



LEWISTOWN CHURCH
Presbyterian

Shining the light of the gospel into the heart of Lewistown since 1785

THE PANORAMA

The Newsletter of
The Lewistown
Presbyterian
Church

December/January

2017/2018

**A Christmas event for
the whole family!**

**Join us for
Unforgettable Fun!**

**RSVP by calling the
church at
717-248-4561
17 E Third Street
Lewistown**

**Snacks and
Christmas Carols, too!**

**Families create their very
own Keepsake nativity
scenes and watch as
the nativity comes to
life on stage.**

**Come capture
memories from the
first Christmas and
celebrate the best
Keepsake of
all...Jesus!**



SATURDAY, December 2, 2017, 10:00—11:30 AM

You will also:

- * meet Mary and hear about the journey to Bethlehem; then reminisce about their own family trips
- * meet Joseph and envision Jesus' birth in a stable; then remember how their family prepared for and celebrated new arrivals
- * discover what Jesus' name means; then share stories about their names
- * meet the Angel that shared the good news of Jesus' birth with the shepherds; then recall times their family received good news
- * realize that Jesus is a keepsake to treasure, not just at Christmas but every day!
- * Call us today to let us know you will be coming @ 717-248-4561!

Make sure to see page 5 for a list of other Advent and Christmas activities, concerts, and worship services.

PASTOR'S PAGE

From Pastor James Thomas



When pastors get together one of our shared laments is the fact that fewer and fewer people are making the commitment to be in church on a regular basis. We share the frustration that many people only hear one or two messages in any sermon series, even if that series lasts for a few months. For example, during the series on spiritual disciplines the last three months, some may have only heard about the discipline of fasting, or study, or something else while there were ten different disciplines addressed. Of course the key to successful spiritual discipline is to find what works for you and build a few of the disciplines into your life. When you've only heard about one or two, you do not have the privilege of knowing all of the options available to you.

As an Academic Advisor at Penn State my wife Devon sometimes deals with a student who is failing a class and wonders why they cannot get a passing grade. When she asks if they actually attend the classes, they often admit that they do not. This reminds me of the nightmare that many of us still have many years after graduating college. In the nightmare we discover that we have an upcoming exam and realize that we did not learn what we needed to because we were not aware of when the classes were meeting or for some other reason failed to attend. Devon has to tell her students something they should already know: being there to hear what the professor says in lectures helps them to know what the professor will ask on exams.

I realize that I am not a professor and that I do not give exams nor do I have the authority to give grades on church attendance and participation — nor would I want that responsibility! But I am concerned, though, as someone who believes in the content and value of my "lectures," that people are not hearing the information that I believe God is giving me to convey. The Bible is full of warnings against "false belief" and the importance of knowing, believing and living what God has revealed in God's Word. Church is the primary classroom of God's Word for most of us.

I am also aware that the sermon is not the only part of the worship service. As the Westminster Catechism declares, the main purpose for

humanity is to love God and enjoy God forever. We were created to worship God. That is why it is not enough just to learn about God. We must be in a relationship with God that includes, praise, learning, conversation, worship, etc.

The Bible goes even further. The writer of Hebrews cautions: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." The idea of a solitary Christian was inconceivable to the writers of Scripture. The Bible gives us many images of the church: they are nearly all corporate. We are likened to a body with many parts, a kingdom with many subjects, a building made up of many stones and a family made up of many members. It is clear that we are meant to be together! Sunday worship is the primary means by which most Christians gather. To miss worship is to miss out on what the other believers have to offer you. But it also keeps them from gaining what you have to offer.

I am aware that there are many things competing for people's time and that it is difficult to choose our priorities. However, I believe that if Jesus Christ is truly Lord of All and Lord of our lives, being active within his Body will be at the top of the priority list. There are, of course, those weeks that it is impossible to attend and that is understood. But I encourage you to make a commitment to be in church whenever it is possible to do so. Even when out of town, you can grow and be encouraged by attending a church wherever you may be. When you have house guests, rather than using them as a reason not to attend church, why not bring them with you? Worshiping together is one of the greatest ways to build relationships with those we love — and to encourage them to know Christ!

Consider the many influences on our lives throughout the week. Many of those influences lead us away from God's truth rather than toward it. It is easy to become confused. Is it not therefore wise to give priority to what will guide us deeper into true knowledge of and real relationship with the one true God? I encourage you to join us at worship each week. See you in church!

WINTER ON THE FARM

Rev. Robert Zorn

Our nearest neighbors out here in Treaster Valley are an Amish couple with seven small children. Their house and barn are located approximately 250 yards from our back door. There is a grove of trees in the area between our homes, so in the summer we see very little of each



the thump, thump of the washer's agitator. Washed clothes were hung on the clothes line to dry, outside if weather permitted; if not, in the upstairs bedrooms. Getting ready for school sometimes required fighting through a forest of wet sheets

other and our respective activities. But now in winter, there is a clear view between us. We can observe each other if we choose to do so. From what we can see and hear, the Amish farm life in winter is not so much different than was the experience of my early years on our home farm back in western Pennsylvania many years ago. For example, before daybreak a lantern can be seen moving back and forth between their house and barn. Their roosters crow, the cattle low, the horses neigh and snort as they are turned out to drink at the water trough. On Monday mornings we hear the purr of the little gasoline motor running the washing machine. Freshly washed clothes are hung up to dry.

