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ST. ANDREWS HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER 2011

VOL. 11, Issue 11

Applause...Memorable Music
at St. Andrews

presents

Randy and Dawn Marks
“A Musical Ministry”



Friday, December 2, 2011, 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
600 S. 12th Street, Lebanon

Worship in Advent



The theme for Advent 2011 is:

"THE Happening IS Happening"

Advent is a time of joyfully expectant preparation for Christ's coming!

During Advent the **Time with Children**

will focus on the figures in the nativity as the crèche is filled throughout the weeks.



First Sunday in Advent

November 27th

Isaiah 64:109
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

"Something's About to Happen...Honestly!"



Second Sunday in Advent

December 4th **The Lord's Supper**

2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

What Do You Mean Repent?



Third Sunday in Advent

December 11th

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Taking Names



Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18th

Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Trustworthiness for the Treasure

Mourning **has Broken** A Grief Support Group of St. Andrews Church

Time does restore to us our quiet joy in the spiritual presence of those we love, so that we learn to remember without pain, and to speak without choking up with tears. But all our lives we will be subject to sudden small reminders which will bring all the old loss back overwhelmingly.

Elizabeth Watson

Particularly at this time of year when families are celebrating the holidays, the "sudden small reminders" – and the large ones, too – come to plague us. We thought we were doing so well, and then there we are, crying as though our loss was yesterday.

We need to take heart. If our loss is recent, the sadness is understandably overwhelming. If it was a while ago and we thought we were over the worst, then perhaps this time it will not take so long for "the quiet joy" to reassert itself, the spiritual presence to return in its quiet and infinitely precious way.

These thoughts apply so appropriately for the members of the St. Andrews Grief Support Group. For some, the loss is quite recent and perhaps this will be the first holiday season to be celebrated without the missing loved one. How can I possibly get through Christmas and try to be "merry" when I still hurt so much? For others, for whom the loss was a while ago, the sadness is still present, but not as overwhelming and for not as long. Some among us can attest to that, because we have "survived". Those of us who are in this category will try to help the newly-grieving ones find the ways to try to enjoy the holiday season without too much sadness. We can let them know that it is OK to be happy in the midst of the grieving. It is OK to be laughing as family members repeat old family memories, while creating new memories. And yes, it is OK to shed a few tears when you hear a favorite Christmas carol or meaningful scripture or light the candles on Christmas Eve. This shows that the love is still there and your loved one is in your heart.

The members of the St. Andrews Grief Support Group welcome anyone to come join with us, whether members of St. Andrews or not, no matter how recent or how long ago the loss. The experiences vary, as does the need for help, comfort, and love.

Our usual meeting time is the 2nd Thursday of every month at 2:00 PM, in Cassel Chapel. However, our December meeting will be our "traditional" Christmas Luncheon at the Lebanon Country Club, on Thursday, December 8, at 12:00 noon. In January we will meet again in Cassel Chapel on January 12, at 2:00 PM. Please feel free to come join us. You will be welcomed there among us!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Steve Gribble at the church, 272-9933; Jane Juppenlatz at 272-0218; or Pat Yates at 273-9297.

Our life runs in seasons, as does our grief. Some seasons are long, some short. But if we are resolute in our efforts to be present to the moment, even as we know this moment will give way to another, we can be assured at these times of renewed pain that things will get better.

When I am feeling my most grief-stricken, may I hold in some place in my heart the promise that I will feel better.

THE HERALD is published eleven times per year at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 600 S. 12th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042



All these people were Christmas babies!

