

# St. John's November 2011 Good News

St. John's Church on Morgan Hill • 2720 Morgan Hill Rd. • Easton • PA • 18042  
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Please join us Sundays for Worship at 9 a.m., Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

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Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace be with you! When Blake asked me to write this letter for the November-December Newsletter, I began thinking that these combined months offers us a unique setting to define the people we are in Jesus Christ. So let's go beyond turkey dinners and Christmas trees to think about what the Lord means to our faith in these two months.

First of all, we are a **Thankful** people, giving praise to the Lord for all our blessings. We have warm homes to live in, an abundant harvest provides us with food to eat, friends and family with which to share this and best of all, we have a God who has promised to never leave us! Thanks be unto Him! Our faith calls us to reach out to others to ensure that they will enjoy these blessings.

Secondly, we are a **Prayerful** people. We begin our prayers with sincere praise and adoration for all the Lord is and has provided for us. We not only pray for our own needs and cares but also for those of others... friends, family and even those we do not know. Our faith calls us to reach out in prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

We will have an opportunity to practice this at **St. John's Women's Fellowship Breakfast** on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. (Info. on this event follows in this newsletter) The women of St. John's will gather for a time of breaking bread, prayer and praise as we get to know each other better. This event is open to **ALL Women and their GUESTS!** (And...we have a great group of church men who will prepare the meal! ☺) Please come!

We are an **Expectant, Hopeful** people. As we move into Advent season, we prepare our hearts to receive HIM, the babe of Bethlehem, knowing from Isaiah, that we must "prepare the way for the Lord" in purity and in truth. In total Hope, we anticipate a new life from His birth and eternal life from His resurrection. Our ministry team will share **Advent Scriptures and Reflections** with you both on our website and in the weekly bulletin to aid in your devotional time during this very special season of preparation. **David McClintock** will also perform during this reflective season. (Info. to follow)

We are also a **Joyful** people as we sing on Christmas Eve, "*Joy to the World, the Lord Has Come!*" How incredibly important it is that "*Earth receive her King!*" Our faith calls us to this, the true message of Christmas...that we are a **Saved** people once we receive **OUR KING!**

When we take Jesus into our hearts as our Savior, the events of November and December are brought to a glorious completion as we rejoice in our lives living with and serving our **LIVING LORD, JESUS**. May your holidays be rich in praise, prayer and preparation as your faith glows! It's really all about **JESUS!**

God Bless you all,

Barbara Duncan

**A Family of Friends in Christ, Saved by Grace to Serve Others in Love.**

Blake Heffner, Pastor; Helen Pearson, Asst. Pastor Emeritus  
Richard Rader, Organist; Chele Rader, Director of Music

## **Sundays in the Advent and Christmas Seasons**

- Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>      **All Saints Sunday: Holy Communion**  
Not only will the newly confirmed class receive their first communion, we will be honored to have members of the 50th and 80th Confirmation Anniversary classes as our guests!  
**This the deadline for Operation Christmas Child Boxes!**  
*And, it's Friendship Day in the Sunday School.*
- Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>      **We will dedicate our Operation Christmas Child Boxes**  
*This is our Big Picture Day in the Sunday School - 10:30am in the Social Hall.*  
**Mission Team - light lunch for everyone after Sunday School @ 11:45am**  
Pastor Kiran and Mahima Pagarey will be our guests. We'll see the latest pictures from India and also get updates from Rwanda and France!
- Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>      **Thanksgiving Sunday**  
Prospective Member Orientation @ 10:30am (see bulletin for details)
- Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>      **Thanksgiving Eve Community Workshop at the Blue Church 7:00pm**
- Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>      **The First Sunday of Advent: Holy Communion**  
Artist David McClintock will be our guest at 9:00am  
Fellowship Luncheon after Sunday School @ 11:45am in the Social Hall  
David McClintock presents a concert after the lunch, 1:00pm

### *Living Our Hope in God*

Women's Fellowship Breakfast for all women of St. John's and Guests!

