

The Epistle

January 2009

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The Pastor's Pen

The birth of a child brings great pride and joy. The family rejoices that God the author of life, has blessed them with this new creation. And the family is filled with pride. One of the ways they show this pride is "showing off" the baby. Visitors come to the hospital and one of the first questions they are asked is "would you like to hold the baby?" Pictures are taken of the child, proud parents, proud grandparents and passed around, e-mailed to friends and relatives at a distance, posted on the Facebook and MySpace web sites

January begins

the season of Epiphany in our church year, a season of light, a time that focuses on God "showing off" His Son, Jesus. On the feast of Epiphany, our scriptures speak of wise men journeying from the east to see the newborn king. At Jesus' baptism, we hear God speak from the heavens with a father's pride "This is my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3:17) And at the end of the Epiphany season, God repeats these words as Jesus is transfigured in heavenly glory, but with the added instruction: "...listen to him!" (Mark

9:7) As Christians, God calls us also to "show off" His Son in our lives of love, service and devotion to God and neighbor. Martin Luther once wrote that the life of a Christian is not just about being, but becoming—becoming a reflection of the light of Christ to others, becoming the light of the world Christ calls us to be. As we journey through this joyous time in our church year, may we become the light of Christ to the world.

In Christ,

Pastor Stellhorn



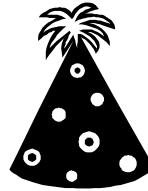
Birthdays in January



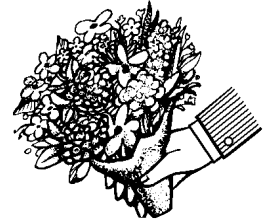
Barb Schwartz 1/1
 James Boyd 1/3
 Karissa O'Conner 1/4
 Grace Toms 1/6
 Neil Snyder 1/6
 Terry Burnette 1/8

Carissa Holt 1/8
 Rock Yealy 1/8
 Don Schumaker 1/11
 Rebecca Burnette 1/13
 Sherrie LaMotte 1/13
 Rose Bream 1/14
 Anne Faber 1/17
 Chris Aulthouse 1/18
 Derrick Sneeringer 1/18
 Andrea Sharar 1/19
 Wilbur Mayers 1/19
 Matthew Groft 1/20
 Thongpoon Carter 1/21
 Don Snyder 1/21

Ethan Rosenkrans 1/22
 Michelle Conaway 1/25
 Abbey Smeak 1/25
 Amanda Caples 1/26
 Melissa Caples 1/26
 Rebe Etta Weikert 1/28
 Kim Airing 1/29
 Clyde Keilholtz 1/29
 Lester Schue IV 1/30
 Justin Myers 1/31



Anniversaries in January



Gary & Sue Strevig
 January 11

Herman & Ruth Newman
 January 23

Worship Assistants for January

Counters	Judi Schumaker, Don Schumaker*, Emily Schwartz and Tracy Schwartz*			
Communion Helpers	Don Schumaker* and Tracy Schwartz*			
Altar Guild	Karen DeGroft			
	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Lectors	Theresa Burnette	Ruth Pautenis	Sarah Schumaker	Sabrina Schue
Greeters	Karen, Ted & Danielle Kopp	Karen & Mike DeGroft	Irene & Harry Wildasin	Alan & Barb DeGroft
Ushers – 8:00	Fern Bachman Millie Bachman	Ken Smith Linda Smith	Barb Zumbrum Ruth Ann Peart	John Bentzel Ginny Bentzel
Ushers – 10:15	Barb Sertz Mel Leidy Mike Cutsail Charlie Mauck	Garrett Faber Clyde Keilholtz Bob Palmer Karen Palmer	Don Snyder* Pete Pautenis Wayne Carter* Jon Carter	Mark Sweigart* Alan DeGroft Ed Windisch Theresa Windisch
Acolytes	Hannah Jemison	Amanda Caples	TBA	TBA
Nursery Helpers	Jennifer Yingling Melissa Caples	Ayleen Stellhorn Rachel Stellhorn	Robin Caples Jessica Caples	Judi Schumaker Sarah Schumaker

Thank You Notes



Thank you for the Altar Flowers and special thanks to Pastor Stellhorn for a visit to bring me communion and share cookies from the cookie swap. God bless you and Merry Christmas to all.

~ Reba Halter



Dear Clay Frogs,

Thank you so much for the delicious cookies. Receiving things in the mail while at school means so much to me. It's great to know someone is thinking of me and cheering me on. These cookies make great "brain food" for finals. I can't wait to see you over Christmas break! Thanks again! Love and peace, Abby Schwartz

Dear Pastor Stellhorn and St. Paul's Church Family,

We cannot thank you enough for your continued thoughts and prayers for our daughter, Evelyn. We also really appreciated Pastor's visit to the NICU. The flowers were beautiful and helped brighten our day! It is wonderful to know that we can lean on our church family! Thanks again! God bless!

