

The Pastor's Voice: "Reflecting on the Colors of the Church"

The normal calendar year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31; not so for the church year. Sometimes understanding the church year can seem confusing, since it begins and ends differently from the calendar year.

Perhaps some information will help us to bet-

ter understand the church year.

Advent, the season of anticipation and preparation that precedes Christmas, starts on the fourth Sunday before December 25. To discover the first Sunday of Advent you must look at December 25 and count back four Sundays. The seasonal color for Advent is purple or blue.

Christmas Day, the festival day of the birth of Jesus, falls on December 25. White, the color of the season, is appropriately used from Christmas Eve through at least the first Sunday of Epiphany. This is a season of joyful celebration.

Epiphany, which means manifestation or disclosure, is observed on January 6 (The "Twelve Days of Christmas"). It celebrates the visit of the Magi. The color of the season is white for this day and for at least the first Sun-

"Many of us see the changes in the sanctuary between the colors of white, green, red and purple, but do we really understand what the changes within the church year signify?"

day of the season of Epiphany. It MAY be used up through the end of the Epiphany season, which is the last Sunday before Lent.

Lent, a penitential season of self-examination, prayer, and fasting, begins on Ash Wednesday and consists of forty days excluding Sundays. The Lenten season points to the spring of the year and to the increasing daylight hours which spring brings. The color of the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday and including Sundays, is purple. Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday, marks the final week of Lent. Maundy Thurs-

day commemorates the institution of Holy Communion and the new commandment that people should love one another even as Christ loves them. It also is an appropriate occasion for the rite of washing the feet.

Good Friday is the Friday right before Easter Sunday. In observance of the crucifixion of Christ, the color is black, or no vestments at all.

Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus and the color for it is white.

Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Easter, closes the Easter season. It is the birthday of the church. The color for Pentecost is red in vivid commemoration of the tongues of fire described in Acts 2.

Ordinary Time runs from after Pentecost until the end of the Church year, and the New Year at Advent. The appropriate color for Ordinary Time is green, and stands for the growth of the Church.

Blessings,
Pastor Hibshman



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January Worship News

Lectionary Scripture Readings

January 6 (Epiphany): Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

January 13 (The Baptism of Christ): Isaiah 43:1-7, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15, 21-22

January 20 (2nd Sunday after Epiphany): Isaiah 62:1-5; I Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 27 (3rd Sunday after Epiphany): Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10; I Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21



SENIOR CHOIR NEWS by Louise Walmer

After a very brief vacation, (1 rehearsal on Dec. 26), the Sr. Choir will begin the New Year back on their regular Wednesday rehearsals. See you on Jan. 2 at 7pm.

The January Anthems are:

01/06	"Holy Manna"	Sr. Choir
01/13	"With a Heart of Praise"	Sr. Choir
01/20	"The Fairest Lord Jesus"	The Quartet
01/27	TBA	Handbells



MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

Our committee met on Dec. 3. Charlene led our devotion time using Mark 2:1-12.

The first order of business for us was to confirm all plans for the upcoming Christmas worship services and the Christmas Program. Our goal is to provide a meaningful worship experience for all who attend these services. And that takes lots of thought and planning. We sincerely thank Pastor Herb for his assistance and his leadership during this time of transition.

Because of the time restraints, it was decided to change the due date of the Voice articles to Dec. 19 rather than the 12th.

Then, even though it was only the beginning of Dec., we had to begin making plans for 2013. We set Jan. 13 as the date for Installation of new Consistory members as well as our annual celebration of our accomplishments for 2012. We will ask the Congregational Life Committee to organize a covered dish luncheon for after church. Our committee will plan the celebration program. In order to prepare a 2012 booklet of all committee reports we will need to have these reports to the church secretary no later than Jan. 3.

Robin Getz reported that Rev. Allan Helwig will conduct the worship services on Jan. 6 and 13. He will need a lay person to assist him.

Our next committee meeting will be on Tues., Jan. 8 at 7pm.

January Celebrations...

