



**WILLOW GROVE
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

DEC 2015/JAN 2016

“Blessed!”

*All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means, “God is with us.”~Matthew 1:22-23*

A few weeks ago, after a long Sunday and having put the kids to bed, I was overwhelmed with a sense of contentment. The contentment did not strike me at first, on flopping down onto the couch. No. The TV was on, Steve was already engaged in a program, and I was happy to get on with “vegging out” too. But as I watched the TV for a bit, and then a bit longer, it just hit me. My mind was not there, it was elsewhere. It had drifted... not to any place in particular, not to the usual “to do” list, set of worries, or seeming unfinished business of the day floating around in my head... but just to a place, a feeling, of utter contentment.

When I examined what gave me strong sense of contentment, or why it seemed so powerful, it was simply that it had been a good day, a great day, in fact! Frankly, the last few hours had been a deeply spiritual experience. Maybe one I wasn't quite expecting or “planning”, but a deeply spiritual experience none-the-less. We had arrived home just moments before from the October Friendship Meal. We got to the Meal just as it started at 5pm and stayed late until the last of the cleanup was done... And well, it was just a beautiful evening.

You see, I had just spent the best part of the evening talking and visiting with so many wonderful people. There were conversations with regular guests of our Friendship Meal, conversations with guests from Keneseth Israel Reform Jewish Congregation (who are beginning their own Friendship Meal), and conversations with some WGUMC members with whom I had not yet had a deeply meaningful conversation since my July appointment. Finally, there was the magic of watching and helping the kitchen crew, as they did their final work.

My sense of contentment originated in letting God touch me in the very ordinary experience of breaking and sharing bread. God was powerfully at work in Fellowship Hall that evening... making friends of strangers...and cooking up something beyond my imagining and perception.

In the season of Advent, we look forward to the coming of the Christ child. We are watching and waiting to see God meet us in the very ordinary events of our lives, made extraordinary by our openness to welcome God into the mix. In the simple smiles exchanged across the table, or the one who gets up to clean their neighbor's plate, God is speaking and moving.

Today we live in a world that moves a million miles a minute. We are here, then there, then back again. It is so easy to get caught up in this, and allow it to overtake us. May this season of Advent and Christmas remind us to wait and watch, to take time to be present in each moment. May we listen and perceive God's arrival, even in the simplest of things.



Pastor Lorelei

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

	Ushers	Greeters	Altar Flowers
Dec 6 2nd Sunday of Advent / Hanging of the Greens / Holy Communion	Paul Hyde, Paul Dorozinsky, Stephen Krall, Doris Hardcastle	John and Gloria Ketterlinus	<i>In loving memory of my mother, Gene Koswoski, given by her son, Steve Koswoski. In loving memory of my mother, Caroline Sievers, her brother, George, Uncle Olf C. Berquist, May Ramagnano, Thomas and Ethel Ann Paist, and Grace Jones, given by Charles Sievers.</i>
Dec 13 3rd Sunday of Advent / “Rejoice”	Collin Weller, Keith Weller, Janice Weller, Brad Cooper	Emily and Ken Graupner	<i>No flower orders this week</i>
Dec 20 4th Sunday of Advent / “My soul magnifies the Lord”	Howard Short, Jr. Paul Dorozinsky, Shirley Liddle, Carolyn Gwin	Eliane Carr Joan Law	<i>Christmas Poinsettias</i>
Dec 24 Christmas Eve 7pm and 10pm	USHERS NEEDED	GREETERS NEEDED	<i>Christmas Poinsettias</i>
Dec 27 First Sunday after Christmas	Emily Graupner, Ken Graupner, Kim Hunt, Ed Skilton	Kim Hunt	<i>Christmas Poinsettias</i>
Jan 3 Epiphany Sunday / ASP Service / Holy Communion	Charles Sievers, John McCarthy, Shirley Lupton, Ruth Roberts	Doris Hardcastle	<i>In loving memory of Margaret E. Chriske, mother of Gloria, given by Gloria, John, and Garrett Ketterlinus.</i>
Jan 10 First Sunday after Epiphany / Baptism of the Lord	Robert Mathers, Susan Mathers, Eliane Carr, Brad Cooper	Bill and Alice Creswick	<i>In loving memory of Jill Short, given by her husband and family.</i>
Jan 17 Second Sunday after Epiphany	Paul Hyde, Paul Dorozinsky, Stephen Krall, Doris Hardcastle	Shirley Lupton Terry Crawford	<i>No flower orders this week.</i>
Jan 24 Third Sunday after Epiphany	Collin Weller, Keith Weller, Janice Weller, Brad Cooper	Paul Dorozinsky	<i>No flower orders this week.</i>
Jan 31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Howard Short, Jr. Paul Dorozinsky, Shirley Liddle, Carolyn Gwin	Charles Sievers Carolyn Gwin	<i>In loving memory of our loved ones, given by Faye Wetterau, and family.</i>

