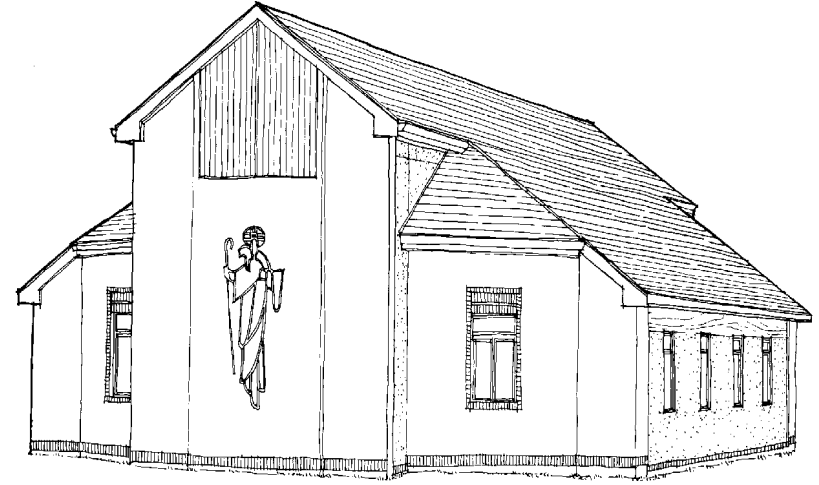


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March, April, May 2011



MOUNTAIN REFLECTIONS
GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

”
God
is still
speaking,

www.goodshepherdslatedale.org

Mountain Reflections

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ
Winter 2010-2011



MINISTRIES

Pastor	James D. Robison, Jr.	610.476.2000
Education Ministry	Barbara Neff	610.767.3151
Youth Ministry	Janice Farber	610.760.9231
	Lisa Kuntz	610.767.3549
Office Ministry	Debbie Silfies	610.767.2067
Music Ministry	Marion Straub	610.377.0110

COMMITTEES

Altar Guild	Carol Oswald	610.760.8015
Evangelism	Lynne Newhard	570.386.4628
Finance & Audit	Susan Zellner	610.767.2305
Fund Raising	Tina Minnich	610.767.0611
Memorial	John Zellner	610.767.2305
Nominating	David DeLong	484.330.0531
Personnel	Shirley Phillips	610.767.8750
Property	TBD	
Social Ministry	Marie Detrick	610.760.8804
Stewardship	TBD	
Worship	Judy Neff	610.767.4495

SUPPORT STAFF

Secretary	Debbie Silfies	610.767.2067
Sexton	Barry Silfies	610.767.2067

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Coordinator	Debbie Silfies	610.767.2067
Copying	Susan Heller	610.285.3003
Assembling/Mailing	Barbara DeLong	610.767.6006

The purpose of the Newsletter is to inform and share the Good News of Jesus Christ as embodied in the life of this church with members and the larger community. Articles are to be positive in nature and respectful of other's opinions.

Contributions and Comments can be made to Good Shepherd UCC; c/o Newsletter Staff; Box 68; Slatedale, PA 18079 or on line at newsletter@goodshepherdslatedale.org or phone 610.767.9680

MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE 2011

Please list the names of those you would like to honor on Mother's Day. You can list mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, and loved ones. You are asked to please contribute \$1.00 for each honor or memory. This donation goes towards the 2012 Confirmation gift to Good Shepherd.



FORMS CAN BE PLACED IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR SENT TO THE CHURCH BY MAY 1, 2011 WITH CONTRIBUTION ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED.

IN HONOR OF:

FROM:

IN MEMORY OF:

FROM:



**SAVE AT LOCAL RESTAURANTS AND
SUPPORT GOOD SHEPHERD!**

The scrip program has an exciting new vendor! Restaurant.com Gift Certificates are redeemable for restaurant gift certificates good at thousands of participating restaurants nationwide or for merchandise and services from online retail partners. Restaurant.com is the place where customers and restaurants come together and everyone wins! Their restaurant partners get a new customer, and you get a great meal for a great price. They have been in business since 1999 and have earned an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau!

Best of all, this win-win scenario is an outstanding value. You receive a \$50 Value Card for a price of \$20. Good Shepherd receives \$10 for each card purchased!

To view participating restaurants, go to <http://GreatLakesScrip.Restaurant.com> to enter a ZIP Code and see the thousands of great restaurants you or your gift recipient will be able to choose from!

To redeem a certificate, a recipient simply goes online and clicks on “Redeem Certificate.” Then follow the easy online instructions to print the gift certificate(s). No expiration date. Unconditional guarantee!

In addition to many restaurants in the Allentown/Bethlehem area, some of the near one-hundred local participating restaurants include:

- New Tripoli – Northwestern Grill
- Palmerton – La Dolce Casa, Palmerton Hotel, Simply Something Café
- Lehighton – Sapore, Trainer’s Inn
- Northampton – Stefano’s, The Atlas
- Walnutport – Terrace
- Coplay – Willow Street Pub

PLEASE SUBMIT A SCRIP FUND-RAISER FORM TO ORDER!

From the
Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of Good Shepherd ~
Scrip Program Update:

Another ²⁰¹⁰ year comes to a close and I can hardly believe that it ~~Eight Months~~ ^{Eight Months} ~~by the way~~ when we began our journey together. God has blessed us with some incredible experiences over the years and the possibilities of more blessings are unfolding each new day.