Our Amish neighbors seem to survive happily without all the modern conveniences, which we "English" consider so necessary.

It does not seem so long ago when our family lived much the same as our neighbors do still. Our family of nine consisted of our parents, three girls and four boys. Our home could boast of only two modern conveniences: electricity and the party line telephone.

Winter for us presented the greatest challenges, which called for dedication and cooperation. On Sunday night we would put the 25 gallon copper wash boiler on the kitchen range and fill it with water from the well or sometimes from the rain barrels so there would be hot water for the first washer load on Monday morning. The alarm clock for us kids was usually

and underwear.

Outside chores were just as arduous, if not more so. First, if there had been snow, a path had to be broken to the barn, chicken houses and pig pen, and feed and water distributed. Milking was not an unpleasant task, because at least the stable was warm. The ice had to be broken in the water trough so that the horses and cattle could drink. Back at the house, ashes had to be lifted from the stoves and fireplaces, and coal buckets filled and carried back into the house. Breakfast usually offered bacon and eggs, rolled oats, and sometimes fried mush.

About once every winter there would be a blizzard which would fill the lanes with drifted snow, which even the old Dodge with chains on could not break through. But we could always walk through the fields to school or to the highway where we could catch a ride with neighbors who were not snow bound. Rarely the milk for the dairy had to be hauled by horse and wagon out to the highway for the milkman to pick up and deliver to the milk plant.

Over a hundred winters have come and gone in the experiences of the nine persons mentioned above. Three of us are still living. The story of our survival has been dependent upon everyone fulfilling his or her responsibilities. And our lives have been, and are still maintained by the faith that after every winter there is a spring. So it is with our Christian Faith and Family. Through all the seasons of our lives, God is with us.

"For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in the land" ~ Song of Solomon 2: 11,12

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMUNIQUE

From CE Director, Ginny Westover

Even the most organized among us has sighed, "I can't believe it's that time of year again!" By the time you read this article, yet another holiday season will be upon us. And in just a few, short, weeks it will have passed. The question is, how will *you* pass through this holiday season? What will the state of your soul be when you land on the other side of the festivities?

It's likely that the holidays confront us with more choices than any other time of year. When will we have our family get-togethers? Who will host the gathering? What will be on the menu? Will I bake four or fourteen kinds of Christmas cookies this year? When will we decorate? What gift will I get for Aunt Edna? How will we get the kids from point A to point B, over to points C and D and back home again? Is this *really* the Christmas we want to get a puppy? What charities will we give to? What concerts, events, and bazaars will we attend? And how will we pay for it all? It's enough to make one want to throw the figgy pudding across the room! (If we choose to Google the recipe in the first place, that is...).

This deluge of decision making also brings us face to face with our limitations; or at least gives us a vague awareness that we have them. Each of us has limits of time, space, strength and energy. There are limits of finances and limits that come with the particular season of life that we're in. Depending on our personality type, we have limits to our capacity for relationships. We can choose to accept and live within our limits, push against them or ignore our limits altogether. The last option brings us to crash and burn status quickly. Many of us choose to push against our limits, especially in the midst of the holiday season. There's just SO MUCH to do! Who hasn't been guilty of burning the proverbial candle on both ends at least once? I am not proud to admit that for many years our family pictures around the Christmas tree revealed eager, smiling faces of six kids and one haggard mom, looking something

akin to the "before" shot of a glamour make-over. One too many gifts left to wrap, a floor that *had* to be scrubbed, stockings needing to be filled, etc. etc. left me physically exhausted, mentally numb, and spiritually dying. I celebrated a completed check list more than I celebrated Christ. I was awed more by the realization that I had made it to the end of the holidays without getting sick than the wonder of God wrapping Himself in flesh and coming to live among us. I may have gained a lot by the world's standards, but I was losing my soul. It took quite a while for me to come to that realization. It took an even longer time to make changes. Thankfully, I am not the person I was and our Christmas celebrations have become more focused and simplified, more life giving than depleting. Still, I remain in need of continual soul-monitoring. I will ask myself the same question I will ask you, who are reading this, "What shape do you want your soul to be in at the end of this holiday season?" If we are parents, we can ask the same question about our children.

There's a really good chance that no one answered, "Depleted and downcast." Yet, unless we are deliberate about setting aside time to care for that very center of our life, that deepest, most important part of our self we call our soul, "depleted and downcast" will surely be the result. That description is far from the (Mt.11:29) "rest for your soul" that Jesus promises we will find when we come to Him and learn from Him. The retailers' continuous clarion call to "spend, spend, spend" may promise any number of results, but "rest for your soul" is not among them.