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AND EVENTS

MUSIC MINISTRY

By Gayle Wieand



I personally love Advent and Christmas. Advent: the beginning of the church year and the preparation for the birth of a Savior; Christmas: a new baby, the Word, made flesh, for us and for our salvation.

New Year's Day: a new calendar year.

Maybe I just love beginnings: a new start, a fresh start, something different, something better, healthier, happier. Maybe I just love the feeling: the live-sparking anticipation of something new.

Here at WGUMC, Advent will feel a little different, a little newer. For the first time in many years, the Pastor and I have programmed Christmas Carols and Christmas music during Advent, rather than waiting until Christmas Eve. I happen to love singing Christmas Carols all through the year (especially hot July!) Likewise, I find it poignant to sing about Jesus' sacrifice as we are anticipating again His Birth.

Advent began on November 29th by remembering Jesus' human lineage and **watching for the signs** of something new and miraculous to come. **On December 6th, we prepare** for Jesus' coming symbolically with our annual Hanging of the Greens. The Sans Day Carol will be sung that day by the choir. It describes the symbols of the greens and how they remind us of Christ's suffering, sacrifice and resurrection – our redemption.

We will sing and ring "Joy to the World" **on December 13th as we rejoice** and proclaim: "Therefore with Joy shall we draw water from the Well of Salvation!"

Will Advent feel new to you this year? Will it be joyful? Will you magnify the Lord?

Admittedly, newer isn't always better. Mary sang the wonderful **Magnificat** on learning of being chosen to bear Jesus. **(December 20th.)** But even new Mother Mary, with a new son heralded by Angels and celebrated by both shepherds and wise men, had to flee to Egypt, away from the wrath of Herod's murderous fear of a newborn King. Change in our lives creates newness which doesn't necessarily make us happy. I think of the losses we all suffer and somehow survive.

Will Christmas feel new to you this year?

Many of us don't want too much newness at Christmas time. We like tradition, we like the way it used to be, or the way it should be, in our opinion. We remember this particular family ritual, or that special carol to sing at church. And the stockings should be hung just so.

MUSIC MINISTRY, Cont'd.

Church should be the same, at the same time, with the same music, with the same ...or should it? New babies are born, new friends are made, new families set off for new lives. Our Willow Grove faces change, many have left us, and many have come to be with us. Here at church we will sing old and new songs on **Christmas Eve and December 27th.**

It's new this year for us at WGUMC, and we, of course, know that change happens every year, every day, every minute. We know that in every second, life is new again, our lives are new. Time is new again. Mercifully, God's love is unchanging as well as ever new! Happy New Year (Advent and January!) from all the ringers, singers, instrumentalists and staff of WGUMC Music Ministry.

In Addition:

Altar Guild Christmas Decorating - Friday, December 4th and Friday, December 18th at 9:00am in the Sanctuary. You are welcome to join us as we make the Church beautiful for Christmas worship.

Christmas Poinsettias - 2015 Orders for Christmas Poinsettias due by Dec. 13th. Cost \$7 each. Plant pick-up after the second service on Christmas Eve, Thurs, Dec. 24th, or after Worship Service Sunday, Dec. 27th. (Please find order form as insert)

Advent Bible Study: - Tuesdays: Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15 - 7:00pm-9:00pm @ the Hydes' House & Wednesdays: Dec. 2, 9, 16 - 11:00am in Church Lounge. Based on the book, "Not A Silent Night: Mary Looks Back at Bethlehem" by Adam Hamilton, this study invites you to experience Advent and Christmas from Mary's point of view. Beginning at the end with Mary at the Crucifixion and Resurrection, then traveling back in time as Mary witnesses Jesus' life and ministry, the study ends at the very beginning with her beautiful baby boy, Jesus, the Christ child, born in a stable.