Love, Michelle, Justin and Evelyn Colvin

I want to thank the Clay Frogs for the cookies and candy canes. Home made cookies are always a nice treat!

~ Russell Leidy

Thank you to St. Paul's congregation members for your monetary gifts to my account at the seminary bookstore. Your generosity and support is very much appreciated!

—Vicar Jacob Werkheiser

Perfect Attendance for November

Preschool

Samuel Jemison
Nate Holt
Sherrie LaMotte

Grades 1, 2, & 3

Regan Miller
Colby Snyder
Bryana Vazquez
Janet Cutsail
Jeannette Howard
LeeAnn Miller



Grades 4, 5, & 6

Hailey Jemison
Hannah Jemison
Gregory Cutsail
Jan Sweigart
Mark Sweigart

Confirmation Class

Karissa O'Conner
Pastor Stellhorn

Coffee 'n Donut

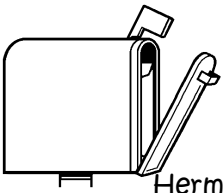
Wayne Carter

Jenn Holt
Eloise Sentz
Wib Sentz

Living Hope
Charlie Mauck

Bible Class
Doris Plunkert
Millie Zepp
Donald Snyder





Address Updates

Herman & Ruth Newman
36 Old Farms Road
Cheshire, CT 06410-3762

Mrs. Suzanne Thompson
464 Pleasanton Drive
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Adam S. Harbold
PSC 36, Box 381
APO AE 09456-0381



Musical Notes



During the month of **January** we begin the season of Epiphany, the Baptism of Our Lord, and the Conversion of St. Paul. On January 18, we will having a contemporary worship service at the 10:15 service. St. Paul's Ringers will be preparing us for worship at the 10:15 service on the 25th.

On Sunday, January 18 the churches from the Ministerium will combine for the **Ecumenical Service** beginning at 3 PM at Redeemer's UCC.

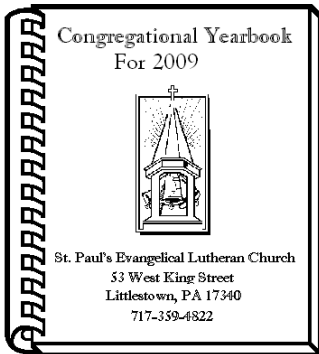
2009 Nawakwa Family Retreat

Mark Your Calendar! St. Paul's Annual Church Family Retreat is **February 27-March 1, 2009**, at Camp Nawakwa. Join us at Grove Lodge for devotions, crafts, games, and a special communion gathering on Saturday night. There will be plenty of good food and fellowship. Come for the whole weekend or just for the day. A sign-up sheet will be in the Kammerer Room and more information will be out soon. Stay tuned!



It's Yearbook Time!

It's Yearbook Time! All committee reports for the Yearbook need to be turned in no later than **January 14th**. Submitting them on disk or via email is preferred, but paper copies will be fine.



All members need to contact the church office with any changes or additions to their personal information (address, phone number, email address, cell number, work number, youth in college and their addresses) by January 14th as well. This will help make the Yearbook as current as possible!

Food Pantry Item of the Month

There is a shopping cart in the Kammerer Room for donations to the



Congratulations

Master Sergeant Scott Snyder graduated from Officers Candidate School December 12, 2008 and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. Scott is presently stationed at Quantico Marine Base in VA.

Summary of November Council Minutes

MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORTS

All reviewed and approved. \$8,000 withdraw from the Parsonage Account was necessary to maintain liquidity in the checking account. This is the only withdraw from savings that has been made in 2008.

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS

Pastor's Report: Anna & Earl Colestock desire to become members of St. Paul's congregation. A motion was made by Marietta that we accept the Colestocks as members. They will join at an 8AM service. Again this year, a collection will be taken from the congregation for the seminarian and put on his account at the Seminary bookstore. An envelope will be placed in the December newsletter for this collection. A Christmas Eve reception will be held at the Stellhorn home on West Myrtle Street between the 7:00 pm Family Service and the 11:00 pm Candlelight Service. All are invited. Pastor will be taking vacation on January 4, 2009. Pastor Craig Lantz will fill in.

Council President: A short-term building request was received from Ben Messinger for December 14 from 2-7PM. Council approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship & Music: Betsy and Marietta reported that Pam Chaddon has applied for the permanent position as organist at St. Paul's. The committee reviewed her application and interviewed her. A motion was made that Pam Chaddon be hired at \$7,500 per year starting December 1, 2008, and that she be reimbursed \$800 annually to cover organ lessons beginning in 2009. Council approved. Pam will be paid twice a month instead of once a month. The committee will notify the treasurer of this change and of the start date. Pam needs to submit a bill from her organ teacher for the \$800 reimbursement. Caroling will be held on December 19, 2008. Gather at the Strevig's at 6:30PM. Family Retreat will be February 27, 28 and March 1, 2009, in Grove Lodge at Camp Nawakwa. US flags have now been placed at both sanctuary entrances. There are still approximately 60 hymnals that have not been sponsored, but the Memorials Committee is looking at using some funds that have been in the Memorials account for a long time for this purpose.