Happy Birthday to:

2 Arianne Reigle	11 Cynda Kless	26 Regina Engler
3 Glenn Noll	15 Jason Eberhart	26 Karen Light
5 Barb Trainor	15 Loretta Lutz	27 Pastor Herbert Hibshman, Jr.
6 Dianne Rhoads	16 Arlene Henderson	28 Rosanne Bolles
8 Bobby Lutz	18 Mike Rudy	28 Rodney Boltz
8 Mary Jane Bender	20 Connie Martin	
10 Stephanie Shutter	24 Chase Mease	

Happy Anniversary to:

16 Karen & Jim Davis

29 Dena and Phil Eberhart

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You

January Readers

Jan 6- Rev. Helwig
Jan 13- Rev. Helwig
Jan 20- Herb Hibshman
Jan 27-Wendy Dorsey

January Acolytes

6- Zachary Seltzer
13- Rachael Quairoli
20- Jason Eberhart
27- Nick Benfer

December Attendance

Dec 02 - 75 Dec 09 - 62
Dec 16 - 74 Dec 23 - 89
Dec 24 7 pm 72/ 11 pm 27
Dec 30 - 46

January Bulletins

6- Open
13-Open
20-Opne
27-Walter Bolles

January Flowers

6-Open
13-Eberhart/Lutz
20-
27-Walter Bolles

January Deacon

Walter Bolles

January Coffee Hosts

Terry & Ginny Knapp

2013 Sponsorship is needed...

Flowers: January 20; February 3,10; March 3,10,17 and April 21

Bulletins: January 13, 20; March 3, 10, 17, 24; April 7,14,21

Coffee Host: February 17,24; March 3,10,17,24, 31

The sign-up sheets are in the social hall. The bulletins will remain at \$10 a week.



More than ever I ask for everyone's prayers. There are some pretty life changing events going on here at St. John's and we need your help.

We continue our efforts to retain an interim pastor to provide both our Worship needs but also to help us through the search process of bringing to us a new pastor. It is difficult as the pool of possibilities is few and far between. It has been more challenging than we had hoped. But we continue finding the best fit that we can.

We have hired Leona Guntner through Temp Force to handle our secretarial needs. She has been a joy and I hope everyone has had the opportunity to introduce yourself to her.

We have accepted bids to finish the renovations to our base-

ment as well as spruce up the rest rooms as well. Even though they might not be used as much as the upstairs facilities they are used by those who have classes downstairs as well as our known overflow area for those who don't want to (or can't) wait! We also approved the quote to replace the outside sanctuary door. This was an absolute necessity and we are happy to finally have a safe, secure and especially usable entrance/exit for our attendees with needs for this type of access.

By now a professional cleaning service should be engaged. But we remain extremely thankful for all of those who have volunteered in keeping our church presentable with all of your hard efforts.

As demolition takes place next door this will bring some new partnerships we will need to work through. As of this writing it is understood that the two lots will be converted as additional parking. Word was received that full parking lot lights will be installed that will also benefit our parking lot as well. This will completely eliminate our financial obligation for maintenance and electrical service. More will be reported on this matter.

So you see there is much happening here in our little church but I will also remind you that we are only as good as we can be because of you. Each of you will remain as our vision and I offer blessings to each of you who serve as we continue the work of the church!

Pastoral Coverage

The Consistory is still working with Rev. Dr. Thom Webster from Penn Central Conference to secure an interim pastor. Please keep them in your prayers as we will keep you updated as this situation develops.

Pastor Herb Hibshman and Rev. Andrew Wilson were kind to offer their assistance to us during this time of transition and will help us as they are available. However, if you should have an emergency during the month of January, please contact Rev. Andrew Wilson at (717) 933-5571 or Robin Getz.

Please continue to thank them for all of their hard work and generosity!

Tax Exempt Cards, *By Walter Bolles*

We have an additional tax exempt status with our local Wal-Mart store and Bortek. You may pick up a tax exempt ID card in the church office if you regularly purchase items for UCC from any of these providers. If you would like to add a provider to our list, please contact Walt or notify the church secretary.

