

First Church News

December 2009
Issue No. 48



First Presbyterian Church, 815 Church Street, Hawley, PA 18428
The Rev. William L. Samford, Pastor
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Pastor's Page

By Pastor Bill Samford

"Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of a great joy for all the people, for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10

Dear Friends,

The Advent season is upon us. Most of us would agree with the song: *"It's the most wonderful time of the year."* Like many of you, I enjoy the music, the decorations, the times with family and friends, all those great Christmas cookies, and the list goes on. Yet, if we are not careful, the real "reason for the season" can get lost in all of the hustle and bustle of this time of year.

Advent means *"coming."* We wait and prepare for the coming of Emmanuel - "God with us"- with the birth of Jesus Christ. For the next three weeks we will hear once again the wonderful news of God's love for us through the story of the birth of Jesus. During all of the running around that we all find our selves doing this time of year, I hope you will take time every day to stop and prepare for Jesus to come into your heart once again. **Come and worship with your sisters and brothers in Christ on Sunday mornings.** Participate in the Thursday morning Advent study, *"Rejoice! Reflections on Four Seasonal Hymns."* Come early on Sunday mornings and come to Grace Café as the class begins a study of the Gospel of Matthew. If you haven't used the daily devotions *"These Days"* before, now would be a great time to start.

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Of course Christmas cookies are a real treat this time of year, so don't forget the *Cookie Walk* on Saturday, December 12th. A good concert always puts me in the Christmas spirit, so I invite you to the *Voices of Joy* choir concert on Sunday, December 13th at 4 PM. Last year, people were literally standing in the aisles. Come early!

"Prepare the way of the Lord," and experience the true joy of Christmas this year.

***"O come, let us adore Him
- Christ the Lord!"***

Grace, Peace, and Love,

Pastor Bill

Deacons' Corner

By Paul Bortner

Medical Benevolence Foundation

Alternative Giving

This Christmas give an Alternative Gift

Are you searching for just the right gift for a special friend or loved one? MBF has the perfect Christmas shopping solution. With an "alternative gift" you can give a medical miracle to someone overseas. These alternative gifts come in the form of vaccinations, malaria nets, cancer screening, or even training health care workers and or support for a PC(USA) medical missionary.

Your alternative gift in honor of a loved one is sustainable, long-lasting, and will provide urgently needed medical care for the poor in overseas hospitals and clinics.

To celebrate your gift, MBF will send the person you designate a special Christmas card signed with your name telling them of your gift. Included in your bulletin this week is an insert with details. If you have any questions, call MBF at 1-800-547-7627.

Prayer Chain

The Deacons are reorganizing our Prayer Chain. We need to know if you would like to be on the phone or email list. If you have any questions contact Denise Speckhardt at 226-3553 or daspeckhardt@yahoo.com



Christian Education

From: Denise Speckhardt

Hello Everyone

Well the time has gone by so quick and Christmas is right around the corner. As we prepare for the coming of Christ and this Advent season the Sunday school class will be working on ornaments. Each week we will create a new Creation for our little tree in the back. We look forward to the children coming each week and now have some great new opportunities for them in Sunday school. Like our Memory Verse Challenge each week. If they miss a week no problem they can make it up or email me to get it for Sunday. Each week they will earn a sticker for their star in the back to earn a prize.

I have been absent over the past few months with the flu and now I am better and ready to have some fun in Sunday school. I find Advent and this season to be very exciting.



November Session Highlights Betsy Graf ~ Clerk Protemp

- 1) The budget for 2010 will be finalized at the December meeting.
- 2) The pictorial directory is now available.
- 3) After training we now have twelve new CPR certified members.
- 4) New youth group is averaging four to six attending.



COOKIE WALK
&
VICTORIAN TEA
Saturday, December 12
9AM to 2PM

First Presbyterian Church
815 Church Street
Hawley, PA 18428
(570) 226-4835

(in conjunction with the Hawley Winterfest)



Christmas Pageant

ATTENTION!!! Kids of all ages if you are interested in being in, or helping with our Christmas pageant please talk to Kate Hammond. She will be directing it this year and putting it all together. Rehearsals will be held right after church every Sunday in December and also one run through on Christmas Eve before the 5PM service. There are parts for everyone in front of and behind the scenes **help** is needed.

TEEN ADVENTURES

MEET AT THE GRAFS AT 5:00 pm
DECEMBER 6th
FOR A CHRISTMAS STEAK DINNER
& MUSIC NIGHT.
Bring any instruments you play, if you do not play one, just bring your singing voice!!

All Teens are welcome.
Call Betsy Graf for information!

Christmas Concert by Voices of Joy Choir

Sunday, December 13, 2009
At 4:00 PM

Come and Enjoy Traditional, Contemporary, Fun & Festive
Christmas Music!

