The Voice

St. John's United Church of Christ, 141 W. Main St. Fredericksburg Pa, 17026

December 2012

Some Parting Words

Dear St. John's,

Zachary, Rachel, and I want to extend our most gracious and heartfelt thank you to all of you -thank you for being such a special extended family. You welcomed us with open arms and loving hearts. I appreciate the interest and care you have shown to Zach, Rachel, and me as we became a part of the St. John's community.

When Chris and I started dating, I knew I was with, and was committed to, a great guy -- but it didn't cross my mind that it meant the kids and I would gain a great new group of friends too; we sure won out on that deal, as you have been so good to us!

The different worship experiences like the vespers service at Memorial Lake, the outdoor service, the healing services, and the Wednesday evening summer service on the lawn have been particularly meaningful. In addition, it was fun for me to play in the bell choir and to break out my viola again, as well as to read the scriptures in church. We have enjoyed sharing in various fellowship events like the Fall Frolic, Family Game Night, Rally Day events, Trickor-Treating, the car wash, Lunch With The Pastor, the pool party, the outing to Risser Marvel, Christian Connection/Circle Time, the pancake breakfast, and the Tuesday night events in the summer including the puppet show and arts/crafts night, National Night Out, games on the lawn, and the Jim Rule concert.

As a parent of two young kids, to me, one of the reasons why a church family is especially important is so that Zach and Rachel feel they are loved by Christians other than me. Zach and Rachel talk about you and the different things we have participated in at the church in everyday conversations. You have made an impact on them; they have, without a doubt, felt your Christian love. And, for the same reasons they have felt it, so have I.

During this month of November, the month of remembrance and thankfulness, it would be impossible for me to not include the times that Zachary, Rachel, and I shared with St. John's in both capacities — remembering the events, the friendships, and the love...all with great thankfulness!

Until we meet again,
Anne Hambrick-Stowe
Zachary & Rachel

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for the celebration after worship on November 11. I am sure you all know how much I enjoyed the potluck luncheon! I also enjoyed the program, especially the stories and memories that many of you shared. I appreciate the gifts that you presented to me, which will always remind me of this wonderful congregation. Whenever I wear the stole, I will think of my time with you and the wonderful ministry we had over the past eight years! I trust that your future pastors will experience the same love and support that you offered to me and the rest of my family. Please keep in touch with me and stop in if you are in the Lancaster area!

I told everyone on Nov. 11 that I am leaving the white cloth on the communion table in memory of my grandmother, Dot Rankin, who loved being with all of you!

As you begin this new chapter, please pray for the Consistory as they search for an interim pastor. I hope and pray that St. John's will be open to the new things that God is doing in your midst. Thanks for a wonderful eight years. I will think of you often!

Blessings,
Pastor Chris





Inside this issue:

Worship News	2
Celebrations & Worship Volunteers	3
Consistory News	4
Music & Worship News	5
Christian Ed News	6
Mission, Financial News	7
News form Wider Church	8
Thank you, Announcements	9
Monthly Calendar	10
Poinsettia Order	1

December 2012 Worship News:



We are blessed to have Pastor Herb Hibshman be our guest pastor for the month of December 2012. He will be providing the teachings and worship for our services in such a way that leads us into this Advent season.

We will be preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus in ways that will directly usher us into the Christmas Eve services at which we will be welcoming the baby Jesus. We will be having communion on the first Sunday of the month and there will be a candle lighting ceremony for each Sunday this month in recognition of the Advent season.

We will have (2) Christmas Eve worship services, one at 7pm and another at 11pm. Don't miss these services as they will be blessing to everyone—invite a friend and/or family member. It promises to be a great time of celebration and rejoicing.

We will also be experiencing a great treat from our fellowship and Christian Education team. We will be having our Intergenerational Christmas program on Sunday, December 18, 2012. This special presentation will be a musical drama called "The Christmas Guest". It is sure to be a blessing and joy as we watch our everyone come together and use their talents to help us celebrate this special time of the year. We hope to see everyone soon and look forward to celebrating this Christmas season together!

Suggested Scripture Readings for December

Dec. 2— Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalms 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36

Dec. 9— Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

Dec. 16—Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18



Dec. 23—Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 Hebrew 10:5-10 Luke 3:39-45, (46-55)

Dec. 30—1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalms 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52

December Celebrations...