****NOTE:** The tax exempt cards that we have for **Wal-Mart** are good **only at the Lebanon store**. Each person will need a card; notify me know ahead of time so I can fill out a card for you prior to making any purchases. Thank you for your cooperation!

Congregational Life News, *By Ginny Knapp*

Since our Fall Frolic at the Zeigler's farm, the Congregational Life committee has been busy trying to organize our return of the Birthday Social. This will be held Saturday, February 23 at 6:00 pm. Please mark your calendars now so it's not forgotten.

Table hostesses will supply the food and decorations for their table. You do not need to sit at your birth month table. Hostesses will be glad to have you at their table. A sign up sheet will be available closer to the date of the social.

A little rain didn't stop eight brave souls from Christmas caroling Sunday, December 9. Our church shut-ins welcomed us and we enjoyed our time with them. Before our caroling we gained our nourishment from a bountiful luncheon at the Dorsey-Trautman residence. The food was fantastic! We needed the singing to work off the calories.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN ED. CORNER by Angela Michael

By the time you read this, the first St. John's Advent project--folding origami cranes--has wrapped up and is being prepared for display at the Matthews Public Library during the month of January. As I write this (on December 17) I estimate that our current bird count is over 300. I encourage you to stop in to see the display at the library. I want to thank everyone who enthusiastically embraced this project and helped fold cranes, string cranes into garlands, and hang cranes in the sanctuary.

I want to thank Robin Getz and Melissa Seltzer for organizing a breakfast for the youth and the hard-working cast members of the Christmas program in December. I also want to thank the Music & Worship Committee, who under the direction of Louise Walmer, took the lead on the Christmas program this year. They chose a lovely and meaningful program that was enjoyed by all ages.

As we look ahead to the new year, we have something special planned for Lent. This committee will be erecting a prayer wall made of felt at which members and visitors can spend some time in prayerful contemplation. We invite you to place a prayer written on a folded piece of paper in the felt pockets of the 'stones' of the wall as those who pilgrimage to the Western Wall in Jerusalem have done for many years. These prayers will be incorporated into the Lenten services each week.

CHRISTIAN CONNECTION WORKSHOP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

Scripture: **Genesis 37:2-11, 16-36; 40:1-47:12; 45:14-15**

Throughout January children will learn about Joseph, his coat and his time in Egypt..

January 6/Art: children will use colored ribbons to explore emotions through color. Teacher: Dena Eberhart.

January 13/Video: Children will view the *Veggie Tale* version, *The Ballad of Little Joe*, of the story. Teacher: Donette Quairola

January 20/Cooking: Children will make dirt pudding. Teacher: Melissa Daub

January 27/Drama: Children will experience the story of Joseph and his father and brothers and their feelings and motivations by participating in an object theater puppet show. Teacher: Melissa Seltzer

CIRCLE TIME SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

January 6: Robin Getz

January 13: Donette Quairola

January 20: Melissa Daub

January 27: Melissa Seltzer

St. John's Fellowship News, By Ginny Knapp

St. John's Fellowship has been having parties!

On November 13 we hosted a Holiday Party for residents of Cedar Haven. We served them cookies and finger jello along with a drink. Each resident received a box of Kleenex. Howard Lee reorganized the Gospel Group for the occasion and they were great. Those in attendance could be heard singing along. No one ever goes away from this party without a good feeling!

On December 4 twenty four members gathered to usher in the holiday festivities with a Christmas dinner at Farmer's Wife Restaurant. Gail Grimes, outgoing president, greeted the group and thanked them for supporting her during her term of office.

After dinner, Regina Engler had several Christmas-themed puzzles for the group. Winners were Ginny Knapp and Louise Walmer. Door prizes were also awarded to Terry Knapp, Barb Miller and Gary

Trautman. Louise Walmer also won the counting prize. Regina was given a gift to note her perfect attendance for the year.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 19 when our new president, Peggy Mohn will preside. Hope to see YOU there!