December birthdays

1	Wilma Miller	16	Paul Brandt
2	Shelby Lister	17	Marc Hamme
4	Don Giger	20	Delaney Grace Reinhart
	Bill Hoover	22	Mary Hoffman
5	Rachel Miller		Ramon Suarez
6	Lisa Hamme	23	Ralph Vradenburgh
	Eloise Brown		John Pellow
7	Jane Juppenlatz	25	Don Lansberry
8	Karen Johnson		Frances Hamlen
10	Merry Capobianco	26	Robert Oxenreider
11	Liz Kalb	29	John Salahub
12	Ed Miller		Penny Samuelson
14	Dave Smith		Mark Lebo
15	Laurie Funk	31	Brayton Gifford
	Robert Scholes		Barbara Herschkowitz
			Scott Stambaugh



Mark your calendar now for
LCCM's next
Hoss's fundraiser
on December 8!



Christmas Eve
SERVICES

5:30 p.m. Family Service
Special music and Children's Program

7:00 p.m. Special Music concert

7:30 p.m. Traditional Service
Candlelight service of Lessons and Carols

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion
Sacrament, Scripture, Song & Silent reflection



10:00 SERVICE

Celebrate with a service of
The Christmas Story
&
Singing of Carols
(NO Sunday School)

Looking Ahead



January 1st
10:00 Service
The Lord's Supper

The Message by
Roz Presby

Rev. Alan Presby
Officiant

(NO Sunday School)

A Word from Kate...



Hello, all! For the past seven years I have served as your emerging worship leader. St. Andrews has been a wonderful place to worship and work, but it is time for me to retire from the music ministry. My responsibilities with my family and my job have been requiring more and more of my time, and St. Andrews deserves a worship leader who can give their all. I would like to thank the Praise Team and the entire congregation for their support during my time here, and I wish you all well. God bless!





Every three years the readings for the Advent season feel...well, not so "Christmas-ie". The excitement and anticipation surrounding the celebration of the birth of Christ is instead more focused on the preparation of Christ's

coming again.

The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." While we, and the general society focus on the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, greater emphasis is placed on the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent in this year's lectionary readings. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history.

It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. What an incredible joy, what overwhelming peace, what a marvelous truth with eternal significance.

We are challenged to look beyond a desire to feel all warm and fuzzy and to the joy and peace made possible because of Christ's incarnation - because restored relationship with God is made possible.

Perhaps going Christmas caroling is a good illustration of getting past our desire to feel all warm and fuzzy to help share joy and peace. We may not feel like "traipsing through the cold" but when we stop to consider what that simple act can mean to the shut-ins who may feel alone and need the re-assurance that their church loves them and cares for them... well isn't a little self-sacrifice worth it? (and besides, what a great opportunity to get to know others better and enjoy the fellowship!) I know this is a simple illustration, but it points to the greater reality of the message for this Advent season.

As we prepare for Christ's second advent, the celebration His first advent may just take on more meaning with and joy and peace that goes far beyond surface feelings.

Steve

DEACON DOINGS

The deacons have been busy ministering to members and friends of St. Andrews, visiting, providing meals, and giving Home Communion. Also, in November we mailed out CARE Packages to 15 college students, with snacks and little gifts provided by the congregation. In December we will be delivering poinsettias to our shut-in members.

As always, please let us know if you hear of any one who has need of our support in the form of cards, visits, meals, rides, or in-home communion,. Merry Christmas from the Deacons!

submitted by Jere Shiner

high quality of clothing donated. Thank you! We are grateful to all who helped sort, pack, load and deliver the clothing. Eight boxes, weighing 310 pounds, were mailed to our Presbyterian Mission in Sunset Gap, Tennessee. They have received the clothing, and were thrilled to get it! We sent 8 large bags of clothing (two each) to LCCM, Jubilee, Good Will and Salvation Army. Thank you, all who helped!

We appreciate your Thank Offering contributions (it's not too late to contribute), and thank all of those who took part in the Thank Offering Service. Particularly inspiring were the messages Chris and Cynthia Smith brought to us. They were "on fire" for their Lord!

We appreciate all the hard work Nan Hoff put into the "Champions of the Faith" program which had to be canceled due to a heavy snow storm. Plans will soon be made to reschedule it. It will be a marvelous program!