A Special Happy Birthday and congratulations to everyone who shares a birthday or anniversary during this holiday season! Blessings to all!

Happy Birthday to:

1 Janell Carroll15 Jonathan Oskam27 Kadie Walmer6 Mabel Rudy16 Brad Griffiths27 Jack Good6 Amy Zechman18 Darlene Boltz30 Judy Fox11 Jarrod Kapp25 Shayne Tyrpin31 Rev. Allen Helwig

11 Chris Rentschler 25 Larry Walmer

Happy Anniversary to:

7 Jean Ann & Neal Grimes 30 Dorothy & Roger Smith (79th)

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You!

December Readers

Dec. 2—Marc Griffiths Dec. 9—Keith Gingrich Dec. 16—Kadie Walmer Dec. 23—Joe Ditzler Dec. 30—Regina Engler December Acolytes
Dec. 2- Nick Benfer

Dec. 2– Nick Benfer
Dec. 9- Jason Eberhart
Dec. 16– Dylan Walmer
Dec. 23– Andrew Eberhart
Dec. 30– Noah Gingrich

November 2012 Attendance

Nov. 4: 141 Nov. 11: 118 Nov. 18: 48

December Bulletins

Dec. 2—Robin Getz Dec. 9—Neal Grimes Dec. 16—Robin Getz Dec. 23—Robin Getz Dec. 30—Robin Getz

December Flowers

Dec. 2—OPEN Dec. 9—Neal & Jean Ann Grimes

Dec. 16—Steve Kubik Dec. 23—Robin Getz Dec. 30— Robin Getz

December Deacon

Robin Getz

2013 Altar Flower & Bulletin Sponsors

The sign-up sheets for 2013 for the altar flowers and bulletin sponsors are in the social hall. The bulletins will remain at \$10 a week.

December Coffee Hosts

Dec. 2—Earl & Pat Ziegler

Dec. 9—Missy Daub & Donnette Quairoli Dec. 16—Missy Daub & Donnette Quairoli Dec. 23—Missy Daub & Donnette Quairoli

Dec. 30—Missy Daub & Donnette Quairoli

Consistory News Update

The Consistory will update everyone in the next issue of the VOICE newsletter on all the happenings that have transpired during this very special and busy month. In the meantime, please keep the Consistory in you prayers as they are navigating the process of meeting the needs of St. John's right now. Offer your support in any way that you can to help aid in this time of "transition". We look forward to seeing what the future will bring as far as new opportunities and remembering the past traditions of yesteryear. Take care and keep moving!

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 December, 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, *Bortek* and *Staples*. 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!

SENIOR CHOIR NEWS by Louise Walmer

The Sr. Choir participated in the Thanksgiving Eve Worship service at St. Paul's UCC, Hamlin. Singing with St. Paul's Sr. Choir the song, "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying", as the Musical Offering. There was no choir rehearsal on Wed., Nov. 21.

Choir will be rehearsing earnestly throughout the weeks in Dec. to prepare the music for our Christmas Program on Dec. 23 and the 7pm & 11pm Christmas Eve services.

The choir and congregation will participate in song and words using the 'Light of Hope' for the Advent Candle Lighting ceremony throughout December this year.

NOTE: There will be NO choir rehearsal on Wednesday, December 26.

December Musical Offerings:

Dec. 2: "I Hear the Prophet Calling"

Dec. 9: "Come and Hear the Joyful Singing"

Dec. 16: "When will the Little King Come"

Dec. 23: "The Christmas Guest" a musical drama

Dec 24: 7pm "Christmas Sanctus" and "Comfort and Joy"

Dec 24 11pm "Child of Hope and Love" and "A Celtic Silent Night"

Dec 30: TBD



MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

The Committee met on Thurs., Nov 15. Sharon Hibshman led devotions. Appropriately, she reminded us about "Obstacles" using the scripture from Romans 16: 17-18.

Pastor Herb Hibshman was invited to our meeting because he will be extremely helpful to this committee and our congregation throughout November and December. We are certainly thankful that he is willing to share his worship skills and knowledge during this time of transition and "obstacles" for us.

The Advent candle lighting ceremony was discussed. In the next weeks we will be asking people to participate in this ceremony. We've chosen the ceremony "Light of Hope", which includes: Choir singing, a Litany, a Reading, Congregation Singing and a Prayer. This ceremony will be used as our Choral Introit and Call to Worship throughout this holiday season.