As many of you know, most of my sermons are based on love, particularly God’s love for us in Christ as well as our response to that love with thankful service. Gratitude is a form of love and often is measured by the sacrifice that is made in our service for Christ. The love here at Good Shepherd abounds all around. Many of the members as well as friends that congregate on Sunday mornings and other special occasions have gone above and beyond God’s requirements as found in Micah, “to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.”

This justice and kindness are shown in the financial success of the congregation. Yes, the financial success. Even in these difficult economic times, you ~ those who gather on Sunday mornings and those who are faithful in sending their contributions in to the church office ~ have stepped up to the plate and hit several home runs ~ paying off the black top loan early ~ paying off the pension debt ~ ending the year in the black. All of this helps to create the ministry that happens in our midst.

A shining example of this success is the hard work that Barry Silfies has offered the church by serving as president of the Consistory for the past five years. His light-heartedness and easy going personality creates a sense that all are welcome to participate and share their gifts with others. His willingness to take suggestions and think outside the box allows others to share their ideas and run with them. He would be the first to say he didn’t do it alone, but he certainly took the blunt of the concern that comes with leadership as well as the criticisms.

We continue to see improvement in the area of ministry and your efforts are being recognized by God at all levels. Thank you for these efforts and keep up the good work! Good Shepherd provides quality ministry through warm and gracious welcome and you are the reason why!

There are those, however, who are concerned with the future of Good Shepherd. Can Good Shepherd continue on the same course without changes? The answer is yes if we are delusional, but reality tells us different. The Pastor is \$8,000 below what is recommended received an in continue to m: and Youth Fel themselves as well as the larger ministry of the congregation. The fund raising committee shoulders an enormous burden believing they are responsible for meeting the short fall when it comes time to pay bills. Burnout is on the horizon and we are called upon to pray about what we can do to change the financial situation of Good Shepherd so that we can continue to do God's work in serving others through Christ.

Those who attend and those who don't rely on Good Shepherd to be there in good times and bad ~ members and friends continue to be inspired by the Spirit in our midst. We are all in this together. We could learn a lot from crayons ... some are sharp, some are pretty, and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

In God's love,

Pastor James



Major Retailers Want To Give Our Church Money!

The Christian Education Committee is pleased to share some exciting news about a new fundraising program for our church. It's called "scrip", and it's the fundraising program that works while you shop.

Scrip is simply a word that means "substitute money" – in other words, scrip is gift certificates from national and local retailers. They're the same gift certificates that you buy at the store. Many popular retailers participate in our scrip program including JCPenney, The Gap, Shell, Pizza Hut, Red Lobster and many, many others.

You're probably asking yourself how these stores help us raise money. It's simple -- scrip participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to our organization at a discount. Member families like yours buy the certificates for full face value, they redeem them for full face value, and our church keeps the difference as revenue. And scrip is exciting, because everybody wins:

- The retailer gets cash up front and repeat business...
- You get a powerful fundraising alternative that involves no selling...
- Our church gets a regular source of revenue.

The beauty of scrip is that you put your regular household shopping dollars to work. You earn money for our church without spending a single additional penny. Just spend your regular shopping dollars with scrip at the stores that participate in the scrip program! And scrip can be used for just about any household purchase including food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline and even dining out.

For more information about our new scrip program, please see the display in the church narthex for facts and enrollment forms. A member of the Christian Education Committee can also answer your questions.

***The scrip program promises to be a simple and effective fundraising program.
Thanks for your support!***



The Christian Education Committee would like to thank the family units that helped to make our fund-raiser a success:

Scrip Program Update

2009.....	\$3,431.60 profit
2010.....	\$4,084.44 profit
January & February 2011.....	\$ 439.00 profit
GRAND TOTAL.....	86 PARTICIPANTS \$7,955.04 PROFIT!

Scrip Program Dates to Remember: Spring 2011

ORDERS DUE.....	CARDS DELIVERED
March 13 th	March 20 th
April 10 th	April 17 th
May 8 th	May 15 th

Please see the revised order form inserted with this edition of the Mountain Reflections Newsletter!

Contact Monica Griffith at monicagriffith@hotmail.com or 610.730.5712 with questions.

Thank You!

“The Oak Tree”

*A mighty wind blew night and day,
It stole the oak tree’s leaves away,
Then snapped its boughs and pulled its bark
Until the oak was tired and stark.*

*But still the oak tree held its ground
While other trees fell all around.
The weary wind gave up and spoke,
“How can you still be standing, Oak?”*

*The oak tree said, “I know that you
Can break each branch of mine in two,
Carry every leaf away,
shake my limbs, and make me sway.*

*But I have roots stretched in the earth,
Growing stronger since my birth.
You’ll never touch them, for you see,
They are the deepest part of me.*

*Until today, I wasn’t sure
Of just how much I could endure.
But now I’ve found, with thanks to you,
I’m stronger than I ever knew.”*



Rites and Sacraments

NEW MEMBERS

New members will be taken into the fold of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ on Sunday, March 20, 2011. If you or someone you know would like to join the congregation, please contact Pastor James at 610.432.3980.