Thank to Liz Kalb and her crew for filling 50 Christmas stockings with toiletry items which will be delivered by Church Women United to health institutions in the area.

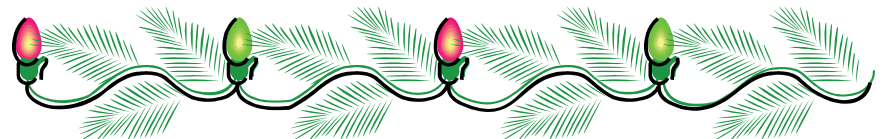
Thanks to our Sewing Circle ladies, who have made and keep making so many useful items for so many!

We are grateful to all our Prayer Chain members (over 60 men and women) who pray for so many sick and hurting people, and who send out encouraging cards. Thank you for lifting up their names to God and our Lord Jesus Christ in prayer.

"O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels the great, glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord, Emanuel.

We from Presbyterian Women **wish you a very Blessed Christmas**, filled with the love of God, family, and friends, and may you have a **very Happy and Healthy New Year**, filled with God's great joy and peace!

The PW Planning Team and Coordinating Team



"How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n,
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in."

Christmas---a beautiful season of love and thankfulness to God for the blessed gift of His Son---a season of worship, awe, and wonder!

Thank you, God, for giving us Jesus! Thank you, Jesus, for dying for our sins! What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

December is filled with a variety of activities for all! Our **Christmas Tea** will be held on **Monday, December 5, at 1:30 in Snyder Hall**. This is always a festive celebration, and we invite **all** women of the church to join us! **Maya Johnson** will be providing beautiful musical selections on her violin. We will be collecting **baby layette items** to honor Baby Jesus' birthday. They will then be taken to LCCM which will give them to new mothers. Delicious refreshments will be served by ladies of the Sewing Circle!

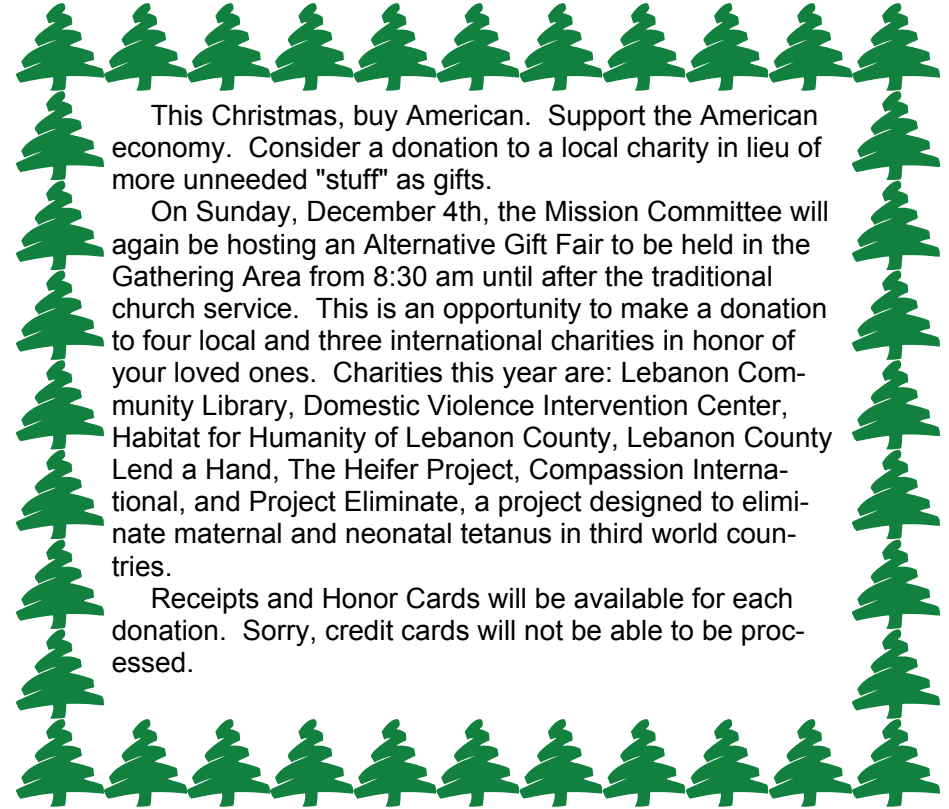
The **Truck Stop Cookie Ministry**, chaired by Nan Hoff, will be collecting Christmas cookies to be delivered to truck drivers at the Harrisburg Pike truck stop in December. You are asked to place **6-10 cookies** in a sealed plastic bag, and bring them to the church by **December 5**. Several PW ladies will drive them over to the truck stop. This project was done once before, and was greatly appreciated by all the truck drivers who received them. The joy of Jesus' birth was shared with many in a most unlikely area!