Free Will Offering
Refreshments will be served immediately after the Concert



NO GAME NIGHT IN
DECEMBER

GAME NIGHT WILL
RESUME ON
JANUARY 22, 2010

Presbyterian Women

of The First Presbyterian Church of Hawley

NO Meeting in December!
Next meeting January 11th
6:00 PM Potluck
7:00 PM History of the Outhouse
All are welcome

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

Ushers

Host Coffee Hour

SIGN UP

Provide Flowers for the Chancel



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 12:30 PM Art Class 7:00 PM CE 8:00 PM NA | 2 12:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Chancel | 3 11:00 AM Advent Study | 4 | 5 |
| 6 9:00 AM Grace Café 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 5:00 Teen Adventures | 7 12:00 PM AA 6:00 PM "Voices" Rehearsal-Children 7:00 PM "Voices" Rehearsal-Adults | 8 9:00 Mission Committee 12:30 PM Art Class 7:00 PM Admin 8:00 PM NA | 9 9:30 AM Parish Life 12:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Chancel | 10 11:00 AM Advent Study 1:15 Deacons  | 11 10:00 AM Worship & Music  | 12 9:00 AM Cookie Walk & Victorian Tea  |
| 13 9:00 AM Grace Café 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Voices of Joy Concert | 14 12:00 PM AA 6:00 Christmas Dinner - Lukan's | 15 12:30 PM Art Class 6:30 PM Session 8:00 PM NA | 16 12:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Chancel Newsletter Deadline! | 17 11:00 AM Advent Study | 18 | 19 |
| 20 9:00 AM Grace Café 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:00 BP Screening 7:00 Christmas Caroling | 21 12:00 PM AA | 22 12:30 PM Art Class 8:00 PM NA | 23 12:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Chancel | 24 Christmas Eve 5:00 Family Service 8:00 PM Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols | 25 Merry Christmas  | 26 11:30 - 1:00 PM Hawley Good News Café Luncheon  |
| 27 9:00 AM Grace Café 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 2:00 Messiah Sing-a-long | 28 12:00 PM AA | 29 12:30 PM Art Class 8:00 PM NA | 30 12:00 PM AA | 31 | Jan 1 Happy New Year! | |

Crop Walk 2009



First Church walkers raised \$1318.00 of the total raised of \$2300.00. Thanks to all who walked and their sponsors. First Churchers who walked were:

Rick & Marion Pfeiffer
Ellin Compton
Alejandro Cuiba
Pastor Bill Samford

The 8th Annual Golf Tournament



Presentation of check to Hawley Head Start.



Advent Adventures

The 8th Annual Golf Tournament was held on Monday, August 24, 2009 at Woodloch Springs Golf Course and it was a great success. There were 99 golfers (84 played 18 holes and 15 played 9 holes) and a total of 115 people for lunch.

This year the proceeds were \$7,166. Last year we were able to give the Hawley Head Start Program \$2,000 and this year it was \$2,500. Head Start provides a wonderful program for 36 preschool children 5 days a week. The remaining proceeds will go to our youth ministry and children's camp scholarships.

Many thanks to all who helped make the tournament a success. This includes the Golf Committee, those who helped at the tournament, contributed prizes, were sponsors and played golf.

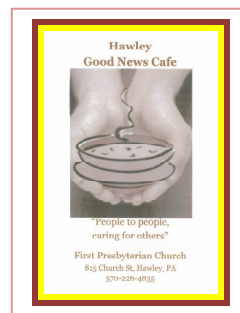


A VERY
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
TO ALL



- 1 Kimberly Franco
- 1 Ruth Ulrich
- 4 John Tees, Jr.
- 7 Dominick Robano
- 10 Stanley Bartleson
- 15 Deanne Mausolf
- 18 Lee Benjamin
- 19 Lisa Osborne-Bondrew
- 19 Shirley Stucklen
- 24 Sara Bondrew
- 25 Jesus
- 31 Ellin Compton
- 31 Edward Riedinger
- 31 Joshua Whitfield

- 2 Rick & Marion Pfeiffer
- 3 Paul & Sue Bortner
- 17 Gary & Jackie Wolf
- 20 Chip & Barbara Schariest



Hawley Good News
Café

December 26th

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MUSIC - MUSIC - MUSIC

By: Adele Harrison

The Chancel Choir is eagerly preparing for the Advent and Christmas season. They will sing every Sunday during Advent, and end their year with the Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve (8 PM). They have done a wonderful job rehearsing diligently and mastering anthems they didn't think they could do! The choir will take a break during January and February, returning to the loft on March 7th. Special music (solos, duets, trios, instrumentals, etc.) will occur on the winter Sundays. Anyone can volunteer for any of these Sundays...you don't have to be a member of the choir or the church. If your Aunt Sadie has a beautiful voice or plays a "mean" violin, put her in touch with me...we would welcome her as a "guest soloist.!" There will be a sign-up sheet in the music office.

The First Church Chimers will not ring on Christmas Eve this year. Most of the ringers will be away visiting family for the holiday. The chimers did a fabulous job ringing for Stewardship Sunday on November 22nd, with their musical offering of "How Great Thou Art." They will return in spring for the Palm Sunday-Easter season.

Remember to reserve Sunday afternoon, December 13th, on your calendars. The "Voices of Joy" will perform a fantastic Christmas concert at 4 PM, conducted by an exuberant and delightfully amusing Joy Stebbins. The rehearsals have been great fun and the sound coming out of this motley crew of diverse, inter-denominational singers is absolutely amazing! Don't miss this afternoon of familiar and much-loved sacred and secular anthems for the holiday season!

First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. William L. Samford,
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815 Church Street
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Phone:
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570-226-2275

E-Mail:
fpoffice@ptd.net

Website:
www.fpchawley.org

Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM



Mission Statement: *We believe that God is alive and active. As faithful disciples we spread the good news of Christ's love, forgiveness, and grace. Our mission is to be God's presence within our community. Our ministry is people to people, nurturing spiritual growth, promoting peace, caring for others, and providing fellowship.*

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