BAPTISMS

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was celebrated on Sunday, November 21, 2010 for **Brennen James Scott**, born May 6, 2010, in Allentown, PA. Brennen is the son of Jason and Amanda (Dietrich) Scott. Brennen is the grandson of James and Sandy (Shuck) Scott, Marlin Miller, Delores (Boger) Miller, and Leonard Dietrich. Brennen's great grandmothers are Ruth Shuck and Lillian (Billig) Boger. Brennen's godparents are Joseph Scott, a member of St. Anthony's of Padua in Wilmington, DE and Shea Williams, a member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Slatington, PA. Pastor James Robison officiated.

Adam Jonathan Griffith, born October 4, 2010 in Bethlehem, PA to Jonathan and Monica (Zellner) Griffith, was baptized on Sunday, December 19, 2010. Adam joins brothers Benjamin and Noah, and sister Kathryn. Adam is the grandson of John and Susan (DeLong) Zellner and the late Roland and Bertha (McFarland) Griffith. Adam's great grandparents are Jeanette (Musselman) DeLong and Frances (Kern) Zellner. Adam's godparents are his paternal uncle Mark Griffith, a member of Greenawalds United Church of Christ, and his maternal aunt Alana (Zellner) Smoyer, a member of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ. Pastor James Robison celebrated this blessed event.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was celebrated on Sunday, January 30, 2011 for **Jaelyn Marie McAdams**, born September 10, 2010 in Allentown, PA. Jaelyn is the daughter of Paul and Amanda (Rex) McAdams and the sister of Kiley Jane McAdams. Jaelyn is the granddaughter of Robert and Maryann (Stellato) McAdams and Thomas and Jane (Reph) Rex. Jaelyn is also the great granddaughter of John McAdams, Peter Stellato, Vivian (Snyder) Rex, and Clarence Reph. Jaelyn's godparents are her uncles Gary Rex and Thomas McAdams and her aunt Jillian McAdams. The Reverend Ernest C. Diefenderfer officiated.

Thank you for all your help in keeping expenses down!



Who would you give your e-mail address to? Family? Friends? Why not the Church? If you have an e-mail address and would be willing to share it with other members of the church, please fill out your name and e-mail address on the space provided (please write legibly) and drop it in the offering plate for the deacons to give to the church office.

Name: _____

Email address: _____



Good Shepherd UCC
is honoring our Graduates
during Worship on June 12, 2011



Anyone who is graduating from High School, College, Trade School, etc. December 2009 or this year and belongs to Good Shepherd UCC, please contact the church office at 610.767.9680. Or fill out the information below and bring it to church with you!

Name: _____

Date of Graduation: _____

School/Institution: _____

Grade or Degree: _____

Future plans: _____

here our availability of basic necessities or sweet treats isn't a trip down the street. Know that your kindness and thoughtfulness matters and helps support our troops in more than gifts. The knowledge that complete strangers care and support us goes a lot further than most know or could even understand. I would like to share my sincere thanks on behalf of myself and the many soldiers who you have touched. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the sacrifice you have made for me and my Company.

Thank you so much and God bless,
Maurice Stephenson

Dear Good Shepherd UCC,

Your gift of \$300 put the faith of your congregation into action here at Phoebe! You are helping to bring fullness of life to those in our care. Thank you for your generous spirit at this time and all through the year.

Warm Regards,
Charles L. Fehr, Director, Leadership Gifts

Dear Good Shepherd UCC,

We thank you for your generous contribution of \$337.50. Every gift to Bethany helps us provide each youth with a greater sense of self-esteem, self-confidence, trust and security. Thank you for your generous support and for making Bethany part of your mission and ministry.

Sincerely,
Jonathan L. Henning, Chief Relations Officer

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES



Please, if you have a change in address and/or phone number, please let the office know as soon as possible so we can keep the church records updated and to update the church directory. You can email the changes to secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org. The church gets charged \$.75 for each returned newsletter when there is an address change.

The sacrament of baptism for **Oscar Oliver Levy Taschler** and **Eugene Paul Hrebin III** was celebrated Sunday, February 20, 2011. Oscar is the son of Jeremy and Kara (Burke) Taschler and was born January 27, 2011 in Allentown, PA. Oscar joins a sister, Viola. Oscar's grandparents are Michael and Cheryl (Bender) Bowers; and his great grandmothers are Linda (Fritz) Bowers and Mae (Butz) Bender. Eugene, born October 19, 2007, is the son of Gino Hrebin II and Neysha Burke. Eugene's grandparents are Carol (Hillegass) Hrebin and Michael and Cheryl (Bender) Bowers; and his great grandmothers are Bernice Hillegass, Linda (Fritz) Bowers and Mae (Butz) Bender. The Reverend James D. Robison, Jr. officiated.

The water used for the baptisms of Brennen, Adam, Jaelyn, Oscar and Eugene came from the Jordan River in the Holy Land. Rose buds were placed on the Altar in honor of their baptisms, and animals were placed on the Cradle Roll banner by a member of the Christian Education Board.

FUNERALS

Mabel Susanna (Roth) Peters, born February 4, 1914, died November 24, 2010. Services were held at Harding Funeral Home on December 1, 2010 with the Reverend James D. Robison, Jr. officiating. Interment was at Union Cemetery in Slatington, PA.

Ethel Irene (Evert) Bisko, born May 14, 1926, died December 14, 2010. Services were at Harding Funeral Home on December 18, 2010 with the Reverend James D. Robison, Jr. officiating.

Alice Ruth (Lever) Freed, born July 13, 1922, died January 25, 2011. Services were at Harding Funeral Home on January 30, 2011 with the Reverend James D. Robison, Jr. officiating. Interment was at Union Cemetery, Slatington, PA.