**November 12, 2011      8:30 AM**

(Babysitting Provided, if needed)

**Please Join Us for a Special Time to Get to Know Each Other!!**

Contact Barbara Duncan

## **Congratulations to Our Confirmands!**

On Reformation Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation for the following young adults: Sean Haas, Skyler Heft, Tyler Heft, Ari Heinemann, Brendan Kirkpatrick, Tiffany Palmer, Mark Stofanak, and Julie Tooma.

You can offer your congratulations and personal welcome to these folks on Confirmation Sunday or All Saints' Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>!

### **MISSION LUNCH - SUNDAY, NOV. 13th**

Following Sunday School

Join us for Soup, Sandwiches & an update about all of our mission outreach projects & a special presentation from Pastor Kiran!



## **Sunday School News**

### **Big Picture Show**

**WOW.....So far so good! We have received a wonderful response from everyone on the Big Picture Show. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the next "Big Picture" presentation on the Bible.**

**November 6<sup>th</sup>. The topic will be "The Old and New Testaments—How They Fit Together and Why It Matters.**

**December 4<sup>th</sup> – The Birth of Jesus Christ—Who He Was and Why His Coming Was So Important**

**January 8<sup>th</sup> – The Life of Jesus Christ—What He Did, The Things He Taught Us, and Why People Followed Him**

### **Sunday School Mission Project - Make a Joyful Noise**

So far we have collected \$65.02 and that was just for September!! Make sure you keep an eye out for our tracking gauge either on our bulletin board in the Social Hall or coming out of the sanctuary. The collection will be going towards purchasing animals for struggling families through The Heifer Project. The next Joyful Noise collection will be November 30<sup>th</sup>.

# Spotlight on our Sunday School Teachers

## Janet Minnich – Nursery School Teacher

Janet has been a member of St. John's Church for...well... forever! She has been teaching nursery school for 8 years now. Janet says, "She teaches because I know the importance of teaching children about God and that Jesus loves them. I want to provide them with a good foundation. I know that they will remember some of the stories, songs, and projects we do and hope that it carries over as they get older.

Janet lives in Williams Township with her husband Jeff and their two sons, Nicholas and Tristan. "Life seems so busy right now", Janet says. "Working and trying to raise a family is a daily balancing act. When we have time together as a family we enjoy going to Dorney Park, going to the beach/vacation, watching a movie, or just simply sharing a good home-cooked meal together."

Janet has so many wonderful memories of growing up at St. John's. When I asked her what her favorite memory is she couldn't narrow it down but said this, "My life has been filled with memories of St. John's for as long as I can remember... singing in the junior choir, finally being old enough to move to Doris and Ree Ree's class, confirmation, my wedding, and the baptism of my boys."

I could go on and on and tell you all how wonderful Janet is because I am lucky enough to have her as one of my best friends....stop in and say Hi to Janet and you will see why she is such a wonderful teacher!

## Jennie McIntyre – Pre K/K Teacher

Jennie teaches Pre K/K and when you ask her about how the class is going or how the kids are doing she beams with excitement! Jennie has been attending St. John's since a young child. She started attending shortly after her grandfather passed away and she says, "The church community really helped me through a hard time and helped me accept Jesus Christ as my savior and Lord."

Jennie is getting married to a wonderful man this coming February!! They have a two year old son, Connor, who brings them such joy in their life. Jennie is also currently completing her student teaching this fall through East Stroudsburg University. She will graduate in December with a degree in elementary/special education and she hopes to someday work educating individuals with disabilities.

I asked Jennie why she loves teaching and she said, "I have been so blessed in my life that I love using my love of teaching young children about God's grace and love in Sunday School." When Jennie isn't going to school or with her family she loves to curl up with a good book and doing different activities outside.

We wish Jennie and her family all the happiness in the world. Stop by and say Hi to Jennie and wish her the same.

Thank you all for your continued support of our Sunday School Program. God Bless.