This holiday season, Jesus invites each of us to come to Him, to linger at the manger and learn His ways, to worship Him and be still in His presence. Accepting the invitation takes a deliberate effort to live within our limitations and an intentional decision to stop doing and just be. We will find the outcome to be oh, so worth it; post-holiday peace and a rested soul.



*I've made the same mistake before
Too many malls, too many stores
December traffic, Christmas rush
It breaks me till I push and shove
I need a silent night, a holy night
To hear an angel voice
through the chaos and the noise
I need a midnight clear, a little peace right here
To end this crazy day with a silent night*

*Children are crying while mothers are trying
To photograph Santa and sleigh
The shopping and buying and
standing forever in line
What can I say?
I need a silent night, a holy night
To hear an angel voice
through the chaos and the noise
I need a midnight clear, a little peace right here
To end this crazy day with a silent night*

~ Amy Grant & Chris Eaton, "I Need a Silent Night"

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



Saturday, December 2

- **Keepsake Christmas:** 10—11:30 am
Teaching and learning event for families
(see front page for information)

Sunday, December 3

- **Worship at LPC:** 10:30 am
Advent Communion
Theme: Looking Forward
- **Community Christmas Concert:** 3:00 pm
St. John's Lutheran Church; 120 N Main St.
Featuring the Lewistown Community Choir, soloists, Four Tune Hunters, 8TTB Sisters, all singing traditional Christmas favorites

Saturday, December 9

- **Sounds of the Season Concert:** 3:00 pm
Mifflin County High School
Music offering from the community band, featuring dancing by our own Bill Sisson and Joy Kaufmann, as well as performances by 8TTB Sisters, Cantare and the MCHS Brass Ensemble. LPC will be well represented on stage!
- **Parents' Night Out:** 3:30 – 7:30 pm
Beginning in Preschool Classroom
Childcare provided by our youth and youth advisers, including games, pizza, crafts and a movie. Please sign up on the bulletin board at church. You will find a release form there that you will need to fill out.

Sunday, December 10

- **Worship at LPC:** 10:30 am
Theme: Looking Back
- **Christmas Recital:** 3:00 pm
Grace United Methodist; 101 Logan St.
Grace Church musicians and other local favorites, including InJoy, Jerry Stone's flute trio, and Joan and Phil Loewen will be performing. Refreshments will be served.

Sunday, December 17

- **Worship at LPC:** 10:30 AM
Christmas Cantata:
Hallelujah! Light has Come
Presented by the LPC Choir,
directed by Doug Garner



- **Manse Open House:** 11:30
LPC Manse: 108 N. Brown St.
Refreshments and fellowship hosted by Pastor Jim and Devon Thomas
- **Children's Choir Musical:**
Happy Birthday Jesus
5 pm: Potluck Supper in the Baraca Room
6 pm: Presentation in the sanctuary

Sunday, December 24

- **Worship at LPC:** 10:30 am
Service of Lessons and carols, featuring the Chancel Choir, soloists, readings, and congregational singing
- **Christmas Eve Service:** 7:00 pm
Worship service focusing on the promises of Christmas, based on the Advent candles of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy and how these are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed.
The service will conclude with Silent Night by candle light.

Monday, December 25

- **Community Christmas Luncheon**
Ham dinner provided free to all by LPC.
Lunch will be served in the Baraca Room from 11:30 am—1 pm.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

From Ginny Westover, Assistant Teacher

What's rectangular in shape, made of cloth, comes with a drawstring, and can "hold" things way bigger than its "14x24" size? Why, the Sharing Bag, of course! Preschoolers greatly anticipated their turn to take the sharing bag home and bring it back to school filled with something extra special to show and tell their friends. Every day, for a number of weeks during October and November, two preschoolers took their turns to share their surprises during the first circle time of the day. Not a single child shied away from speaking in front of their classmates. Some needed a bit of encouragement to turn up their volume button, but everyone did a great job explaining what they had brought. The children gained confidence in their "public speaking" abilities and practiced important listening skills and ways to show respect. And at the end of our sharing bag time, we had some fascinating stories just begging to be shared on this page! Sadly, there's not room for all, but here are a few of the more unique ones:

One morning as the children came into the hallway, I heard Liam's mom say, "Be careful, Liam, don't swing the bag; you could hurt someone." Curious, I met him at the doorway and carefully guided him to the place where he could set down the sharing bag. At circle time, Liam brought out a hammer with the words, "Best. Dad. Ever" inscribed on the handle. Liam and his sister had given the hammer to their dad as a gift, and now he and his dad were using the hammer to get their new house ready to move into!