Stanley Robert Rumfield, Jr., born August 3, 1949, died January 25, 2011. Services were held at Heintzelman's Funeral Home on January 29, 2011 with the Rev. James D. Robison, Jr. officiating.

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

CHURCH NEWS AT A GLANCE

“Finding God’s blessings in serving others for Christ.”

CONSISTORY NEWS

Average church attendance and total offerings were:

Month	Average Attendance	Offerings
November	125	\$ 9,851.50
December	107	\$15,835.90
January	89	\$ 9,315.42

The Consistory would like to make you aware of the following:

March 2011 Expenses	Date Due	Amount
Verizon	March 4	\$ 40.26
First Niagara Bank (mortgage)	March 10	\$ 1,255.92
Advanced Business (supplies)	March 10	\$ 269.50
PPL (estimated bill)	March 13	\$ 400.00
Payroll (all employees)	March 15	\$ 4,387.95
The Hartford (workers’ comp)	March 16	\$ 78.14
Liberty Oil (due 10 days from bill receipt)		\$ 1,500.00
Pension Boards (quarterly pension & health)	March 30	\$ 4,191.07
UCCIB (quarterly liability insurance)	March 30	\$ 1,791.51
PA Dept of Labor & Industry (boiler inspection)	March 30	\$ 44.00
The Flower Patch	March 30	\$ 40.00
Payroll	March 30	\$ 2,367.29
County of Lehigh (small games license)	April 1	\$ 100.00
Total		\$16,465.64

~

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Altar Guild will be taking orders for **Easter Flowers!** An order form is included with this newsletter. Call Carol Oswald at 610.760.8015 for more information.

2011 Flower and Bulletin Charts are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. The cost is \$30 for flowers and \$10 for bulletins. There are still many dates open on both charts!

To the Youth group of Good Shepherd and their leaders,
Thank you for the visit while I was staying at the Village at Palmerton.

Frances Zellner

To all of the Youth group from Good Shepherd UCC,
God bless you all. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Eugene Miller

Dear members of the Good Shepherd youth group,
Thank you for the Christmas card. Appreciated very much.
Thank you and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jeanette DeLong

To the Generous Members of Good Shepherd UCC ~
On behalf of our friends who recently suffered the loss of their home to a house fire, I would like to extend a warm “THANK YOU” to the members of our church who kept them in their thoughts and prayers. I know it is a difficult time for this family and the thoughtful and caring cards, words of sentiment, and donation of clothing, toys, store/gift cards, etc. have been a blessing. They are very thankful for what they have received. Your gifts have helped them in many ways to get back on their feet.

I would also like to add my own words of gratitude for extending your kindness to a family outside of our church network. It is refreshing and moving to be reminded of how much we can help others (even though we don’t even know them) in a time of need!

Thank you and God Bless,
Alana Smoyer

Hello ~

I am SSG Stephenson and I would like to personally thank you for the wonderful gifts you sent my Company. I was so surprised when we received the items. I have been in the Army almost 20 years and still to this day am so grateful and amazed by all the civilians who take out of their time to appreciate the soldiers. Out

Best Wishes!

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY WISHES

Listen to WAEB AM-790 at 6:50am and/or 8:20am to hear the birthdays and anniversaries (with the traffic and weather together). Good Shepherd's birthdays and anniversary wishes have been submitted to this station since the beginning of October 2009. If your name is mentioned, you could win the random drawing for the Hotel Bethlehem Musical Sunday Brunch!

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Friends ~

To all those who kept me in your prayers, sent cards, visited in person or by phone, and helped in so many ways during my recent hospital stay and recuperation ~ I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your kindness and generous spirits are truly gifts from God not only for me but to all those who are ministered by the work so many do at Good Shepherd. God bless you all and may you continue to endeavor to do the LORD's work.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor James

Dear Pastor James and Congregation,

This Thanksgiving was especially dear to us, as God has blessed us by returning our son following four years of voluntary military service. Your prayers were covering him everywhere he was sent.

We can't thank you enough, and we praise God for our wonderful Church family.

Yours in Faith,
Eric and April Hantz

Dear Members of Good Shepherd UCC,

Please accept my sincere appreciation for all your cards and prayers during my recuperation from surgery. The phone calls and prayers mean so much.

Sincerely,
Susie Blose

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The **2010 Confirmation Class** is collecting **crushed aluminum cans** to be recycled as a fund raiser for Good Shepherd. Crushed cans can be brought in and placed in the container in the Narthex.

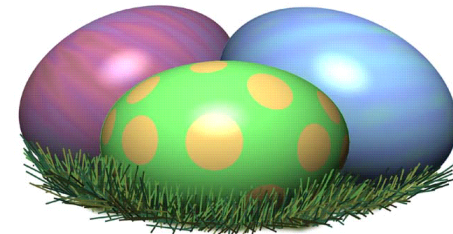
The Sunday School is in the midst of another Attendance Contest for February and March. The focus for each Sunday in March is:

March 6	Bring a Mother or Mother figure Day
March 13	Bring a shamrock and wear green
March 20	Bring a sign of Spring
March 27	March your donations of toiletries to church (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.)

There will be an **Easter program** by the Sunday School on **Palm Sunday, April 17** at **9:30am** during the Sunday School hour with refreshments served at the close of the program.