We invite you all to come to our final two **Bible Studies on Ephesians**. They will be held on **Wednesday December 7, and Wednesday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the chapel**. There will be a **soup luncheon** following the first Bible Study on December 7. Do join us for an in-depth study of this wonderful book!

Remember those busy **Sewing Circle ladies** meet every Tuesday morning from 9-12 noon in the youth room downstairs They have been sewing many useful things--over 800 Christmas stockings to be sent to our troops, 50 Christmas stockings to be filled with toiletries for residents of health institutions in our area, clothing covers for Renova, etc, etc. They would love to have you join their group.

There are many people to thank for all they have done in the past few months. We thank Betty Ann Seiser and Helen Leaman for chairing our successful clothing drive in October. We also thank all members of the congregation who contributed clothing this year. We appreciated the very

Alternative Gift Fair



This Christmas, buy American. Support the American economy. Consider a donation to a local charity in lieu of more unneeded "stuff" as gifts.

On Sunday, December 4th, the Mission Committee will again be hosting an Alternative Gift Fair to be held in the Gathering Area from 8:30 am until after the traditional church service. This is an opportunity to make a donation to four local and three international charities in honor of your loved ones. Charities this year are: Lebanon Community Library, Domestic Violence Intervention Center, Habitat for Humanity of Lebanon County, Lebanon County Lend a Hand, The Heifer Project, Compassion International, and Project Eliminate, a project designed to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus in third world countries.

Receipts and Honor Cards will be available for each donation. Sorry, credit cards will not be able to be processed.

TRUCK STOP COOKIE DISTRIBUTION

Presbyterian Women at St. Andrews are again sponsoring the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry cookie distribution. We learned of this in 2008 when Rev. Don Lehigh spoke at the annual Thank Offering service. We liked this idea of Christian care and concern for truckers and all travelers. The response was overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

Join us in the 2011 cookie ministry.

It's simple to do:

Place 6 - 10 cookies in a plastic zip-lock bag and deliver to the church office by **Monday, Dec. 5**. It's that simple. Put it on your "baking list" of Christmas cookie baking. We'll do the rest - and deliver to Rev. Lehigh.

*2011 Truck Stop
Cookie Distribution*



WHAT IS THE CARLISLE TRUCK STOP CHAPLAIN MINISTRY?

The Carlisle Truck Stop Chaplain Ministry is a ministry to the physical and spiritual needs of the truckers and travelers who use the truck stops and terminals in the busy section of US Route 11 east of Carlisle.

This stretch of highway sees well over a million vehicles each month - that is one vehicle per second - and sees the heaviest tractor-trailer traffic anywhere on the East Coast.

In addition to the thousands of truck drivers who patronize the truck stops each day, thousands and thousands more pass by on their way to one of several dozen terminals and warehouses which are located within ten miles of this area.

The enormous number of people represented by these vehicles translates into a need for the availability of pastoral care, for where crowds this large gather for fun or commerce, extraordinary human needs will be represented.