The Christmas Program scheduled for Dec. 23 was discussed. The musical drama, "The Christmas Guest", will be presented during the Sunday morning worship service. The Sr. Choir has begun rehearsing the music and cast rehearsals are set to begin after church on Sun. Nov. 18. The committee continues to work on costume ideas, props and lighting.

We discussed our previous Christmas Eve services and "tossed around suggestions and ideas" on ways to build on the traditions we already have. We like to be open to try new things and are always looking for ways to be innovative and improve the worship experience for everyone.

We've scheduled another meeting for Mon., Dec. 3 at 7PM. Charlene Ziegler will have our devotion time.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN ED. CORNER by Angela Michael

The youth have by now, (I hope) recovered from this year's Thanksgiving lock-in and youth breakfast; thanks to Scott Benfer and Chris Wanner for chaperoning this year's lock-in.

By the time you read this we'll have two Christmas program practices under our belts as this year's intergenerational program, a project which the Music & Worship Committee has taken the lead, takes shape. We'll be practicing each Sunday following church until December 23. On December 23, the youth breakfast will start at 8 a.m. followed by program practice during Christian Connection, and the program will be performed during the worship service that day. I hope you'll all come out to see it--we're excited about it, and it depicts a very heartwarming, special story that I think both young and old will appreciate.

As we look to this year's Advent season, I want to remind you about the church wide Advent project that I shared with you in last month's column. We'll be learning how to fold paper cranes in an intergenerational workshop on December 2. We will also be learning a little about God's plan for peace and justice about which Mary, the mother of Jesus, sang in the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). I encourage everyone to come out for this special workshop. As we fold these colorful symbols of peace, they will be on display in the sanctuary throughout December. In January they will be taken to the Matthews Public Library for display to the public. If you would like to learn how to fold a paper crane, I will be available after church to teach anyone who wants to learn. We need all your help to get to our goal of 500 cranes folded!



Nut Sale Still Going On-Still time to Buy:

Don't forget about our annual "Nut Sale". Come on out and buy some for yourself, a friend, neighbor and/or family member for a unique and delicious Christmas treat to eat!

Please see Angela Michael or any of those working with the Christian Education Connection. Thanks for all your support!

Christian Connection Schedule for December:

During the Advent season the children will be preparing for the birth of our Savior in Advent themed workshops.

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 1:18-25 & 2:1-15; and Luke 1:26-38, 46-55 & 2:1-20

December 2: Intergenerational workshop-Learn about God's plan for peace and justice and how to fold a paper crane for peace; come out, young and old alike--our goal is to fold 500 paper cranes throughout the month of December! Teacher: Angela Michael

December 9: Craft rotation-children will learn how to fold a paper dove or a paper crane for peace; teacher: Melissa Seltzer

December 16: Drama rotation-children will participate in an Advent themed skit; teacher: TBD

December 23: Christmas Program Practice

December 30 Art-children will create a triptych depicting scenes from the nativity story; teacher: TBD



MISSIONS NEWS

UPCOMING MISSION OFFERING

The Christmas Fund Offering on December 16 & 23. This offering assists retired clergy and lay employees who have supported the ministry of our local churches over the years.

We hope that you will be generous with this special mission offering.



Budget & Stewardship News by Neal Grimes

The Budget Committee has presented the budget to the consistory.

It was reviewed at their October meeting and approved. It will now be presented at our annual meeting which will be held following the Nov. 25 worship service.

Oct. 2012 figures are listed below:

Weekly offerings (4 wks)	\$ 7,	,537.38
Bulletins		30.00
Misc. Contributions	\$	15.00
Interest		21.92
Oct. 2012 Totals:	\$ 7,	604.30
Oct. Expenses:	\$ 9,	687.02
TOTAL Oct. Profit/Loss:	(\$ 2	2,082.72)

Our weekly budget offerings are projected to be \$2, 250.00. In the month of October, we averaged \$ 1,884.3. YTD we are averaging \$ 2,115.91.

FUNDRAISING NOTICE by Missy Daub

St. John's UCC will be having a fundraising event through Hoss's Restaurant on Dec. 7, 2012. The church will receive a portion back for each purchase that you make when dining at their restaurant. So come on out and support your local church! The vouchers will soon be available. For additional information, you may contact Missy Daub.