St. John's UCC "STAR" HONOREE 2012

On December 9, 2012, Denise "Mickey" Laura Voshell got her just reward, her ship had come in. For this St. John's member of some 58 years, she will reap the rewards of a good and faithful servant of her Lord and Savior.

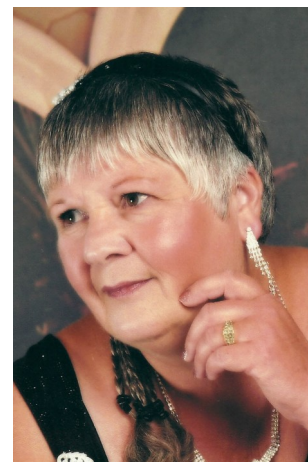
Denise made writing this article super easy on me because she has it all written up waiting for me to pick it up. Did it surprise me, no, because this woman can do it all, and with some much pride it is hard to contain her enthusiasm. Take it away, Mickey!

Married Richard Willis Voshell on August 24th, 1991. We married on our back yard, surrounded by our family, friends and horses. Rick was still on crutches, he was almost killed when he wrecked his truck. He was off of work for six months, We had the date set and that day he stood there waiting for me, without crutches, for the first time since he was hurt.

Our children are...Jason, Bradley, Shawn, Jennifer and Jesse. We have 16 grandchildren. We went to this church since I was a baby. Shared with the Lutherans church building, then here, I was confirmed here.

I started working when I was eleven, delivering circulars for my Uncle Lee's

store. I babysat on Tuesday night for the Little Fellow Gerhart's and I took care of a baby girl in the summer. I helped out at Eva Strohs store, pumping gas and making hamburgers. Then at fifteen, I went to work at the chicken shop, Mambeck's. I worked there till I married, then I got a job in the parts department at R&J Motors in Lebanon. After my children were born, I stayed home for a few years, but then I started work at San Georgio Pasta. It later became Hershey Foods, where I became Lead Operator/Supervisor for the production department. I started my photography business taking pictures for weddings and seniors, called Laura's Country Garden. When they announced they were closing their doors, I transferred to the Tech Center, and worked in the test kitchen. There we tested new products, created new recipes, and put out tow Hershey cook-books each year. Then I got a job for the Hershey Repack Center for Chocolate World, as repack supervisor. After some time there, I and health issues, left Hershey Foods. My last job was at the Fredericksburg Elementary School as a wrap around for a disabled child. Now I own and operate a dog boarding kennel, Country Jacks. I take care of



the grounds on our 45 acre farm, and help with our horses, and those ten we no board.

We traveled to the Bahamas, Alaska, Bermuda, Lubec Maine, and many weekend horse trail rides. Saw some really pretty country. Best way to see it is up close and on horse back.

My hobbies include photography, jewelry design, singing, writing short stories and poems, my garden and caning.

Favorite memories...In 58 years you have so many. Seeing my children's faces for the first time, holding them, smelling them, loving them. Then it starts all over again with the grandbabies, watching them grow, each new stage of their life, each new achievement. We have good, hard working children.

Budget & Stewardship News, By Neal Grimes

The Budget Committee did not meet during the month of November. However, the proposed budget for 2013 was presented at the annual meeting which was held in November and was approved.. The November 2012 figures are listed below:

Weekly Offerings (4 wks-envelopes)	\$ 7,835.00
Weekly Offerings (Loose Plate)	\$ 432.01
Bulletins	\$ 40.00
Fundraisers	\$ 1,013.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 101.34

Nov. 2012 Totals: \$ 9,421.35

Nov. 2012 Expenses: \$12,177.92

TOTAL Nov. Profit/Loss: (\$ 2,756.57)

Our weekly budget offerings are projected to be \$2,250.00. In the month of November, we averaged \$2,061.75. YTD we are averaging \$2,111.64

MISSIONS NEWS

Crop Walk Totals for 2012, By Neal and Jean Ann Grimes

The following statistics for the 2012 Crop Walk:

Churches/Groups Participating: 9 Number of Registered Walkers: 49

Total Amount of Money Raised: \$6,294.34

Last year they raised \$6,342 with 48 Walkers

Our Church raised \$370.00 this year

This report was submitted by Don Eby who is the chairperson for the annual Crop Walk.