OUR PURPOSES

- To be “someone who cares” for the trucker/traveler who is lonely and far from home
- To provide a sympathetic listening ear for the trucker/traveler
- To remind the trucker/traveler of God’s saving love
- To provide the trucker/traveler prayer, comfort and assistance during times of personal crisis
- To provide transportation, meals or other needs of the trucker/traveler

WHY A CHAPLAIN IN THE TRUCK STOPS?

When a truck driver leaves home for an extended time to deliver freight, it may be weeks until that driver returns. During that time, the driver is subject to many stresses, some related to the job, some related to family, some related to personal fulfillment. All of these stressors can be magnified tremendously during the long hours a driver spends alone and far from home.

Truck stops often serve as a “home away from home”, and drivers may seek relationships which will fill the void that being separated from their families has created. Providing a chaplain in the truck stop is a very positive way that the need for a caring human to talk with may be addressed.

one in this season’s series. On Friday, March 16, 2012, we will welcome “**Still Simple Gifts**”, an instrumental group from the Mechanicsburg area which includes siblings of St. Andrews member MaryLynne Mulligan. Be sure to mark this date on your new 2012 calendar!

The Concert Committee has worked hard to present a diverse series of concerts for your enjoyment this year. We hope you will come and bring your friends along, too. We look forward to seeing you on Friday, December 2, at 7:30 PM, to hear **Randy and Dawn Marks**.



F I S H C H R I S T M A S

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

FOR A FISH GET-TOGETHER:

ENTERTAINMENT,

REFRESHMENTS, FELLOWSHIP

WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR
MORE DETAILS!

APPLAUSE...MEMORABLE MUSIC AT ST. ANDREWS

The APPLAUSE...MEMORABLE MUSIC AT ST. ANDREWS Concert Series Committee is excited to announce plans for the second concert of the 2011-2012 season. On Friday, December 2, at 7:30 PM, we will welcome **RANDY AND DAWN MARKS** to our sanctuary. They will present Music and Testimonials for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Randy and Dawn are well-known in the Lebanon area, especially to those in the Cornwall-Lebanon School District. Dawn is a graduate of Millersville University with a B.S. in Music Education. She recently retired after spending 35 years teaching Elementary Music in the Cornwall-Lebanon School District. She was well-known for her spectacular and inspiring Christmas and Spring musical productions, involving many, many elementary school-age children and highlighted by colorful costumes and set decorations.

Randy also recently retired after 36 years of teaching music in the ELCO and the Cornwall-Lebanon School Districts. He is a graduate of West Chester University, with a B.S. and M.M. in Music Education. Randy is also remembered for the beautiful and inspiring concerts he conducted with the high-school choirs. There was always a standing-room-only audience for those concerts. He is currently employed part-time at Lebanon Valley College as a student-teaching supervisor.

Randy and Dawn have been ministering together for over 30 years throughout the East Coast in churches, retreats, Bible Conferences, and civic groups. They blend an instrumental and vocal ministry within a repertoire of both traditional and contemporary Christian music.

The Concert Committee hopes that you will attend this concert and prepare your hearts and your minds for a meaningful and blessed Advent and Christmas season.

As is the case with all our concerts, the program will be followed by a Reception in the Gathering Area with a bounty of goodies prepared and served by Perry Latshaw and her "Christmas Baking Elves"! This will be an opportunity for fellowship and a chance to meet the performers.

Just a reminder – we still have one more concert after this

LCCM's Executive Director's Report

FOOD & CLOTHING BANK SERVICES

Food Bank Services		Clothing Bank Services	
Total Families	2,008	Total Families	767
Approx # Food	193,661	Approx. # Items	25,229

Miscellaneous Distribution: 78,849 (Free Zone, TEFAP, Noon Meal, Prison, Quest)

TOTAL LBS FOOD DIST: 268,510 Last Year-to-date: 268,851

FOOD DONATIONS

Food donations from local grocery stores, A.S.K., Pizza Huts, Farmers Market, WalMart, Always Bagels, P.O. food drive, and churches, groups and individuals, equaled approximately 253,409 lbs of food, compared to 259,368 lbs last year to date.