Hannah's sharing bag had odd protrusions bulging and poking its sides. First out of the bag came a picture of Abby, her Springer Spaniel. Then quiet, reserved Hannah proceeded to tell us fascinating (and true!) stories of her dogs' adventures: surviving a rattlesnake bite and a fight with a bear, then digging up and bringing home a turtle shell (that was the bulge in the sharing bag). The pointy protrusion was one of Hannah's storybooks about a dog who reminded her a lot of Abby.

We might have had a hard time guessing the boy behind the helmet was Uriah had we not seen him put it on his head. When every article of clothing was out of his sharing bag, Uriah was

completely suited up in his dirt bike outfit! Uriah told us all about his riding experiences with his dad, beginning with loading the dirt bikes on the truck and describing the track they ride on. Even Mom gets in on the riding action! In Uriah's words, "Yeah, Mommy rides too, sometimes, but she gets a little out of control."



Sometimes, the things we want to share are just too big to fit into the bag! The morning preschool class got to meet Braxton's German Shepherd, Chase (who obeyed commands in German) and a very sweet pony that Josie's grandpa brought to school. Nolan's very large, and oh, so soft bunny, Sparkle, visited the afternoon class as did Levi's very friendly Chihuahua. Bre's "too big to fit in the sharing bag" surprise was an extra special treat for her teachers. She brought her brother, Brodie, one of last year's preschool graduates! (He said he would come back...)

Nursery school students spent several circle times sharing things for which they were thankful. Moms and Dads, Paps and Grammies, houses, pets, flowers and new babies in the family, toys, mashed potatoes, and candy were among the items the children thanked God for. Pastor Jim told us about the first Thanksgiving and how important it is to be thankful. Even our calendar, with its cornucopias numbering the days of the month, helped us remember to thank God, who gives us all good things.

Some good things taste yummy! On the day the preschoolers were reading The Gingerbread Boy the morning class got to decorate and eat their very own gingerbread boy cookie! Thank you, Megan, for such a great tasting learning experience!

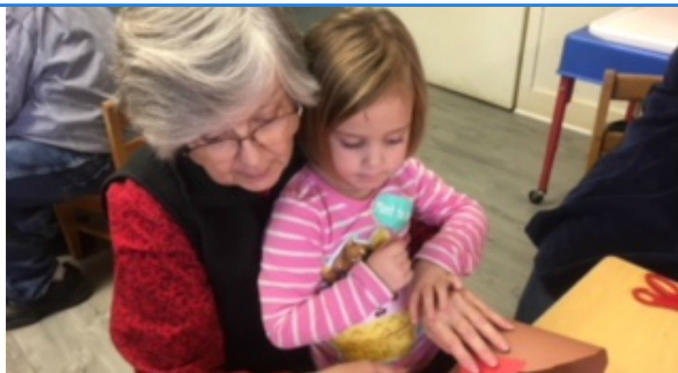
We are especially thankful that our grandparents in the Preschool classrooms got to visit us and share a special treat. It was extra special to spend that time together! Thank you for making the time to come!

As you share family time together this holiday season, we trust you will take time to thank God for all of His blessings, and especially the birth of His Son, Jesus. Warm wishes for a Christmas and New Year filled with spiritual blessings!

PRESCHOOL PICTURES



MORE PRESCHOOL PICTURES!



MISSION PARTNERS



The Daytek Family; Leah, Francis, Julia, Avea and Justice; ministers in the Philippines to bring hope, healing and freedom to the people there. They provide discipleship groups for Muslims in their area and have enjoyed building relationships members of the Mangyan tribe. Francis, a doctor, does medical outreach to some of the least-reached areas of the country. They also host mission groups about every other week. We are glad to have an ongoing relationship of support and encouragement with them. Look for more details about their life and work in our upcoming Annual Report.



The Varaso Family; Frank, Elizabeth, Selah, Callum and Clementine; minister through their new home in West Philadelphia. A team from LPC got to know them through a mission trip a few years ago when they were living and working in the Kensington section of the city. Their ministry in Kensington changed when the neighborhood gentrified and their outreaches were no longer drawing in their neighbors. They are now reaching out from their new home to their new neighbors with small groups, study, friendship and support to share Christ's love with their community.

VOLUNTEERS FOR DECEMBER

Children's Chat

3 Devon Thomas
10 Leah Riden
17 Jim Thomas
24 Ginny Westover
31 Sue Garner

Liturgists

3 Elaine Siddons
10 Susan Ferguson
17 Miranda Shoop
24 Alex Garner
31 Sue Garner

Counters

3 Lonnie Griffith & Ed Curry
10 Pat Brown & Kari Cullen
17 Bill Sisson & Dave Noss
24 Kari Cullen & Maryann Haines
31 Lisa Snyder & Pat Brown

Deacon for the Month

Lynn Curry

Children's Church

3 Leah Riden
10 Leah Riden
17 Leah Riden
24 Ginny Westover
31 Sue Garner

Infants/Toddlers/Preschool

3 Rachel Cunningham & Riley Cullen
10 Tara Reeder & Margo Reeder
17 Karissa Zagurskie & Jimmy Zagurskie
24 Pam Pecht & Vicky Pecht
31 Linda O'Dell & Alex Garner