J.O.Y Pantry Fundraiser by Pat Ziegler

St. John's UCC will be facilitating a fundraising campaign in an effort to support our local outreach ministry, the J.O.Y. Food Pantry in Jonestown, PA.

We will be selling a type of "gift card" that are called "SCRIP's". By purchasing one of these cards, you will automatically be donating a portion of your purchases directly to the J.O.Y. Pantry food outreach. These cards are for local as well as national businesses and stores. Everything from BG's to Redner's to Starbucks and Red Robin and much much more!

These make GREAT Christmas gifts as well as provide for your everyday shopping needs. You CAN do 2 things at one time—buy your groceries and donate to a local charity all at once with no extra driving or mailing of donations....its that easy! Don't wait—these cards will go fastSee Pat as soon as you can to get one; the holiday gift giving season is upon us!!

Please see or contact Pat Ziegler at (717) 865-4721 for additional details and to pre-purchase these simple and easy to use "SCRIP" cards. Have a great Holiday season!

2012 Crop Walk By Neal & Jean Ann Grimes

Jean Ann & I, wish to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who donated to this year's CROP Walk, which was held on Sunday Oct. 21, 2012 at Memorial Lake in Fort Indiantown Gap.

It was an honor to represent St John's UCC in this very important mission to help feed the hungry around the world. We raised \$ 370.00 thru your generous donations. I do not have the final collection from all of the various church's that participated in this walk. As soon as I get the final figures, I will be listing them in a future VOICE newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH & THE COMMUNITY

St. Paul's Stoverstown Reaches "4 Our Churches Goal" (from Penn Central Conference)

St. Paul's of Stoverstown, celebrated the reaching of their congregation's goal for the "4 Our Churches" capital funds campaign of Penn Central Conference. St. Paul's most challenging goal of \$40,000 for the campaign, which includes matching funs contributed through their Special Gifts Fund, was reached in the midst of this year.

Dennis Weidler, St. Paul's pastor said, "Way back in the fall of 2008, economic recession days for the nations, our 4 Our Churches Planning Committee established that goal. It is only fitting that we set aside this time for praise and thanks to God for the way he has guided us through the difficult years and to the fulfillment of this campaign".

In 2008, some of the church's young Sonshine Signers in beautiful green gowns, held up the symbols of "4 Our Churches". First a towering pine tree, representing the Hartman Center. Second, a hammer, representing work at Beecher Memorial Church in New Orleans. Third, a communion cup, symbolizing help for new congregations and for revitalized older congregations. Then finally, a dynamic upward pointing arrow, symbolizing programmatic help that may be given to our Conference for future years.

Community Christmas Caroling

The Northern Lebanon Recreation and Parks Commission is once again sponsoring a community Christmas caroling event on December 14. The festivities will begin at our church at 5:15p.m. Participants will sing carols throughout the Fredericksburg community until 6:45p.m. Everyone will then meet at Zion Lutheran Church in Jonestown at 7p.m. and go caroling through Jonestown until 8:30p.m. There will be refreshments at Zion Lutheran from 8:30-9:00p.m. St. John's is in need of someone to welcome the people at 5:15p.m. If you are able to help, please speak with Robin Getz.

Longest Night Service

Pastor Jim McNair of the Fredericksburg United Methodist Church is planning a service on December 21, the longest night of the year. The service will begin at 7pm at the Methodist Church. Rachael Miller has been working with Pastor McNair to plan this special service. The holidays are often a difficult time of the year for people and so this service will bring hope and peace for all who are seeking God's healing love at this time of the year.

LEBANON ASSOCIATION NEWS

It is with deep sadness that St. Stephen's UCC, Lebanon has voted to withdraw from the UCC. The Lebanon Association took action on this at their fall meeting in October. We thank St. Stephen's for their faithful ministry in the Lebanon Association over the years and we wish them God's blessings as they continue in their ministry.

St. John's is not the only congregation currently in transition. We want to hold the other churches in prayer as they search for their next pastor. Tulpehocken UCC; Grace UCC, Lebanon; Zion (Goshert's) UCC. We also welcome Rev. Dan Schmidt, the new pastor at Tabor UCC.

