. These young people, along with 60 adult leaders, are participating in the annual Bethany Summer Youth Camp, a ministry event that began 20 years ago at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Clinton.



The youth are encouraged to use their gifts and talents serving on one of 11 teams, each of which has a focus such as community work, art ministry, sports evangelism, and music. Tools for one team may be hammers and paint brushes, while another group may be equipped with soccer balls or hand puppets.



A typical day for this group begins at 6:00 A.M. with breakfast at 7:00 A.M. and devotions. Next, it's time to load up



## Prayer

vehicles and travel to the various work sites for a four-hour ministry project. Though the afternoon schedule includes fun activities like swimming, games and even a block party, such ministry activities as classes, church programs and retirement home presentations continue. Undergirding this ministry is prayer. Each participant is required to have at least six prayer partners who pledge to pray for them daily.

### Another Thanksgiving story

American history includes Thanksgiving stories about Pilgrims and Indians sharing an abundant harvest and giving thanks to God. Palm City Presbyterian Church in tropical Florida celebrates Thanksgiving with a similar tradition. On the morning of Thanksgiving 50 people from this congregation gather in the church parking lot to give thanks and pray. Then they caravan 18 miles to a church to serve those in need.

They are not really Pilgrims and their guests are not Native American Indians, but the destination is named Indiantown and the population is 50 percent Hispanic, with a quarter of the

Thanksgiving  
Meals



population living below the poverty line. But on Thanksgiving Day, there is a plentiful harvest. Overnight, volunteers roasted nearly 100 turkeys and prepared hundreds of pounds of traditional side dishes. As guests waited patiently in long lines outside, volunteers assembled over 1,000 meals to go. The meals were distributed along with donated fresh fruit, corn on the cob, and loaves of bread to guests who arrived in pickup trucks, on foot, or by bicycle.

Two hours later, the feast was finished and cleanup was under way. As volunteers traveled back home, they were thankful for the opportunity to share their faith through words of encouragement, tracts distributed with meals, and through the simple act of serving others.



Carmel's **December** anniversary couple is Court and Mary Lou Frick. They will celebrate 58 years of happily ever after on December 5.

**January** anniversary celebrants are Rod and Arlene Hackman. They started their journey through marriage 51 years ago on January 21.

May they be filled with many blessings.

# *Carmel Memorial Library*

By Nancy Rose, Library Staff

**THE SUNROOM:** The last of the Beverly Lewis trilogy: The Redemption of Sarah Cain, finds the main character, Becky Owens, making a naïve pact with God to keep her sick mother alive. As the daughter of a Lancaster County preacher, she knows the importance of her sacrifice and has sacrificed her most cherished possession. Since Becky is only twelve, she is unable to visit her mother in the hospital and can only share her love through the sunroom window in the hospital. Could the sunroom be where miracles happen? (F Le)

**ONE SUMMER:** It is almost Christmas and there is no celebration going on in the Armstrong family. Dad Jack is dying and the family is saying goodbye. Then tragedy strikes again! Wife Lizzie is killed in a car accident and the three children are separated and sent to live with other family members. Miraculously Jack begins to recover and reunites with his family. By David Baldacci. (F Ba)

**Gift of Ruth Kucera: SON OF STONE:** Stone Barrington, having just had a reunion with his former love, Arrington Calder, is attempting to cash in on his partnership law firm. Who is better than Stone in navigating the shadowy underworld and high society? However

his life is about to take a turn he never imagined! Stuart Woods. (F Wo)

**IN THE GARDEN OF THE BEASTS:**

This book is identified as narrative nonfiction, but it is a beautifully written story of America's first ambassador to Hitler's Germany in a year that becomes a turning point in history. William E. Dodd and his family experience the attack of Jews, the censoring of the press and frightening new laws. What begins as an exciting time eventually unmask the terror that is the true Hitler. By Eric Larson. (943.08 La)

**THE GREAT BRIDGE:** This nonfiction book is the story of the building of an unprecedented bridge that was to span the East River between Manhattan and Brooklyn. .

Fourteen years in the building of this bridge, this is not only the chronicle of a miracle of engineering, but a story of the social climate of the time during the Age of Optimism. By David McCullough. (624.5 Mc)

*For All Ages*

**A Gift of Beth Santangelo: THE NUTCRACKER:** This is the beautifully told tale in song and dance of George

Balanchine's classic. . Pictures are lovely as is the well known story. Photographed and told by Joel Meyerowitz. (792.9 Me)

### *For Younger Readers*

Be sure to check out the many wonderful Christmas books and stories that our Library has. Many will be prominently displayed for you to see and take home.

**THE LONELY SNOWMAN:** Charlie is sent to stay with his grandparents while his mother is in the hospital. His grandparents are kind and his dog is fun, but Charlie wants someone to play with. One day he finds a snowman standing all alone in the woods. Charlie builds a snow family and has the best adventure!  
By Rowan Clifford. (jF Ho)

**THE MENORAH STORY:** God told Moses to throw a piece of gold into the fire and the first menorah was formed. The story of the seven branched menorah and the eight branched menorah that is loved today is told as the holiday of Hanukkah became a Jewish day of rejoicing. This is a beautiful story with wonderful illustrations. By Mark Podwal. (j Po)

**HOW BIG IS GOD?** A touching story of a boy asking his mother all about God: where He is, how big, how small, with friends, with mean kids. Yet He can still fit in our heart which is His favorite

place to be. This is the best book for a young child to learn about God, and the illustrations are fantastic. By Lisa Tawn Bergren. (j F Be)

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### Volunteer

They've asked me to do this and I have  
said yes,  
and now I am wondering why  
Acceptance, while present, was  
nevertheless  
Accompanied by a small sigh.

The hours are too busy, the days are too  
short-  
Oh, surely I've made a mistake-  
And then in my ear is a whispered retort,  
"Are you doing it, then, for my sake?"

"Are you giving your talent and lending  
your time to glorify **you** – or me?"  
Then the task seems to lighten, the  
moments to chime  
As I answer, "I do it for Thee."

Marion Born  
January, 1979

