

JANUARY - 2012

The mission of Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) is to provide a place of fellowship where a community of believers comes together to be spiritually renewed and enabled to effectively witness for Christ through service to others.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 3rd – Deacon Meeting – 7:00 PM
January 4th – Choir Practice – 7:00 PM
January 10th – Trustees - 7:00 PM
January 11th – Choir Practice – 7:00 PM
January 12th – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
January 15th – MOPW Meeting – 2:00 PM
January 18th – Choir Practice – 7:00 PM
January 16th – Circle #2 – 7:00 PM
January 25th – Choir Practice – 7:00 PM
February 1st – Choir Practice – 7:00 PM

THANK YOU

Thank you all for your giving of toys for all of the children. A motion was made and seconded to simple gesture can warm so many hearts. May God Bless You!

MOPW

Shirley Miller reported that there were 61 lap blankets made and donated to the Office of the Aging. Also the ladies purchased six cardigan sweaters for residents of the Ware Presbyterian Village.

STITCH AND PRAYER CLUB

Now that all of the holiday hub-bub is past, it's time to occupy those idle moments by attending the Stitch and Prayer Club. Bring anything that you would like to work on. Handcrafts, knitting, crocheting, needlework, whatever. We are always looking for new members. Come and fellowship with us. Everyone is welcome!

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter deadline is January 29th. Please place any items in the Newsletter Box in the Library, or email to Val Keene at vl17566keene@epix.net or barttwp@comcast.net. Nothing is too small to be included. This is your newsletter, let's make it happen!

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

SAY A PRAYER

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served.

When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. 'Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer.' said his mother.

'I don't need to,' the boy replied. 'Of course, you do.' his mother insisted. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.' 'That's at our house.' Johnny explained. 'But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!'

UNANSWERED PRAYER

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.

'Well, Honey,' he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. 'I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon.'

'How come He doesn't answer it?' she asked.

MISSION MUSINGS

As I thought about this month's musings I decided to tell you a bit about the many missions the MO church family was involved with this fall.

Many folks spent hours of time and effort so that the annual Holiday Bazaar, MOPW's largest fund raiser of the year, would be a success. It was a great time of fun and fellowship with friends and folks from the local community.

Then there was the Spaghetti Supper – a time when youth and adults work together to provide a tasty meal and raise funds for their mission trip to Clinton, Tennessee. MOYG also sold Christmas Wreaths as another fund raiser for their mission trip.

Nancy Harnish did a great job, with the children's help, in the promotion of the collection for the Sol Kids. This was an effort to collect toys for the less fortunate of our area.

Several ladies of the church made lap robes throughout the year. These robes were donated to the Office of the Aging in December, bringing smiles and warmth to Senior Citizens.

The Mission Committee made and sold wreaths, center pieces and cheese logs to raise funds to help with travel costs for the annual Peru Mission trip to our Sister Church in Tamshiyacu. The Committee also provided an opportunity for folks to participate in an Alternative Christmas Giving program. The proceeds will purchase water filtration buckets for the people in Tamshiyacu. Clean water is a gift of life, as Jesus is the life-giving Savior to all who confess and believe.

On a pleasant, chilly Sunday evening, 30 adults and youth boarded a school bus to go Christmas Caroling. From Georgetown, to Christiana, to Quarryville, we traveled to six homes and sang to Shut Ins. We then visited QPRC and sang to over a dozen more folks. It was a night of fun and joy for the carolers, as well as the Residents. We returned to church and wrapped up the evening with coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and other snacks.

Wow! What an outpouring of love and giving! Many thanks to all who organized and participated in any of these events.

Jesus calls us to Worship and Serve Him with our time, talents and treasures. Let us continue to be faithful servants reaching out in love to help everyone we can.

James 2:17 – “Even so, faith if it hath not works is dead.”

Dan Henry, Mission Committee Chair.

REFLECTIONS
BY Barry Girvin

Do We Have A Right To Be Happy?

About ten years ago a classmate of mine showed up at our reunion with a new wife about half his age. His comment to me was "...Barry, I am really happy." As we watched them dance, Shirley said "...He will be dead in five years." Five years later he came to the reunion single and only looked like he was dead. Is happiness a fleeting thing?

No, happiness is just confused with having a perfect life. They are not the same thing. It is also confused with the things we desire. TV commercials and sitcoms show supposedly happy people made so by material things and hedonistic life that values pleasure and rejects responsibility and commitment. Happiness is not just what we have or even the mood we happen to be in at any given time. It is a deep and complex feeling of well-being that emerges from our character, the decisions we make, but mostly from God's grace and His promise that we will be able to deal with whatever life has to offer. We can be happy through tears of joy as well as tears of sorrow.

Unfortunately, today many people have a very selfish attitude as per happiness. It is everyone else's job to make them happy. They feel that their happiness gauges must be checked regularly by their peers. People like this will never really be happy because to them it is a "me" thing. Life is give and take, not just take.

I am a happy person but rarely show it since I am also a moody, intense perfectionist. I am quick to pick up on the emotions of others and allow them to drive my moods. That is why I dread the holidays and all the emotions going around to sample. However, underneath it all is a true sense of happiness which emanates from the knowledge that my God, my spouse and my family love me as I love them. That does not mean that they always please me or even try to please me. Also, it does not mean that I have low expectations about happiness and thus go into the game of life with a leg up on everyone else. What it does mean is that happiness is a blessing not a right and I will take any of it that God sees fit to send my way. He even sends some my way at Christmas as I focus on Him and not on the crazy quilt of emotions that flood my senses during the festive season.

PRAYER LIST

PRAYERS

Faye Reinhart
Shirley Graver
Brandon Lefevre
Gladys Gibson
Betty Kindler
Melissa Moore
Our Congregation

John Irwin
Paul Reinhart
Kay Reinhart
Don Caldwell
Kevin Caskey
Tina Volz

SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

John Diller
Dave Garver
Justin Pfeiffer
Cory Barrett
Sean Lefever

John Rineer
Joey Hamilton
Chad Ressel
Wes Girvin
Chad Ankney

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.....

Jan. 2nd – Virgil Roark
Jan. 3rd – Molly Keene, John W. Rineer V.
Jan. 5th – Annetta Frackman
Jan. 6th – Curtis Reinhart
Jan. 7th – Caley Roark
Jan. 8th – Austin Evans
Jan. 13th – Kim Smyth

Jan. 16th – Wayne Rice
Jan. 22nd – Ray Wessner, Kevin
Frackman, Alma McComsey
Jan. 28th – Louise Brown, Troy Berry
Jan. 29th - Faith Keene, Paul Armer Sr.
Tami Mullis
Feb1st – Melinda Barrett, Wayne
Messick
Feb 2nd – John Ressel, Robert Brown

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 30th – Jim and Kay Bueche