Egg coloring for the Easter Egg Hunt will be held in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, April 20** at **6:30pm**. Donations of hard-boiled eggs are requested.

The **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on **Saturday, April 23** at **11:00am**. Donations of candy-filled plastic eggs, **hard-boiled** eggs, hot dogs and rolls, and baked goods will be greatly appreciated. Sign up sheets will be in the narthex for these items at the end of March.



Monthly Honorable Attendance for Sunday School

November

Nursery:	Noah Griffith Leah Rumfield	Dale Knittle (T)
Beginners:	Kathryn Griffith Dalton Rumfield	Bryan Puskas (T) Pam Puskas (T)
Primary:	Trevor Hartmaier Cassie Knittle	Thomas Trotter
Middlers:	Paige Bachman Keyla Saez Matthew Shields	Barbara Kremposky (T) Phillip White (T)
Adult:	Marie Detrick Janet German Evelyn Haas Lee Haas Brenda Horn Freda Horn	Mabel Knittle Lynne Newhard Jessica Rumfield Barry Silfies Marion Straub

December

Beginners:	Pam Puskas (T)	
Primary:	Trevor Hartmaier	
Middlers:	Keyla Saez Barbara Kremposky (T)	Ann Johnson (T)
Adult:	Marie Detrick Janet German Brenda Horn Freda Horn Frank Johnson Mabel Knittle	Robert Koons Barbara Neff Lynne Newhard Michelle Schramel Barry Silfies Marion Straub

January

Nursery:	Carter Thomas Madison Thomas	Dale Knittle (T)
Beginners:	Pam Puskas (T)	
Primary:	Trevor Hartmaier Cassie Knittle	Sue Blose (T)
Middlers:	Paige Bachman Ann Johnson (T)	Barbara Kremposky (T)
Youth:	Kelsey Knittle	

May Birthdays

5/1	Lisa Kuntz	5/18	Anna Trelease
5/1	Tyler Rex	5/19	Linda Schock
5/2	Kyan Block	5/20	Kailie Tuggle
5/2	William Fister	5/22	Gregory Schuck
5/2	Ronald Silliman	5/23	Kelsey Kuntz
5/2	Karen Smith	5/23	Breonna Richardson
5/3	Caleb Oswald	5/25	Cynthia Bilheimer
5/5	Barry Rice, Sr.	5/26	Carrie Block
5/6	Tracey Gursky	5/26	Glenn Knappenberger
5/6	Brennen Scott	5/26	Brandon Lloyd
5/7	Dorothy Wanamaker	5/26	Emily Moore
5/8	Paige Neff	5/26	Brad Rohde
5/9	Janice Farber	5/26	LaRue Roth
5/10	Kiersten Fink	5/26	Zachary Solt
5/10	Keegan Kohler	5/27	Dylan Coffin
5/11	Jason George	5/27	Jackie Minnich
5/12	Annette Haas	5/27	Gabriella Smoyer
5/12	Hayley Knittle	5/28	Amanda Bowers
5/13	Mabel Knittle	5/28	Richard Schock
5/13	Matthew Shields	5/29	David Silfies
5/14	Alleigh Leverence	5/31	Cheryl Bowers
5/15	Richard Kuntz	5/31	Fred Keller
5/16	Donna Fox	5/31	Amber Schwartz
5/16	Autumn Rohde		
5/16	Ember Rohde		

May Anniversaries

5/1	Dale & Amy (Neff) Knittle	5/11	Jeff & Lucinda (Biegly) Wirth
5/2	Donald & Roxy (Oldt) Schraden	5/14	Kevin & Kellie (Romig) Smith
5/3	Travis & Linda (German) Fink	5/17	Willard & Barbara (Handwerk) Neff
5/3	Paul & Amanda (Rex) McAdams	5/17	Gerald & Shirley (Bowman) Phillips
5/3	Carlton & Terri (Reinheimer) Miller	5/18	Walter & Donna (Kuntz) Fox
5/5	Michael & Carrie (Kohler) Block	5/23	Erick & Tania (Olsen) Kresge
5/6	Butch & Ellen (Mack) Biegly	5/25	David & Elaine (Reeser) Bilheimer
5/6	Jason & Tammy (Henninger) Fichner	5/25	David & Lisa (Duke) Neff
5/7	Ed & Karen (Youse) Smith	5/27	Randy & Carol (Gruber) Kresge
5/8	Steven & Christine (Heatter) Shelly	5/27	Tadd & Krista (Smith) Williams
5/11	William & Janice (Neff) Hartmaier		

April Birthdays

4/3 Lamont Kern	4/18 Aiden Solt
4/4 Karen Bachman	4/20 Greyson Ahner
4/4 Tina Minnich	4/20 Chelsea Bilheimer
4/5 Michael Kocher	4/21 Jamie Walters
4/6 Freda Horn	4/22 Richard Kunkle, Jr.
4/7 Emily George	4/22 Jayden Burke
4/7 Beth-Ann Haas	4/24 Jeffrey Bilheimer
4/8 Jane Falat	4/24 Jean Neff
4/8 Lisa Hydro	4/25 Emily Fister
4/10 Jordan Hunsicker	4/26 Tanner Filchner
4/12 Randy Ahner	4/26 Norene Rice
4/12 Krista Hydro	4/27 Benjamin Griffith
4/13 Ruth Peters	4/29 Joseph Conway, III
4/14 Ryan Yenser	4/29 Kamryn Fink
4/15 Amanda Trelease	4/29 Candy Hartwig
4/16 Roxy Schraden	4/29 Alex Heckman
4/17 Cody Neff	4/30 Adam George