Volunteer Opportunities at The Lebanon Valley Home

The Lebanon Valley Home, one of the UCC Homes, is looking for some volunteers. They need volunteers to help with bingo, lead Bible study, to visit with residents and to help push people in wheelchairs to various activities. St. John's has several people who currently volunteer at The Lebanon Valley Home. Pat Rentschler helps with bingo and Regina Engler leads Bible Study. If you would like to help these ladies and other volunteers with this important ministry, you can reach the following people at The Lebanon Valley Home:

Ms. Amy Tillinger (Director of Lifestyle Services) at 867-4467 ext.2024 or atillinger@ucc-homes.org

Rev. Ed Dickel (Chaplain) at 867-4467 ext. 2019 or edickel@ucc-homes.org



From Robin's Nest to Yours

By: Robin L. Getz



Happy 2013!!!! We made it. Another year has ended and we again look forward to what the New Year will bring our way. It certainly has been a year of challenges and changes. I always remember that for everything there is a reason. A time for every season and a purpose for all that happens to each of us. That is what helps us get up each morning and meet the day head on.

I must admit that where 2012 is concerned it truly is hard to believe all of the changes we have seen over the last year. The really obvious ones are the need to fill the pulpit with a good fit for our congregation. The change of a secretary and the change with our cleaning crew here at the church. 2012 was the largest loss of family, members and friends that we have celebrated in a very long time. And yes, that is one thing we do not need to repeat.

I am looking at the changes around us. The difficulty of watching our neighboring homesteads razed. I recognize that turmoil when I too watched my own childhood home demolished for more modern living. Truthfully making the sale is a difficult enough separation, but even when you sign that bottom line I do not believe anyone ever thinks that someday it will be gone. And now the not so noticeable part of this whole thing is how this event compares to us as well. Look at those solid stone foundations which also symbolized the rocks of our foundation in how our life was formed. Those large wooden beams that served as the walls and how they symbolize the same strength we see during our own upbringing with God in our life. Those roofs that offered so much protection during the wind and

rain and how the clarity of our minds where God is concerned offers us the same thing.

How many storms have blown through Fredericksburg over the past 200 years and how much damage has happened to those homes that have stood for so long? Especially if we compare it to all of the news reports that show miles of brand new development that has been absolutely destroyed by severe storms. Look at the floods and winds and rains and hurricanes that we have experienced over the past few years. I still continue to be thankful that so far neither red skies nor the invasion of locusts have been included to date. And then think about everything we have gone through in our own lifetime and then understand that we too have survived the howling winds of change, the crashing thunder of challenge and the flashing lightning of understanding. We have had adversity thrown at us like large hail balls and somehow survived. We may have slipped every now and again as we would on a snow covered road, but we have continued safely on the paths chosen for each one of us.

I must admit that I sadly am one of those who have taken to watching HGTV more than I care to admit. One of the shows that are on regularly is where they have taken three homes and three families for this, I suppose, reality based program. Each home, for whatever reason is being bought and/or sold. The storyline explains a little about each family why they are moving and shows them going through the process of critiquing the home they hope to buy and how it is so not their style. Then they show the move and the changes they make to suit their

personality and then the final twist is they go back to see their old home. The current or prior owners, as the case might be, are watching their reaction in another location. Sometimes the reaction is funny, or cruel or even sad, especially in cases where their child's room is completely converted to another use. But eventually they get it. They understand that it is not the room that has necessarily made their memories but the events of the child that is starting new memories in a new room. In some cases there is sometimes emotion that I will liken to envy as they could not believe they had not thought of a particular idea and loved the transformation.

So I guess just as with this show we too must take ourselves as the subject of change and understand that some things will always be good transformations while others might not be exactly what we want, so we need to be willing to spend the time and be willing to make the investment to make ourselves exactly what we want. If that means picking up our Bible and reading to set the design plan, then that is what we must do. Our conviction to make ourselves more open to God's word and do his work is the fresh paint we will add to the walls. And our commitment to love one another just as He loves us will be the fuel in our furnace.