Christmas Cards 2015: For church members who do not choose to send individual Christmas cards to the church family, a poster board will be available in the Church Narthex for members to attach individual cards to express their Christmas wishes to everyone. If you wish, the money saved on cards and postage could be contributed to the General Fund by using an envelope provided on the poster board.

PAST EVENTS

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



Thanks to John and Gloria Ketterlinus for their beautiful display of breads from around the world for our World Communion Sunday celebration held October 4th, 2015. A total of \$232 was collected as part of this Sunday to support qualified students from around the globe to become the world changers God created them to be through the World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CREATIVE HEARTS with SOUL - A women's winter retreat, January 22-24, 2016 at Camp Innabah. Come join us for a weekend of personal and spiritual renewal with a different perspective for bible study, prayer, and worship. Celebrate your faith through artistic, musical, and written creative projects. NO previous experience or background knowledge of art, music, and writing is required. All adult women are welcome, no church or denominational affiliation or membership is necessary. Cost: \$130.00 includes 2 nights in Bethany Lodge and 5 family-style meals served in the camp dining hall.

OTHER WINTER RETREATS AT INNABAH:

Children's Retreat for children in grades 3-6 is scheduled January 22-24, 2016. This retreat coincides with the Women's Winter Retreat.

Youth Retreat for grades 7-12 is scheduled January 29-31, 2016. Both the Children's Retreat and the Youth Retreat include games, Bible lessons, fellowship, food, and fun. Questions can be directed to Erin Slye, registrar@innabah.org or Michael Hyde, director@innabah.org.

Challenge Camper Retreat is scheduled for February 5-7, 2016. This event is for individuals age 12 & up with intellectual disabilities. Activities include games, fellowship, fun, songs, Bible lessons, and food. Volunteer counselors are always welcome. Questions can be directed to Jenny Hyde 215-659-9067 or jehyde007@gmail.com.

Believe it or not, camp brochures will be arriving soon!! Christian camping is a powerful way for children, youth, and adults to experience God's world while learning God's word. Camp scholarships are available

UPCOMING EVENTS, Cont'd.

from the camp sites, plus, for every Sunday a child/youth attends Sunday School, they will receive \$2.00 towards a camper fee. Volunteers are always welcome, too. You could be a counselor, you could do maintenance around camp (gardening, painting, path trimming, cleaning), or you could check with the director or manager of maintenance for ideas.



SINGING AND RINGING - Children & Youth, beginning at 2½ years old, are invited to join us in Room 205 almost every Sunday from 10:00-10:15am. We learn songs by singing and by ringing hand bells. We will occasionally share our songs with the congregation during worship services. This is a great way to learn popular Sunday School and camp songs.

COMMUNITY MUSIC NEWS FOR JANUARY

On Twelfth Night, Gayle Wieand will conduct the Philadelphia Women's Music Project in a **Christmas Concert** marking the end of the 12 days of Christmas. The concert, **Twelfth Night**, will be presented on **January 5th**, a Tuesday night, at 7:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration, 6900 Stenton Avenue, in Mt. Airy, PA. This old, small, medieval looking church is perfect for singing, frolicking, wassailing and eating festive cakes. The church is only about 20 minutes from Willow Grove. Free will donation.

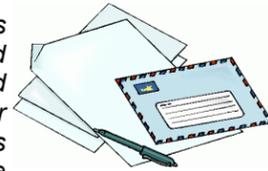
PHILOMUSICA CHORALE presents its annual January series of concerts on **January 30th and 31st** at Christ's Lutheran Church, 700 Pennsylvania Ave in Oreland, PA. Many members of our chancel choir sing with Philomusica, which is conducted by Music Director, Gayle Wieand.

Alexander's Feast by G.F. Handel of Messiah fame features chorus, soloists and orchestra singing the text by John Dryden written in honor of the patron saint of music, St. Cecelia, who, according to legend, also gave us the Organ. The Ode chronicles a feast in honor of the Greek King, Alexander, at which music plays an important role. The subtitle of the work is THE POWER OF MUSIC. See any choir member for tickets. Saturday night, January 30th at 7:30pm. Sunday afternoon, January 31st at 4pm.

MINISTRY NEWS AND NOTES

LETTERS TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear Church Family,
Ted and I – as well as Becky, Bob, Ethan, and Jonah Campman – would like to thank all of you for your cards and expressions of condolence on the passing of my mother, Doris Helveston. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Doris Hardcastle, Charles Sievers, and Ruth Akers for their assistance during the memorial service and to Blanche Erwin, Jean Pugh, Mary Lou Skilton, Kim Hunt, and Shirley Liddle for organizing, serving, and cleaning up the light luncheon held afterwards. Most particularly, thank you to Pastor Lorelei and Kathy Harrod for the beautiful service memorializing my mother.