April Anniversaries

4/1 William and Donna (Berger) Heller
4/4 Blaine and Brenda (Fatzinger) Horn
4/5 Dale and Felicia (Kocher) Kern
4/7 Ronald and LaRue (Hoffman) Roth
4/11 Dean and Linda (Edelman) Schellhamer
4/16 William and Diane (Wassum) Fister
4/16 Lee and Evelyn (Bachman) Haas
4/17 Nelson and Jean (Walters) Frantz
4/21 Joe and Pam (Bossons) Puskas
4/24 Jeff and Linda (Bachman) Coffin

Note: if we've missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact church secretary Debbie Silfies at 610.767.9680.

Adult:	Janet German	Sharen Rice
	Brenda Horn	Barry Silfies
	Freda Horn	Marion Straub
	Frank Johnson	Angie Thomas
	Barbara Neff	

~

EVANGELISM NEWS

The committee is looking for one or more people to take photographs with the church camera and provide written documentation of the events to be placed on the church web site and in the newsletter. If you are interested in participating, please see Dan or Lynne Newhard, Ann Johnson or Shirley Smith.

Plans are in the works to revamp the church's website. If you have any suggestions or ideas let Stephen Haas, David DeLong, Andrzej Pilacik, Deb Craig or Debbie Silfies know.

~

FUND RAISING NEWS

There will be a **Walk In Basket Social on Saturday, March 5, 2011 from 11:00am to 3:00pm**. The kitchen will be open for food sales as well as a bake sale. If you would like to donate a basket or a baked item, please have them in Fellowship Hall before 10:00am that morning. Any questions, please contact Carol Krum at 610.767.8406.

Watch for information about the **Meat and Money Raffle** to be held **Sunday, May 22, 2011 at 12:15pm**. Tickets will be \$5 each. The committee is asking each member of the congregation to try and sell 20 tickets to make this a successful fund raiser.

Redner's tapes can be redeemed for a 1% refund to benefit Good Shepherd - if you are registered at Redner's with the information that the refund goes to Good Shepherd. The tapes may then be deposited in the appropriate box in the Narthex.

The **grey shed** located in the overflow parking area of the church property is now operated by **Via of the Lehigh Valley**. Via of the Lehigh Valley provides services for children and adults with a

wide range of disabilities like autism, downs syndrome and cerebral palsy. Via's mission is to provide leadership, support, opportunities and resources for people with disabilities so they may be independent, productive and enjoy full lives within the community. Via collects the clothing in the shed periodically and sends Good Shepherd UCC a check for the amount of clothing that has been collected. Good Shepherd UCC and Via of the Lehigh Valley thank you for your donations.

~

MEMORIAL NEWS

The Memorial Committee thanks the following for their donations

In Memory of **Kenneth & Ruth Bilheimer:**

BROWN PRINTING COMPANY	Esther Iovanna
Margaret Anthony	Franklin & Anna Johnson
Madeline Balliet	Arlan & Barbara Mantz
Mary Bilheimer	Verna Meckes
Marion Bohunicky Family	Michael & Virginia Mizur
Barbara DeLong	John Jr. & Joanne Sipos
Alan & Priscilla Greiss	John & Susan Zellner

(Lists compiled February 2011)

PERSONNEL NEWS

Pastor James will be on vacation from Wednesday, March 2 through Tuesday, March 8, 2011. If there is a pastoral emergency, call Linda Bowers at 484.602.4695.

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PROPERTY NEWS

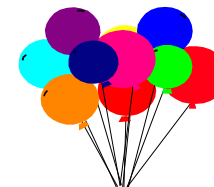
The Property Committee will be looking for **volunteers** to help cut grass and weed the gardens for the spring and summer. If you can help out, please sign the sheet in the narthex or call the church office.

March Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3/1 Dolores Gruber | 3/17 Madelynn Mack |
| 3/1 Richard Reeser | 3/18 Linda Henninger |
| 3/2 Liz Fogelman | 3/19 Barb A. Neff |
| 3/2 Melissa Gellis | 3/20 Daniel Davidson |
| 3/3 Carlton Miller | 3/21 Mackenzie Ferber |
| 3/4 Frances Kuntz | 3/22 Linda Coffin |
| 3/4 Kellie Smith | 3/23 Jeanette DeLong |
| 3/6 Denise Biegly | 3/24 Eric Smith |
| 3/6 Barry Heil | 3/25 Skip Detrick |
| 3/6 Robert Kuntz | 3/25 Tania Kresge |
| 3/7 Debra Craig | 3/26 Douglas Farber |
| 3/7 James George, Jr. | 3/26 Michael Gellis |
| 3/8 Sonja Derkits | 3/26 Carter Giberson |
| 3/9 Cassie Knittle | 3/27 Aaron Oswald |
| 3/9 Missy Lilly | 3/27 Richard Smith |
| 3/9 Anthony Zelinsky | 3/28 Kevin Fister |
| 3/12 Tiffany Lloyd | 3/29 Beth Kern |
| 3/13 Eric Heckman | 3/29 Brett Kern |
| 3/13 Barry Silfies | 3/29 Dale Kern |
| 3/13 Lucinda Wirth | 3/29 Helen Wanamaker |
| 3/14 Lynne Newhard | 3/30 Richard Kohler |
| 3/16 Patricia Rehrig | |

March Anniversaries

- | |
|--|
| 3/16 John and Joanne (Hilbert) Passaro |
| 3/21 Richard and Elizabeth (Dailey) Fogelman |
| 3/21 James and Eileen (Walters) George |



SERVICES

Sunday School at 9:30am
Worship at 8:30 and 11:00am

MISSION

Finding God's blessings in serving others through Christ.