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

Thank You From the St. John's Fellowship

Thank you to the following women who sold Avon for the St. John's Fellowship:

Connie Martin (top seller)

Pat Rentschler (2nd place seller)

Pat Ziegler

Charlene Ziegler

Robin Gingrich

Cindy & Angela Michael

Regina Engler

Louise Walmer

Peggy Mohn

Thanks also to everyone who purchased Avon from the women. We received a profit of \$655.00 and a \$9.50 donation, which brings our total to \$664.60.

Dear Church Family & Friends:

Thank you for all of the beautiful birthday cards that everyone gave to me...they were such a blessing to me and were very much appreciated!

from Kathryn Myers

Words of Sympathy

We would like to hold Greg & Beth Yingst in prayer as they mourn the loss of Greg's father, Ken Yingst.

"I am the resurrection and the life." (John 11:25)

A Note from our partners in Swakopmund, Namibia

We recently received the following note from Rev. Philip Strydom, the pastor of our partner church in Swakopmund, Namibia

Dear Pastor Chris,

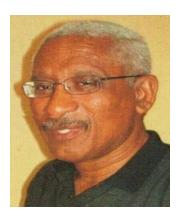
On behalf of Swakopmund Congregational Church I want to thank you for your role in our partnership with St Johns.

You were the glue that held us together - we appreciate it. God used you to help us see the 'bigger picture' - this is visionary leadership. Take it with you as you move on. We were impressed by the pastoral leadership you gave St John's and it inspired me.

St John's must also 'move on' and we will pray that God will guide them; He also has something special in mind for them.

Blessings and best wishes.

Revd Philip Strydom



Men of St. John's:

We will meet for breakfast at Esther's on December 9 at 7:30am Hope to see you there!

<u>ANNOUNCEMENT:</u> Our NEW "Daily Bread" devotional booklets have arrived and are now available for pick up in the entranceway foyer on the table. Stop by and pick one up and be blessed!

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 830am Circle Time 9am Christian Con- nection 1030am Worship xmas program cast practice	7pm Music & Worship meeting	4 6pm Fellowship xmas party @ Farmer's Wife Res- taurant	5 12noon Bible study w/Pastor Hibshman	6	7 Hoss' Fundraiser night	8
9 7am Men's B-fast 830am Circle Time 9am Christian Con- nection 1030am Worship xmas program cast practice	10	11	12 VOICE newsletter DEADLINE TODAY 12noon Bible study w/Pastor Hibshman	13	14 5:15pm Community xmas caroling	15
16 830am Circle Time 9am Christian Con- nection 1030am Worship xmas program cast practice	17	18	19 12noon Bible study w/Pastor Hibshman	20	7pm Longest night service @ Fred. UM church	22 (10am-2pm social hall reserved)
23 8am Youth B-fast 830am FINAL DRESS rehearsal 830am Circle Time 9am Christian Connection 1030am Worship/ Christmas Program the "Christmas Guest"	7pm & 11pm Christmas Eve services	25 Merry Christmas!!	(No bible study)	27	28	29
30 830am Circle Time 9am Christian Con- nection 1030am Worship	31 New Year's Eve					

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias Soon

Our Women's Fellowship once more is providing the opportunity for you to order poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary in celebration of the birthday of our Lord.

Please indicate how many plants you want to provide and give this order sheet and the money to Robin Gingrich or Gail Grimes no later than Sunday, *December 2*. You may also mail in your order no later than November 28th. The cost is \$8.00 per plant, each plant having 5 blooms and the color choices are as follows:

		<u>How Many?</u>
	Red	
	White	
	<u>Pink</u>	
	Monet (pink/white mix shade)	
	<u>Total Plants</u>	
	Total Cost	<u>\$</u>
Your Name:		
In Memory of		
In Honor of		
In The Glory of God		

Order forms and checks payable to: St. John's United Church of Christ Women's Fellowship, PO Box 87, Fredericksburg, PA 17026



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATON
US POSTAGE PAID
Lebanon, PA 17042
PERMIT NO 206

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

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

Guest Pastor as listed Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director Ms. Gloria Herneisey, Secretary

Consistory

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

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>
Julie Ditzler	Walter Bolles
Wendy Dorsey	Missy Daub
Jean Ann Grimes	Robin Getz
Jerry Mohn	Terry Knapp
Melissa Seltzer	Angela Michael
Charlene Ziegler	Amy Zechman