Ushers

Bill Sisson (lead usher)
Don, Pam and Vicki Pecht
Miranda Shoop

Acolyte

Bailey Cullen

VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY

Children's Chat

7 Susan Ferguson
14 Elaine Siddons
21 Maryann Haines
28 TBD

Liturgists

7 Nick Smith
14 Brad Siddons
21 Danny Garner
28 Ginny Westover

Counters

7 Lonnie Griffith & Ed Curry
14 Dave Noss & Bill Sisson
21 Lisa Snyder & Ginny Westover
28 Maryann Haines & Jack Wilson

Deacon for the Month

Elaine Siddons

Children's Church

7 Communion—No children's church
14 Elaine Siddons
21 Leah Noerr
28 Kate Pecht

Infants/Toddlers/Preschool

7 Karen McCurdy & Riley Cullen
14 Donis Zagurskie & Jimmy Zagurskie
21 Diane Griffith & Olivia Smith
28 Amy Smith & Alex Garner

Ushers

Sue Garner (lead usher)
Danny and Alex Garner, Nancy Machmer,
Art Belfiore, Jim Crimmel

Acolyte

Lucas Garner

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ~ Isaiah 9:6



DECEMBER/JANUARY FAMILIES OF THE WEEK

To get to know each other better, we asked our families of the week to tell us about themselves:

Gerri and Harold Aitkin Harold worked at Standard Steel for 32 years, and currently works in construction code compliance. He volunteers at Camp Krislund and likes to do woodworking. He enjoys being part of our church's adult Sunday School class and the Tuesday night Bible study. Gerri likes couponing and doing genealogy, including writing about her family's history and creating indexes of area newspaper obituaries. She also is the moderator of our deacons. Gerri worked at Kmart in Lewistown, and she and Harold owned Scotty Muffler and Upholstery. Harold and Gerri helped to start Habitat for Humanity of Mifflin County, and continue to volunteer with Habitat. They have two children, John who lives in Lewistown, and Lori who lives in Winchester, Virginia and has two children.

John Aitkin John has worked at Lion Country Automotive in Lewistown for ten years. He is also a member of the Lewistown Lodge No. 203 of the Masons.

Teresa Aitkin Teresa has a nine-year-old son, Tanner, who likes to go fishing with his father. She works at Empire Kosher Poultry in Mifflintown. She grew up next to her aunt and uncle, Gerri and Harold Aitkin, who introduced her to Lewistown Presbyterian Church.

Carole and Scott Auken Carole was a teacher of remedial reading and a principal in the Mifflin County School District, where she also started the reading recovery program. She likes painting, tennis, gardening, and time with her grandson. She thoroughly enjoys being part of our church's choir. She also enjoys working on luncheons at our church, including our Christmas dinner, and working with other people in our church. Our church's community of Christians is very important to her. Scott was an elementary school teacher in the Juniata County School District, teaching social studies and physical education. He was also a driver for CARS, a shared-ride transportation program in Mifflin and Juniata Counties. He enjoys golfing and being in the choir. He is also an avid reader, especially of history books.

John Irrgang John, a long-time church member, was raised in our church and directed the youth group. He enjoys worship services at Valley View Retirement Community in Belleville, where he lives, but he misses being able to attend Lewistown Presbyterian Church. He liked clocks and gardening, and worked in the parts department of Noerr's Garage in Lewistown. He has two children, Johnette Jones and Greg.

James Johnson James works part-time at Robert Johnson Plumbing and Heating in Lewistown. He has been married to Phyllis for more than 40 years. They have a son, Jeffrey, who lives in Yeagertown and has two children. Their son Daniel lives in New Jersey. James remembers growing up in our church during the 1950s and 1960s, during which he attended Sunday School and worship services led by Rev. William Parsons.

Johnette and Todd Jones Johnette works at Mount Nittany Medical Center. She likes gardening, canning and camping. She grew up in our church and fondly remembers the youth group. Her son, Thomas Dixon, lives in Charlottesville, Virginia. Todd owns Todd's Complete Home Maintenance. He enjoys gardening and camping, and has a daughter, Jessica.

Doug and Michelle Knudson Doug has worked at Standard Steel for 21 years. Before that he worked at Lewistown Specialty Yarns and served in the U.S. Navy. He enjoys metal detecting and collecting old things. Michelle has worked for twenty years at Juniata Valley Bank, where she advanced from being a teller to working in the alternative investments department. She is also a director with Thirty-One Gifts. She likes organizing and crocheting, and helps with Bible schools at our church. She and Doug have two children, Kyle and Courtney, and three grandchildren that they enjoy being with. Doug remembers attending our church as a boy with his grandparents. He was baptized at our church and confirmed here in 1976. He likes meeting people and small groups in our church. Michelle's sister and niece were baptized in our church, and she and Doug were married in our church.