LEADERS OF WORSHIP

8:30am Services

	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>
Presiding Deacon	Ed Smith	Bryan Puskas	Bryan Puskas
Acolyte	Matthew Shields	Paige Bachman	Matthew Shields
Greeters	Deb Craig	Frank & Ann Johnson	Carol & Jennifer Blose

11:00am Services

	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>
Presiding Deacon	Justin Zelinsky	Jim George	Jim George
Acolyte	Chelsea Bilheimer	Matthew Shields	Paige Bachman
Lay Reader	Greg Williams	Tammy White	Tammy White
Greeters	TBD	Don & Roxy Schraden	Frank & Penny Berger
Altar Guild	Mandi Trelease	Tracey Gursky	Beth-Ann Haas

Special Services

	Ash Wednesday	Maundy Thursday
Presiding Elder	David DeLong	Linda Bowers
Presiding Deacon	Ed Smith	Ed Smith

Easter

	6:00am	8:30am	11:00am
Presiding Elder	Karen Kuntzman	David DeLong	Linda Bowers
Presiding Deacon	Robert Koons	Bryan Puskas	Jim George
Acolyte	TBD	Paige Bachman	Matthew Shields



STEWARDSHIP NEWS

For many years the Stewardship Committee has been highly criticized because they lift up the questions, why do you give?, what do you give? and how do you give? These are personal questions and it seems the average person doesn't like a stranger meddling in personal affairs. I've also noticed that few people are willing to serve on stewardship, and I think part of the reason is the lack of support and affirmation this committee receives because of asking the all-too-personal questions and the sometimes nasty responses committee members receives from what would otherwise be faithful members.

With these harsh economic times, people losing their jobs and the growing frustration on how to meet the needs of food, shelter and health concerns, it seems strange that the stewardship committee has grown extremely quiet and few dare even speak its name. No one wants to add to the frustrations we all live with, but the truth is ~ these same harsh economic times are hitting our faith community. What are we to do, or say? It is time the Stewardship Committee speaks. And this is what I think God would want the Stewardship Committee to say ...

“When faced with unexpected trials, many of us can be so overwhelmed by the immediacy of the problem that we are unable to foresee any possible benefit or good outcome. However, as Christians, we can turn to the many passages in the Bible which remind us that God cares for us and desires good for us, even in the midst of trials. Where the physical eye sees challenges, the eye of faith sees possibilities.”

My hope is that we are able to continue to see the possibilities at Good Shepherd. I ask that you continue to pray for the ministry of Good Shepherd and for the faithfulness of each and every member to respond with God's help to do what Christ has done for us ~ to be there, in worship and in service.

Your Stewardship Committee

WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will be celebrated at Good Shepherd UCC on **Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 7:30pm**, with Scripture reading beginning at 7:00pm. Midweek Lenten Services will be held for the next six Wednesdays with reading at 7:00pm and the worship service at 7:30pm.

Maundy Thursday Communion service will be held Thursday, **April 21, 2011 at 7:30pm**.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil will be held at Good Shepherd on Friday, **April 22, 2011 from noon to 3:00pm**. **Good Friday Community service** will be held at **Good Shepherd** on Friday, **April 22, 2011 at 7:30pm**.

Easter Communion services will be at **6:00am, 8:30am and 11:00am** on Sunday, **April 24, 2011**; and Sunday School at 9:30.

~

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

During the Christmas season, the youth group members sent Christmas cards to our 80 years and older members. Also, on Sunday, December 5th, 26 youth and adults went Christmas Caroling and delivered “fragrant jelly jars” (which the youth group made) to 10 members on the Church’s prayer concern list.

The Youth Group and Confirmation Class participated in the annual Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 12th with their first Puppet Show production of “*Let there be Peace on Earth.*” A special thank you to Bob Koons for supplying the puppets and stage, as well as assisting with the rehearsals.

We are sponsoring a youth Bowling night at the Slate Bowl on Thursday, March 10 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. There is a sign up sheet in the church narthex for youth and adults. Prices include 2 games/shoes for \$5.00 or 3 games/shoes for \$7.00. Contact Janice Farber at 610.760.9231 or Lisa Kuntz at 610.767.3549 for more information.

The Youth members will be delivering Easter baskets to the church homebound members on Saturday, April 9th.