Susan Stametz

## Flood Relief Collection & Delivery

Many thanks to those of you who donated pet food, nonperishable people food items, microwaves, coffee makers & other small appliances & gas money for our trip to the folks in the Bloomsburg PA area that were so badly flooded out recently. We wanted to give you an update on the mission project...

On Sun., Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> we (me, Becky & Nancy, who drove her van) took a van load of items that we collected over the past week or so (mostly from St. John's) out to Bloomsburg PA. We had contacted the "Command Post" at Agape Ministries to find out what they needed most so those were the items we concentrated on collecting.

We were able to deliver 4 microwaves, a small convection oven, 4 coffee makers, 1 toaster, 1 iron, a blender, a vacuum cleaner (like gold there) & a few other small appliances (unfortunately no box fans), at least 500 lbs of dog & cat food, about 50 boxes of cereal, 25 boxes of oatmeal, 25 boxes of crackers, a case of jelly, a case of peanut butter, a box of cleaning supplies & other various canned & boxed goods. We had a pretty full load!

This Agape Center has sort of become the central location for folks to drop off donations, for local flood victims to pick up stuff they need, & for folks to meet to form volunteer crews to assist w/clean up. They have a warehouse & loading docks & are normally a site that helps meet the material needs of the community by providing clothing, household & food items on a regular basis. The flood has just increased the need & their hand in meeting it.

We learned from the people there that there are about 5000 homes in Columbia County PA that were affected by the flooding that went on for several days there. Many of the homes had never had flood issues so were without flood insurance coverage. FEMA had just started giving out numbers which, due to some people taking advantage of the free items they could get, Agape now required from people to obtain items.

Many folks are just getting back to their homes to begin the work of clean up. Most have, at the very least, lost furnaces & water heaters & other basement appliances, many have lost a lot more. But many are just now finding that their homes will not be salvageable & will be condemned because they are no longer safe or structurally sound. Where are these people living now? In motels where they have no kitchens, little storage space & cramped quarters (hence the need for microwaves, cereal, pb&j, etc.) or doubling up w/friends & neighbors. Hundreds of families have lost everything they owned. It is very sad.

Right now, the needs are for items for immediate use that will help people survive in their limited situations. Once people begin to get back into their homes, after they are dried out, cleaned out & fixed up, there will be a need for larger appliances (refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, etc.) as well as furniture so if you have any of these working appliances or furniture items that you would consider donating, please hang on to them until they are able to accept them out there. It will be such a blessing to a family!

[As time goes on, the needs will likely change so we will try to keep you informed of updated needs as we learn about them]

This is not the only area that was devastated during our recent storms but it is the one that reached out for help & we were blessed enough to be able to reach back. We will continue to collect items & we plan on making additional trips there as supplies come in & we hope to be able to coordinate delivery of the larger appliances & furniture in the coming months. We will be needing trucks to move those things when the time comes so please also pray about that & if you have such a vehicle, please consider making it (& you) available. We will do our best to keep you updated.

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**We do know that there have been families around here & in other places that lost items, appliances, even homes to these storms, or could use help w/clean up too but, we do not have contact with anyone about that. So if YOU are in that situation or know of someone who is, we would be happy to help out closer to home! We just need to know!**

PLEASE NOTE: They DO NOT NEED CLOTHING! They have had so much donated that they have had to spread it around to all of the other local churches for storage. The folks who are living in motels, etc. don't have room to keep much so they just have the basics that they need to get thru the week.

Blessings,

Becky & Mag & Nancy B.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2011**

We are again participating in Operation Christmas Child. (Ray, get your hats out!!!). We recently attended a O.C.C. event where a young woman, Livia Satterfield, who was a recipient of a Christmas Box years ago when she was a child in a Romanian orphanage, spoke. It was a moving experience & put it all into a different perspective for us.