In times such as these, our church friends are a great comfort.

Gratefully,
Judy and Ted Abel

Thanks from Devereux Church -

Our thanks to you with warm and grateful hearts, and deep appreciation for your thoughtfulness. The children appreciated the school supplies. May God bless you for your kindness.

Devereux UMC Church and Pastor Johnson

Congregation Announcements

Births

- * Brady William Jeffries, 10/14/15

Baptism

- * Hadley Elizabeth Marston, 10/11/15
- * Finn Brady Robinson, 10/11/15

Death

- * R. Merle Bennett, 9/25/15
- * Doris Helveston, 10/16/15
- * Don Petrunis, 11/14/15



(Baptism of Hadley Marston and Finn Robinson)

Announcing our INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE for the 2016 Season

The 31st season of the Indoor Soccer League, sponsored by the Willow Grove United Methodist Church, is now registering for the 2016 season to begin in January. The league will offer two divisions:

NOVICE DIVISION: Boys and girls who are in 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade.

JUNIOR DIVISION: Boys and girls who are in 4th, 5th or 6th grade.

Games will be played once a week on Friday evenings at **Calvary Presbyterian Church** Gymnasium. A Nerf soccer ball is used. Games will begin in January and the season will end with a tournament in early April. Trophies and tee-shirts will be awarded to all players.

The purpose of this league is not only to provide instruction in the fundamentals of soccer, but also to teach principles of good sportsmanship and competition. The program is administered by the church's Laity and youth. The League is open to children of all ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds.

The registration fee is \$40, which includes a team T-shirt, trophy for all players, Awards Ceremony and a participation fee for Gym rental. Email WGUMC office for a registration form.

Registration will be held at Willow Grove United Methodist Church on Friday, December 11, 2015 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm for all ages.

For more information, call the church office at 215-659-3232

COMMITTEE AND MINISTRY NEWS AND NOTES

DOERS GROUP

By Blanche Erwin

The Doers Annual Covered Dish Luncheon and Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 10th at 11:00am. Bring a covered dish for the luncheon and a \$1 gift to exchange. The program will be presented by the Circle of Friends Preschool class, followed by carols, games, gift exchange and lunch. We will meet on Thursday, January 14th weather permitting. Everyone 55 and over is welcome to join us for good fellowship.

FOOD MINISTRY

By Laura Daugherty and Kathy Harrod

With the chill of fall arriving, our November 15th Friendship Meal contained soups of many kinds. On December 20th we will have ham, turkey and many dishes associated with the celebration of Christmas. We start year 5 on January 17th. Should we experience bad weather on any of these dates, cancellation will be announced on KYW Newsradio and on the web site CBSphilly.com.



The **Breakfast in a Bag** program provides hot and cold cereal, juice, hot chocolate, fruit, granola bars, and milk (that does not require refrigeration until it is opened). Between 25 and 30 people avail themselves of this service.

We continue to supply the office with **brown bag lunches**. When people come to the church office in need of assistance, the office staff is able to meet their immediate needs. These bags consist of a non-perishable prepackaged luncheon item, a bottle of water, and a dessert that does not require refrigeration. If you wish to help with this project, please feel free to contact Kim Schwalje for more information.

The **'Friendship Freezer'** holds emergency meals for anyone who needs them. Anyone may add to, or take from this collection of meals at any time. They are housed in the lower basket and in the lower door shelf in the freezer. A sign in/out book is located near the coffee pots. If you add a meal, please list the **ingredients** on the container and the **date** it was placed in the freezer. Then list the meal in the book, along with the date. If you have need of a meal, feel free to take one and cross it off the list in the book.

FOOD MINISTRY , Cont'd.

No names are necessary. As with the brown bag lunches, there is always a need for these frozen meals. So please feel free to cook an extra serving some evening and donate it to the freezer.

Your donations of luscious food, love offerings, prayers and your presence are what keep this ministry running. We are a mission of the entire church body. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

Gradually, we expand our service to our neighbors. If you want to have a positive effect on someone's life, do something rewarding, and also have fun, come and join our amazing, talented, loving, fun crew! Just see Laura Daugherty, Hank Daugherty, Kathy Harrod, or anyone else who is involved. We will put you on our email list and get you started!