(Lectionary continued)

LECTIONARY FOR LENT

- March 9 Ash Wednesday
Gospel Lesson: John 6: 35-40
Meditation: **“I am the bread of life”**
- March 16 Second Wednesday of Lent
Gospel Lesson: John 8:12-18
Meditation: **“I am the light of the world”**
- March 23 Third Wednesday of Lent
Gospel Lesson: John 10:7-10
Meditation: **“I am the gate for the sheep”**
- March 30 Fourth Wednesday of Lent
Gospel Lesson: John 10:11-18
Meditation: **“I am the Good Shepherd”**
- April 6 Fifth Wednesday of Lent
Gospel Lesson: John 11:25-27
Meditation: **“I am the resurrection and the life”**
- April 13 Sixth Wednesday of Lent
Gospel Lesson: John 14:6-7
Meditation: **I am the way and the truth and the life”**
- April 21 Maundy Thursday
Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-5
Meditation: **“I am the true vine”**



FAITH AND MISSION SPONSORS

Since the last newsletter the following missions were lifted up for the congregation to support and the following contributions were made in honor or memory of loved ones:

November - The Christmas Fund

Jonathan and Monica Griffith
Carol Oswald

In honor of Pastor James by Barry and Debbie Silfies

In honor of all Good Shepherd UCC Pastors past and present by
John and Susan Zellner

To the honor and glory of **God** by Joyful Noise offering

Total Contributions: \$97.50

December - AIDS Awareness

Jonathan and Monica Griffith
John and Susan Zellner

To the honor and glory of **God** by Joyful Noise offering

Total Contributions: \$62.50

January - Child Sponsorship

Madeline Balliet

Eric Hantz

Sue Blose

Kerry and Sally Loch

Linda Bowers

Dan and Lynne Newhard

Jeff and Linda Coffin

Pastor James Robison

Albert and Jane Falat

Craig and Sallie Solt

Jim and Laura George

Todd and Julie Solt

Jonathan and Monica Griffith

Marion Straub

Lee and Evelyn Haas

Total Contributions: \$255.00

There are **envelopes** for the **Faith & Mission** calendar. On the envelope there is a place for you to mark the month of your contribution, who it is in honor or memory of, and who is making the donation as well as the amount. You can then place your request on the Faith & Mission calendar in the Narthex and then place your envelope either in the Faith & Mission box or in the Offering Plate during worship.

(Lectionary continued)

April 24	Easter Sunday	Hebrew Lesson: Jeremiah 31:1-6
		Epistle Lesson: Colossians 3:1-4
		Gospel Lesson: Matthew 28:1-10
		<i>Meditation: Easter Sunday</i>
May 1	Second Sunday of Easter	Book of Acts: Acts 2:14a, 22-32
		Epistle Lesson: I Peter 1:3-9
		Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31
		<i>Meditation: Body Language</i>
May 8	Third Sunday of Easter	Book of Acts: Acts 2:14a, 36-41
		Epistle Lesson: I Peter 1:17-23
		Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:13-35
		<i>Meditation: Breaking Bread</i>
May 15	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Book of Acts: Acts 2:42-27
		Epistle Lesson: I Peter 2:19-25
		Gospel Lesson: John 10:1-10
		<i>Meditation: Powerful Witness</i>
May 22	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Book of Acts: Acts 7:55-60
		Epistle Lesson: I Peter 2:2-10
		Gospel Lesson: John 14:1-14
		<i>Meditation: Enduring Witness</i>
May 29	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Book of Acts: Acts 17:22-31
		Epistle Lesson: I Peter 3:13-22
		Gospel Lesson: John 14:15-21
		<i>Meditation: Witness of Love</i>



NORTHERN LEHIGH FOOD BANK

Harvest Home was held in September at Good Shepherd. A total of 168 pounds of assorted food was donated to the Food Bank.

For the month of November the Food Bank distributed Thanksgiving dinners to 323 families. Our Youth Fellowship helped distribute the meals. Each church was asked to donate one food product. Good Shepherd donated 300 cans of corn.

Also, in the month of December, the Food Bank distributed Christmas dinners. Good Shepherd donated 352 cans of corn.

Thanks again for your support throughout 2010.

We collected soup for Souper Bowl Sunday on February 6, 2011.

Looking ahead, we will be collecting 300 cans of corn for Easter meals. Please bring in your donations by Sunday April 10, 2011.

The **Food Bank** can always use **canned tuna, peanut butter, soup, and canned pasta**. If anyone would like to donate these items over the course of the year, please bring to church and place the donations in the shopping cart.

If anyone is interested in volunteering at the Northern Lehigh Food Bank please contact Barbara DeLong at 610-767-6006.



LECTIONARY

March 6	Transfiguration Sunday Hebrew Lesson: Exodus 24:12-18 Epistle Lesson: II Peter 1:16-21 Gospel Lesson: Matthew 17:1-9 <i>Meditation: Dazzling Reign</i>
March 13	First Sunday of Lent Hebrew Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Epistle Lesson: Romans 5:12-19 Gospel Lesson: Matthew 4:1-11 <i>Meditation: Abundant Grace</i>
March 20	Second Sunday of Lent Hebrew Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a Epistle Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Gospel Lesson: John 3:1-17 <i>Meditation: Bold Blessing</i>
March 27	Third Sunday of Lent Hebrew Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7 Epistle Lesson: Romans 5:1-11 Gospel Lesson: John 4:5-42 <i>Meditation: Thirsty Voices</i>
April 3	Fourth Sunday of Lent Hebrew Lesson: I Samuel 16:1-13 Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14 Gospel Lesson: John 9:1-41 <i>Meditation: Restored</i>
April 10	Fifth Sunday of Lent Hebrew Lesson: Exekiel 37:1-14 Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:6-11 Gospel Lesson: John 11:1-45 <i>Meditation: Breath of Hope</i>
April 17	Palm Sunday Hebrew Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a Epistle Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11 Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21:1-11 <i>Meditation: Palm/Passion Sunday</i>