So don't let us become so complacent we are willing to be happy to be the garage. Let us get up and promise that as with the start of every New Year we will do our best to be better and whatever our goal is. We can accomplish anything with God's love and the trust and faith of each other!

January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4	5
6 830am Circle Time 9am Christian Connection 1030am Worship	7	8 7pm Music & Worship	9	10	11	12
13 830am Circle Time 9am Christian Connection 1030am Worship Annual Celebration Installation Service	14	15	16 VOICE Newsletter DEADLINE TODAY	17	18	19
20 830am Circle Time 9am Christian Connection 1030am Worship Christian Ed Mtg. after service	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 830am Circle Time 9am Christian Connection 1030am Worship	28 600pm Consistory Cover Dish 7:00 pm Consistory meeting	29	30	31		



Calling All Readers

As you know we are always very conscientious of what we do and how much we spend out of our treasury.

This is also true where the monthly VOICE is concerned. We understand that the postage costs are increasing so now we must reconsider how we get this important message to everyone. Since our annual bulk permit renewal is almost due, now seems to be the perfect time to poll our readers concerning the following:

- Do you enjoy you month edition of the VOICE and read it faithfully?
- Is this something you would prefer to receive via email?
- Is this something you can easily pick up at church when attending Sunday service(s)?
- Is this something you read on the church's website?
- Do you prefer having it mailed directly to you?
- Is mailing the only way you have available to receive this publication?

Please take a moment or two to read the questions and provide your answers by either emailing them to the secretary at stjohnsucc@comcast.net OR providing you answers directly to a consistory member.

As always thank you for you assistance. Robin L. Getz, Consistory President

Thank You Note

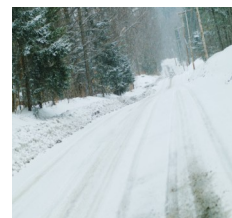
Although I've long been aware of the loving, caring nature of my church family, the outpouring concern and sympathy at the recent death of one of the long-awaited twin great-grandsons was awesome. Thank you for continuing to let God speak through you and allowing His light to do the same.

Regina Engler and family

It is a long time over due...I would like to thank the members of St. John's for all the many years you allowed me to serve as your church secretary. The service of recognition was very moving. I wish St. John's the best in the future.

*Sincerely Yours,
Michelle Rhoads*

Snow Policy: With winter upon us that means there is a chance for us to have inclement weather! We will once again try to have church as long as the Pastor can get to the church. If we must cancel Sunday School and/or worship, we share this information via WLBR (1270AM), WGAL-TV or CBS-TV . Robin Getz will also send out email message and a message on the St. John's UCC Facebook page. Of course you can always call Robin Getz 865-6410 or Louise Walmer 865-5103.



St. John's United Church of Christ

St. John's United Church of Christ
141 W. Main Street P.O. Box 87
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

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Church Phone # 717-865-7222
Pastor's Numbers 717-274-1770 (H); 717-575-0286 (C)
E-mail stjohnsucc@comcast.net
Website: www.stjohnsuccfburg.org

Every Sunday
8:30am Circle Time
9:00am Christian connection
10:30am Morning Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ is: A church of faith, heeding to God's call, through worship, evangelism, discipleship and fellowship. We are building on our church's history, while looking to our future. Our church is filled with messengers, who share the gift of God's love, with the community and beyond. We strive to be a church that reaches out to all with compassion, a vision of God's everlasting peace, and a witness of spiritual hope to our present and future generations. For all this and so much more, we pray in God's name.

Church Staff

Pastor Herb Hibshman, Jr.
Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist
Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director

Consistory

Robin Getz, President
Wendy Dorsey, Vice President
Charlene Ziegler, Secretary
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

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Julie Ditzler
Wendy Dorsey
Jean Ann Grimes
Jerry Mohn
Melissa Seltzer
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Walter Bolles
Missy Daub
Robin Getz
Terry Knapp
Angela Michael
Amy Zechman