FREE NOON MEAL

Total Meals Served: 38,478 Last Year-to-date : 35,597
Total Days Meals were served: 293

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Total House In-House: 11,820
Total Noon Meal Hours: 12,132
Total Misc. Hours: 9,724
Grand Total Volunteer Hours: 31,086
Approx. Value of Hours: \$240,917

	No. Clients Served	Approx. Total Cost
Utilities	36	\$ 3,622.45
Fuel Oil	136	\$29,043.77
Prescriptions	181	\$13,723.55
Transportation	41	\$ 2,021.25
Gas for vehicle	54	\$ 1,485.00
Misc. (rent, elec)	5	\$ 548.81
	453	\$53,958.72

Christmas Traditions
annual Christmas Luncheon

Christmas Traditions and Carol Singing

Sunday, December 11th
12 noon
Snyder Hall

Reservations Encouraged

Reservation box outside church office --
or call 272-9933
\$4.00 donation for adults



Sunday, December 18th

4:30 to 6-ish

Everyone is invited to the church-wide caroling.

Bring some of your favorite Christmas cookies to share.

Hot chocolate provided.

We will gather for a brief time of fellowship, plan where we will go, and sing to the glory of God.

More Gratitude!

Appreciation, gratitude, and thanks are fine words, but do not adequately express our feelings for all our St. Andrews family members who have been so supportive during the past several months of Merry's incapacitation. Shoulder surgery, broken leg surgery, bladder infection, skin ulcer and depression caused by post traumatic stress have all taken their toll as is reflected by having some good days and some bad. Your prayers, cards, visits, meals, flowers, books and the outpouring of care and concern have all made a difference, and healing is happening every day. Suddenly the curse of depression became a blessing of love as I responded to your encouragement. Especially meaningful were the visits of Pastor Steve and the Deacons. Everyone at St. Andrews is special and we love you all. Romans 8:28 tells us that "all things work together for good" and it is true - even out of a disaster something good can come. You all are the good that has come from these difficult days.

Merry and Bob Capobianco



Celebrating the *Unseen Christ* at PYC

As part of our journey and recent study to see the Unseen Christ, (thanks Pastor Steve), my eyes were opened to Christ's presence in our own St. Andrews PYC and especially to its leader, Laurie. I can't say I have been active of late in PYC but two small examples of Christ's love shone to me through Laurie. The first is a recent request from the group for a dinner. A picture of the high school group, a good group, was emailed by Laurie. It showed the happy faces of our youth, mouths open, with a caption "Looking for someone to provide dinner." The response seemed immediate from a church family to provide a meal at the youth group and Laurie provided a huge "Thank You to _____." "Me too," I said to myself. The second light of Christ was the picture of Laurie and her daughter in their recent trip to Haiti. What love on the faces of all pictured, especially her daughter. My heart was warmed.

There are lots of "Saints" here at St. Andrews but for now just a big "Thank You, Laurie" for all you do and the love of Christ that is so evident in your mission to these young, growing children of God!!! You help to place the Seal of Christ upon their hearts.

Member - St. Andrews Church

Gratitude Expressed

A NOTE OF THANKS FOR ALL YOUR PRAYERS!

My sister is now finally back in her own home, after 6 months and 5 days of hospitalization and rehabilitation. Thanks be to God! And thanks to all of you! We are so grateful for all the prayers and notes of well wishes from our St. Andrews family. It meant a great deal. My sister said that she truly felt the strength and support of all those who kept her in their prayers. What a wonderful, caring congregation we have. My heartfelt thanks to all during the trials of these many months. You are a blessing!

Sincerely, Bob Hearson