Gwen Knudson Gwen has been part of our church family since she was a young girl, and has never thought about going to any other church. She was married in our church, and helped with Sunday School when there was still a large balcony in the education/office wing of our church building. She helps with church luncheons, including luncheons for memorial services. She also volunteers for Hospice and Meals on Wheels in Lewistown. Gwen enjoys crossword puzzles and word searches, bowling, playing pinochle and going out to dinner with friends. Gwen did secretarial work at several places during her career. She has three sons: Steve, who has two daughters, Scott, who has three sons, and Doug, who has two children.

(continued on the next page)

DECEMBER/JANUARY FAMILIES OF THE WEEK *(continued from previous page)*

Kevin and Shelly Kodish Kevin and Shelly are the parents of two grown children, Brooke Rutledge of Corning, NY and Katy Warke of Mifflin. Brooke is married to Kyle Rutledge and is a Special Education teacher in the Corning School District. Katy is married to Derek Warke and works in Business Information Systems for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education in Harrisburg.

Shelly is a retired teacher from the Mifflin County School District. She enjoys cross stitching and chalk painting. Shelly's favorite memories of the church are going to Camp Krislund and listening to the Christian music played on the guitar, and watching the positive influence the church had on our children through the years—especially nursery school and preschool.

Kevin worked for nearly 30 years in Harrisburg as communications director for the faculty union for Pennsylvania's State-owned universities before starting a new chapter in his life as a Mifflin County Commissioner. Kevin has also coached high school girls basketball for 33 years and is currently coaching the Juniata Lady Indians. In his spare time Kevin enjoys following all of his favorite sports teams – the Phillies, the New York Jets, Notre Dame football and basketball, and the Boston Celtics. He also thoroughly enjoys reading sports stories daily. Kevin's favorite memories of Lewistown Presbyterian Church are marrying Shelly at the church in 1983 and enjoying the children's Christmas programs through the years.

Jack Wilson Jack has been a member of our church for 60 years. He became a member when he married his first wife, Patricia, who was a Sunday school teacher at our church. After she passed away, he married Pauline Wilson. Jack owned Wilson Oil Company with his brother. He has a son who is retired, and a daughter who works with her husband helping disadvantaged children. He likes to hunt, hike and travel. He is also learning about wood turning from church member, Ken Fisher.

Don and Donis Zagurskie Donis and Don are lawyers at the Johnston & Zagurskie Law Firm. They have three children: Jimmy, Karissa, and Zoe who is married to Ciaran Finan. Zoe and Ciaran are expecting Don and Donis's first grandchild in February. Donis likes reading, and appreciates the fellowship of people at our church. Don roots for the Pittsburgh Steelers and enjoys genealogy.

Carol and Bob Zorn Carol was the principal secretary at Tidioute High School, and a secretary at Gimbels Department Store in Pittsburgh. She also did secretarial work for churches where Bob served as pastor, and was involved in the churches' ministries including youth group. She began teaching Sunday school at the age of twelve, and was a church camp counselor. She remembers Rev. William Parsons, who was a pastor of our church and the first pastor who met her and Bob when they first moved to Mifflin County. She is very fond of our church, and has found fellow church members to be very gracious and kind. Carol enjoys oil and water color painting. Bob was pastor of small Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania, including a five-church parish in southwestern Pennsylvania, a two-church parish in Tidioute and Irvine, and a three-church parish in Milroy, Burnham and Vira. He was called as Minister of Visitation at our church in 1993. He also served as moderator of Huntingdon Presbytery. Bob greatly appreciates the congeniality of our congregation. Bob has long enjoyed wood working. He and Carol have produced wood products since their children were in college. Carol designed their most successful product, wooden apples, which Bob then produced. When they sent one of their apples to the king of Sweden, the king responded with a letter thanking them for their craftsmanship. They have sold their wooden products in Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York. Carol and Bob have three children: Robert who works in the computer department of Bucknell University, Paul who works at First Quality in Lewistown, and Laurel Beth who is an art therapist near St. Louis and whose husband is a nurse. Bob and Carol have been married 64 years.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BACKYARD MINISTRIES: Our Featured BYC Kid this month is a boy from Lewistown named Blake. Blake is really unique. He loves to play with superhero action figures and Legos. Blake also struggles with anger issues. Each week at club we talk through whatever issues Blake is having that day. Of course, we use Jesus as our example. Please pray for Blake that he grows in his faith and that he allows God to work in his heart and life.

Current Ministry Needs: BYM has a constant need for cans of soup, individually packed hot wheels cars, Bible activity and coloring books, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and packs of crayons. We also need volunteers for our kid's programs and more sweet breads. Items can be dropped off in Belleville at Yoder's Tees, in Altoona at 418 26th Avenue, or at any of our BYC programs.