Christian Ed: Mark reported that the committee is still recruiting families for the Family Christmas Eve Service. There will be an Intergenerational Sunday School in January with Wayne Carter as the speaker on Islam. Operation Christmas Child boxes will be delivered later this month. Approximately 100 boxes have been donated. A special thanks to the college students who participated. There will be no meeting of the Committee in December.

Christian Witness: Ken & Linda Smith will be the sponsors for the Colestocks. Charlie provided the council with a letter called "Too Good to be True". It will be printed in the newsletter.

Youth Ministry: The spaghetti dinner raised \$300. The youth are helping at the Food Pantry. Pastor reported that slight interest shown in the youth director position yielded no results. Don Schumaker asked about possibly sharing St. John's Youth Director. This would double their income without adding any more preparation work and would also naturally create more 2-congregation activities. Garrett was advised to take this back to the Youth Committee to look into. The youth will begin selling Christmas ornaments on November 30.

Property: Tracy reported that 2 companies are looking at the slate roof and the small leak in the Sunday school area. Tracy will be available Wednesday evening before choir to have a test run of attaching the candelabras in the choir loft area for Christmas Eve since there are no longer pews. Tracy is still working on getting the 3rd party charges removed and reimbursed on the phone bill.

Finance: The committee will present the Proposed 2009 Budget. Bruce Stair from Wachovia met with the committee and reported that while our investments have incurred losses in market value, the recent downturn in the market is not as bad as the committee thought it might be and our expected income in 2009 should be fairly consistent with what we've seen in 2008. Changes regarding responsibilities for and use of credit or debits cards for the Parish Secretary and Treasurer were approved and forwarded to the Records Committee for inclusion in the Policy and Procedures Manual. A debit card was applied for and is now being used for on-line and phone purchases. The credit card company will need to be contacted to officially cancel the office credit card.

Summary of November Council Minutes Continued

Records: Craig reported that the approved changes from last month's Council meeting were forwarded to Pete Pautenis for inclusion in for the Policy & Procedure Manual. The committee is putting the Manual on hold until after the holidays. Tabled from last month: Which Committee will be responsible for computer projects? The council approved: Computer projects will now be handled by the Property Committee.

Christian Family: November 1 was the Halloween Party with the first Haunted House. Approximately 60 people participated. In December, there will be a cookie swap and caroling. Once again the will be bowling followed by pizza in January.

Organ Fundraising: Larry reported a meeting was held last Tuesday and the committee came up with several ideas. Due to the length of time it would take to explain these projects, only a few were discussed. The rest will be discussed at the Council Organizational Meeting on January 10, 2009. Five canisters have been returned totaling \$400.00. Returned canisters should be given to Bob or Karen Palmer or left with an usher at the back of the church. The council approved for the insertion of special envelopes in the Christmas Eve bulletins for organ donations.

Nominating: The four retiring Council members make up the Nominating Committee. A motion was made that we accept the nominations of Sue Strevig and Theresa Windisch for three-year terms. Council approved. The search will continue for two more nominees.

OLD BUSINESS

Photos on Website (Pastor Stellhorn)

No response from the Attorney David James at this time. Pastor talked with the Girl Scouts and the school and found out that they must get permission to use photos on calendars or web sites. He will call them again regarding group pictures.

Off-site Data Storage Proposal

The cost for the off-site server space is \$120 a year. Payment must be made at the time of purchase and must be with a card that can be used by these on-line companies for automatic billing in the future. Since the church no longer has a credit card, no server space has been purchased yet. Several options:

- 1 – Use the Debit Card and accept the automatic billing against it.
- 2 – Use someone's personal credit card who then submits a bill for payment.
- 3 – Find another off-site server company.
- 4 – Use someone's personal server. Gary Plattenburg has volunteered his off-site server for this purpose.

Jeff will put Gary and Daena in contact to work out the viability of this last option.

NEW BUSINESS

2009 Budget Proposal

The 2009 budget was presented by the Budget Committee. It includes a Challenge Gap of \$6039 between expected income and expenditures. If actual 2009 income is less than actual 2009 expenses, the difference will have to be made up through withdrawals from unrestricted investments. A motion was made to accept the Proposed 2009 Budget. Council approved.

Scheduling / Agenda for Congregation Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting will be held December 7, 2008. The agenda for this meeting is limited to the election of new Council members and the adoption of a 2009 budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM with the Lord's Prayer.