While each child who receives a box is in a different situation, many face the same needs. Her experiences in this orphanage were horrible, they are far from what we can even imagine happening in this country but these conditions still exist in many places in the world. Livia's story was hard to hear but it has a beautiful ending. In a group of American visitors that handed out the Christmas Boxes, she found a mother & a family & the Lord & was adopted. But the very next day after her adoption was finalized, Romania closed all adoptions to America so many, many children still live in those terrible conditions. They long for connection with caring souls which is why it is encouraged to include personal notes & pictures.

How big of a deal is it to get a toothbrush? It's a HUGE deal if your only option is to share one with several other kids. What kid wants a bar of soap or washcloth as a gift? One that would have no soap or share a washcloth (& bath water) with 25 other kids. Those dollar store pack of hair clips were the most desired gift for Livia who dreamed for years of having even one of her own. So, don't discount the importance of these things that seem so little to us, they mean so much to the kids that receive them. Livia also spoke of how God seemed to make sure each box found a child that needed those items most, like her box that was loaded with hair clips, just what she wanted! She also made a point to say that there are never enough boxes for the older kids (age 10-14).

So, this year, as a church, **our goal is to pack 50 boxes for kids age 10-14 (25 for girls & 25 for boys)**. This age groups can use items to work which blesses their families & may keep them from having to do unspeakable things for money. We are asking for simple tools or tool kits (screwdrivers, pliers, hammers, etc.) for the boys & sewing kits for the girls (threads, needles, blunt scissors, etc.) to go along with the basic hygiene items, school supplies, & toys.

Through these boxes the kids begin to learn about Jesus & they each receive a Gospel in their own language along with it. They see Him in the gifts & in the hearts of those who give them. One child who learns about Jesus, shares it with their family, who shares it with others & soon, the hope & love of Jesus begins to spread through these communities. That \$7 shipping cost also helps provide the Gospel books for the kids so please take the time to donate some items (we have tags on the board in the Social Hall), or donate towards the shipping for our 50 boxes or better yet, pack a box (or 2) with your own family.

**All items were due at St. John's by Sun., Nov. 6th.** We will hold a "Packing Party" sometime that week so please watch for the date & time. We invite everyone to come out & help with this beautiful project. If you have any questions, please see either Becky or Mag. God Bless Ya!

## Consistory Update (September/October)

**Winter is coming:** Consistory is preparing the church for winter. The boiler is receiving service, storm windows installed, and snow removal process is in place. In addition, a phone chain is set up to notify the congregation of cancellations. If you do not receive a call, there will be email announcements and postings on our Facebook page and website. There is also postings on Channel 69 and WJCS (89.3) radio.

**New Members/Old Members!** A new member orientation is scheduled for Oct 23. On All Saints Day (Nov 6) we will be joined by members of Confirmation classes of 1961 and 1931.

**Mission News:** Our friend Ed Hardwick provided us with an opportunity to support a young man in Rwanda with his seminary training. Praise the Lord!

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to any member of Consistory:

Doris Bonstein, Bill Books, Jack Duncan, Blake Heffner, Dara Lovoie, Michele Lentz, Jane Lick, Michael Plamer, Debber Rissmiller, Sue Ulmer, Jerry Zaccola

### LYME AWARENESS NIGHT

**View:** Award winning documentary

#### **UNDER OUR SKIN: A Health Care Nightmare**

**What it is about:** Lyme disease, one of the most misunderstood and controversial illnesses of our time.

**Where:** St. John's Sue and Eli Ott Social Hall

**When:** Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

**Why you should attend:** Eastern Pa. is a hot spot for ticks that carry the bacteria responsible for Lyme disease and other co-infections. Learn good preventative measures for tick bites.

Lyme disease mimics other illnesses and can be misdiagnosed as chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, MS, ALS, alzheimers, attention disorders, and autism.

**Do you know:** Not everyone with Lymes disease had the characteristic bullseye rash from a tick bite. The standard testing to detect Lymes has 50 to 60% false negative results. The standard course of antibiotics may not be enough, and the usual antibiotic given may not be the most effective. Lyme disease may be passed from mother to fetus, and Lyme disease may be transmitted in body fluids.

**Note:** This movie may not be appropriate for younger children.