Presbyterian Pies: LPC was able to bake 25 pumpkin pies for the families of BYM's in November! Thank you, Lynn Curry and helpers!

Christmas Dinners: LPC is collecting items for 22 dinner bags for Backyard Ministry Families. Each bag will need: 1 can of corn, 1 can of beans, 1 box of stuffing mix, 1 box of instant potatoes and 1 gravy packet. The bags will be delivered on December 19. If you can collect these items, please place them in the box marked "Backyard" in the narthex by Sunday, December 17. Thank you!

**To get involved or for more info like us on Facebook or contact us at Backyard Ministries, 418 26th Ave., Altoona, PA 16601 or kdellape@gmail.com or (814) 502-8008.*

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Youth in grades six and higher are encouraged to attend Confirmation Classes beginning in January. And parents of these youth are encouraged to encourage their children to attend! This is a very important opportunity for us to fulfill the promises made at baptism to "encourage them to know and follow Jesus Christ and to participate in the life and ministry of Christ's church." Classes will be held at the manse (at least initially) from 9—10 AM beginning January 7 and running through May 6. Those who choose to join the church will be welcomed into membership during the worship service on May 13. Eligible students should be receiving a letter in early December with more details. If you do not receive a letter, please contact the church office.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT: Saturday, December 9, 3:30 – 7:30 PM. Our youth would like to give the gift of a few hours of childcare to parents who could use some time to shop, wrap, nap or just enjoy some quiet moments. The kids will enjoy making pizza for supper, games, crafts and a movie. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

BLANKET COLLECTION: As the weather starts to turn cold, we are reminded there are children in our county that do not have a warm house to sleep in at night. Help us to collect fleece throw blankets (size 50in x 60in) in neutral colors that we can give to children in Mifflin County. Distribution will be coordinated through the LUMINA Center. There will be boxes in the back of the Sanctuary labeled for you to drop off donations. If you would rather just give money, you can give it to Devon Thomas and she will make the purchases for you. Please have all money and blankets in by December 3!

THE TROOP 4 BOY SCOUT Committee is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Scoutmaster. Interested individuals should contact the Committee Chairman, Rick Cahill at rick.cahill@comcast.net

THE GREEN CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES have been designated for the Nursery School and Preschool program this year.

POINSETTIAS: Orders are being taken for white poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary during the Christmas season. The cost for each poinsettia is \$7 and the **DEADLINE is December 3**. Pick up an order form in the church office or call 717-248-4561. Include the appropriate payment, and drop it off at the office or mail it to the church. Make checks payable to Lewistown Presbyterian Church. The poinsettias will be in the sanctuary December 10, 17 and 24. They can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON HELP NEEDED: Our Christmas Day luncheon for our friends and community will be held from 11:30-1:00 on Christmas Day. There are many ways that you can help. We will need help with set up/clean up, preparing food, donating cookies and serving at the luncheon. Please sign up in the narthex if you can participate.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS:

- There will be a meeting of the congregation following the worship service on December 10 to elect officers, review the 2018 budget and approve the pastor's terms of call for 2018.
- The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the Lewistown Presbyterian Church has been called for Sunday, January 21 immediately following the worship service. Annual reports must be submitted by January 12 to be included in the Annual Report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

From Church Treasurer, Susan L. Ferguson


	Jan - Oct 2017	Budget	% of Budget
INCOME			
Budgeted Income	178,080.00	214,200.00	83.1%
Investment Income	108,737.82	136,375.00	79.7%
TOTAL INCOME	286,817.82	350,575.00	81.8%
EXPENSE			
Benevolence	22,248.43	30,000.00	74.2%
Ministry of the Word	83,791.58	107,309.84	78.1%
Christian Education	3,985.75	5,600.00	71.2%
Music and Worship	1,195.42	2,350.00	50.9%
Property	48,426.86	43,803.00	110.6%
Administration	23,833.84	28,907.25	82.4%
Personnel	71,242.92	90,947.89	78.3%
Fellowship	1,555.88	1,500.00	103.7%
Women's Fellowship	0.00	550.00	0.0%
Preschool	26,064.95	34,607.02	75.3%
Capital Reserve	4,167.42	5,000.00	83.3%
TOTAL EXPENSE	286,513.05	350,575.00	81.7%
NET	304.77	<i>Note: October 31 marks 83.3% of the year to date</i>	

SESSION NOTES


The regular meeting of the Session of the Lewistown Presbyterian Church was held November 9, 2017, at 7:00 PM in the Baraca Room.