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

By Marilu Skilton



Many of our members are enjoying the beverages and snacks at the *Coffee Cart* and, more importantly, socializing with one another. A special treat is when some of our children help their Mother make the snacks and sometimes help at the cart.

Special thanks to our September, October and November volunteers: Carolyn and Niasha Gwin, Kim, Casey, and Teagan Schwalje, Jane and Alf Sharmar, Gloria Ketterlinus, Jean Pugh, "the WoRM" and Deb Pronzato, Marilu and Ed Skilton, Nancy Durchsprung, Sue and Bob Mathers, and Alice and Bill Creswick.

We encourage other members to join us and, if possible, serve as a host/hostess. All of the supplies are available with the exception of a simple snack.



(Casey and Teagan help their Mom at the Coffee Cart)

COMMITTEE AND MINISTRY NEWS AND NOTES

TRUSTEE TIDBITS

By Hank Daugherty

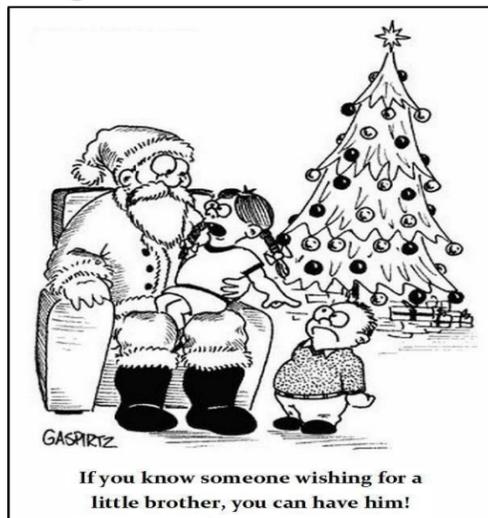
The Holiday season is before us, and as the seasons have passed, the work of caring for our church property continues.

Leases have now been finalized for the New Year. This can be a time consuming, but necessary effort. Some changes in room usage assignments are planned. This will require some physical adjustments needing hands on assistance from congregation members.

Several items have required outside plumber maintenance. One of our boilers developed a leaky valve. The plumbers made two visits to remedy this problem. We also called the plumbers for the dish washer. They referred us to a commercial appliance service firm which was able to correct the problem and help us avoid future occurrences required. You may know that the dish washer has been in service for quite a few years but still has life left in it. A third plumbing service call was necessary for a clogged toilet which was then replaced entirely.

We had a very successful All Church Work Day. Several members came out and much was accomplished. Our building is brighter and more pleasant as a result of the effort put forth. Thanks to all for the support given to the glory of God.

We wish you a
Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year!



If you know someone wishing for a little brother, you can have him!

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION
 MINISTRIES**

By Blanche Erwin

Toys for Children at Devereux United Methodist Church in Philadelphia. We will be collecting toys and gifts for the children of Devereux from Sunday, November 29 - December 13. Please wrap your gifts, or toy, and label it with the sex, and approximate age of the intended recipient. We need your assistance to provide Christmas joy to these children. Families in the area really appreciate these gifts at Christmas.

Giving Tree - Please bring new gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, underwear and socks (for men, women and especially children) on Sundays, December 6th and 13th. The items will be given to needy families in our area and Philadelphia. Help keep someone warm!

Thank you for your contributions to UNICEF. Our children collected \$105 to help make a difference in the lives of the world's children.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

By Blanche Erwin

The **Susanna Circle** Christmas luncheon will be held on Monday, December 14th (2nd Monday) at a local restaurant. We will meet at the church at 11:30am. Please let Blanche Erwin know if you plan to attend.

Save Your Coins For Missions - Deposit pennies and other coins in the bowl in the Narthex. They really do add up! "For if you only add a little and do this often - soon that little will become great."

Save Box Top labels and UPC Symbols (from Campbell Soups, Beans, Franco American and Pepperidge Farm products). These will be given to our local schools. The box tops and UPC symbols can be placed in the UMW box in the narthex.

Please NOTE - The United Methodist Women will **NO LONGER** be collecting the metal flip tops from soda cans, etc. The Upper Moreland Library is collecting the metal tops and can be left at the children's section in the library.

**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
 FOR FEB/MAR IS JAN 10, 2016!**

Willow Grove United Methodist Church

Non-Profit Organization

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