- Pastor Thomas led opening devotions using Lectio Divina with Psalm 130. This was followed by a time of joys and concerns along with prayer.
- The session confirmed previous approval through email of the use of the church parlor for the baby shower hosted by the Mission and Evangelism Committee on October 29.
- The death of Marilyn Skillman on October 19 was noted with sadness.
- Pastor Thomas shared a report on his CREDO week sponsored by the Board of Pensions.
- The session set the date for the congregational meeting to elect officers, receive the budget and approve the pastor's 2018 Terms of Call for December 10 following the worship service. The Annual Meeting was set for January 21, also following the worship service.
- Pastor Thomas reported Carole Auker and Pat Brown had decided to offer the Christmas Day Luncheon again this year.
- The session decided that LPC would host the Christmas Dinner for Big Brothers/Big Sisters on December 11 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM in the Baraca Room.
- The Christian Education Committee reported that that plans are underway for Keepsake Christmas on December 2 from 10:00 – 11:30 AM.
- Session approved a motion from the Christian Education Committee to allow the youth to use the church for Parent's Night Out on December 9.
- The Music and Worship Committee reported that Rev. Zorn will be preaching on December 31.
- The Nursery School Committee reported the Pen Pal party was held on November 4 and was very enjoyable for those that attended.
- Carole Auker, chair of the Nominating Committee asked for prayers for their ongoing work.
- The meeting adjourned with prayer

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Lewistown Presbyterian Church Serving the light of Christ in the heart of Lewis County, NY</p>					1	2 <i>10:00-11:30 am Family Christmas Event</i>
3 Communion 9:00 am Teen Study Group 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Adult Study Group 6:00 pm Youth 6:00 pm Adult Study Group @ the manse	4 9:00 am Christmas Project wrapping 11:30 am Prayer 6:00 pm Joy Seekers 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	5 6:00 Small Group @ Hill home 11:30 am Sr. Ladies @ Honey Creek Inn 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 11:30 am Sr. Ladies @ Honey Creek Inn 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 7:00 pm Special Session followed by Committee Night	8 6:00 pm Staff Dinner	9 <i>Parent's Night Out 3:30-7:30 pm</i>
10 9:00 am Teen Study Group 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Congregation Mtg. 12:00 am Deacons' Meeting 3:00 pm Youth Caroling & Supper 6:00 pm Adult Study Group @	11 11:30 am Prayer 6:00 pm Joy Seekers 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	12 6:00 Small Group @ Hill home 7:00 pm Mt. Rock Cemetery Board Meeting	13 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 6:00 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 7:00 pm Session including examination of new officers Last Day of Nursery School until 1/4/18	15	16 Children's Choir dress rehearsal Time to be announced
17 9:00 am Teen Study Group 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Open House @ manse 5:00 pm Pot Luck Supper 6:00 pm Children's Musical	18 11:30 am Prayer 6:00 pm Joy Seekers 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	19 6:00 Small Group @ Hill home	20 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Last Day of Preschool until 1/3/18	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 9:00 am Teen Bible Study 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Merry Christmas 11:30-1:00 Community Luncheon</i>	26 9:00 am Backyard Ministry food prep	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 am Teen Bible Study 9:00 am Adult Study Group 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Community Lunch Followed by Youth Christmas Party						

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>LEWISTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Shining the light of the Gospel into the heart of Lewistown since 1785</p>	<p>1 <i>Happy New Year!</i></p>	<p>2 7:00 pm Mt. Rock Cemetery Board Meeting No School</p>	<p>3 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 11:30 am Sr. Ladies @ Honey Creek Inn 6:00 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel</p>	<p>4 7:00 pm Committee Night</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Communion 9:00 am Teen Study Group 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Adult Study Group 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Adult Study Group @ the manse</p>	<p>8 11:30 am Prayer 6:00 pm Joy Seekers 7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9 6:00 Small Group @ Hill home</p>	<p>10 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 7:00 pm Session</p>	<p>12 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 9:00 am Teen Study Group 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Deacons' Meeting 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Adult Study Group @ the manse</p>	<p>15 11:30 am Prayer 6:00 pm Joy Seekers 7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>16 6:00 Small Group @ Hill home</p>	<p>17 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 6:00 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 PANORAMA DEADLINE</p>	<p>19 3:00 pm Youth Winter Jam No School</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Deacons' Offering 9:00 am Teen Study Group 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Annual Meeting 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Adult Study Group @</p>	<p>22 11:30 am Prayer 6:00 pm Joy Seekers 7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>23 9:00 am Backyard Ministry food prep 6:00 Small Group @ Hill home</p>	<p>24 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 9:00 am Teen Bible Study 9:00 am Adult Study Group 9:15 am Children's Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Community Lunch 6:00 pm Youth 6:00 pm Adult Study Group @</p>	<p>29 11:30 am Prayer 6:00 pm Joy Seekers 7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>30 6:00 Small Group @ Hill home 7:00 pm Mt. Rock Cemetery Board Meeting</p>	<p>31 6:30 am Group Study @ the Manse 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

Lewistown Presbyterian Church
17 East Third Street
Lewistown, PA 17044

Address Correction Requested



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Contact us at 717-248-4561, or lewispres@comcast.net. Check out our web site www.lewistownpresbyterian.org or find us on Facebook!