
The Bridge Builder

A Monthly Newsletter from Heritage Presbyterian Church

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The Importance of Theology (Especially during Advent)

Well, it's happening again. We are now into at least year 15 of the Christmas shopping season beginning after Halloween and not Thanksgiving. After all who can wait, retailers certainly cannot. Doorbuster deals and all the rest begin a week, sometimes ten days before Thanksgiving, and the hew and cry goes up on Facebook lamenting such consumerism (these posts always fail to mention of course that once the appropriate length of time has gone past consumption will commence, just not too soon.) Maybe we are in a hurry as a culture because we are continually disappointed with how things are turning out. We place our hopes in a politician and they fail to deliver on promises. The news gets us down but we feel it is not our place to speak up, or more often we are driven into silence by the fear that we might lose our precious security. Every year Facebook blows up with the hopes of people yearning for a better year, next year. We have lost the art of waiting. Theology is most properly defined as faith meeting understanding. Understanding takes an awful long time.

So then what are we Christians to do in the midst of all of this. Of course, you have heard it said that we should slow down in these seasons of busyness and I would certainly encourage the same. But I would also go deeper. The reality is much more stark in contrast. The people of God wait, and wait. It isn't so much a question of slowing down so that they don't imitate the culture as much as we do, but rather to wait on the promises of God to be fulfilled which is actually subversive. All human beings go through seasons of busyness and slowness but the church takes time to go through a season of waiting. It was the custom for many years, if not centuries, that homes were not decorated for Christmas until Christmas Day!

The church, in its theology, and practice, practices patience, believing the the Lord will provide us with the one who can save us, while the world tries to save itself. Advent is a time when the people wait in darkness for the coming light. Advent is a time, when the people recognize their need for salvation and await the one who will bring that salvation. The world tells us to save ourselves, and our relationships through the gift of consumption. The church knows that it is not the giving of gifts which reconciles the peoples of the world (as wonderful as it is to give and receive), it is the building of deep relationships which will ultimately heal us. It is being with one another just as Christ seeks to be *with* us, that will bind the wounds we have caused. So be patient and loving and present to those around you this Advent and know that the light which the darkness cannot overcome is coming into the world.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian



MORAVIAN STAR

The first Moravian stars were made about 1850 by a teacher in a Moravian school in Niesky, Germany. The star is displayed from the first Sunday in Advent until Epiphany (January 7).

The illuminated Moravian star with its 26 points symbolizes the birth of Christ, leading the wise men that followed the star to Bethlehem. It is to remind us of the Old Testament prophecy:

“There shall come a star out of Jacob,” (Numbers 24:17) and of the fulfillment of that prophecy in the coming of Christ who said, **“I am the bright star of dawn”**. (Revelations 22:16)

This is the reason we hang one over our sanctuary Christmas tree!

Hanging of the Greens

Join us for the annual Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 2 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Come for all or part of the time. It is a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit! Refreshments will be provided. Come and fellowship - The more the merrier (and easier).

Free Christmas Baby Sitting Drop-Off **Volunteers and Kids Needed!**

On Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall at Heritage Church, we are offering a free babysitting service.

Fun, games and crafts for children ages 3 to 5th grade while parents complete their errands, wrap gifts, or sneak out for a cup of coffee with a friend. Space is limited. Registration forms will be available on our website and in Fellowship Hall. Light snacks will be available. Picky eaters are welcome to pack their own snack. Please pass this on to your friends who would find a few kid-free hours a blessing. We would also like a few more volunteers. Thank you for supporting this popular ministry to parents and their kids.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please see Wendy Cibula, Carolyn Briggs, or Melanie Thomson.

WHAT IS A CHRISMON?

The Chrismon ornaments were first developed by Frances Kipps Spencer (1917-1990) at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. She originated them in 1957 when she set out to create decorations appropriate for a church Christmas tree.

**THE CHRISMONS TREE**

An evergreen tree, which symbolizes the eternal life, which our savior has provided for us, forms the background for tiny white lights and gold Chrismon designs. The lights speak of Him who is the light of the world, and the Chrismon ornaments portray Christ's Life.

CHRISMON = CHRIS + MONogram

proclaim the name, the life, and the saving acts of Jesus the Christ.

Some Chrismon designs are simple copies of symbols of Christianity from its earliest days - biblical and theological that are known by most believers. They're interdenominational and the heritage of all Christians.

Chrismons are white with gold decorations of beads, ribbon, glitter, etc.

Our chrismons were needlepointed by the Heritage women for almost a year, many years ago. Recently they were repaired by Bobbie Berg, Marilyn Bond, Carol Harvey, and Mary Thomson. Ginny Trunick has repaired the crowns and the star over the years.

FINANCIAL REPORT as of October, year-to-date:

Total All Sources \$171,755
 Total Expenditures \$189,382
 Shortfall \$(17,627)

We are thankful for your generosity and love for Heritage Church, and you are blessed to be a blessing. If you are able to do so, please bring your pledges and planned donations up to date so that we can continue to participate in God's mission here in Franklin Park and around the world. Your Session (church board) and teams work hard to use your gifts well and operate within or below budget.

Poinsettias

If you wish to adorn the sanctuary for our Christmas week services, pick up an order form in Fellowship Hall. Orders must be turned in no later than Sunday, December 3rd. Remember, in order to keep the flower order money separate from the regular collection, a special basket will be located in Fellowship Hall to collect your orders. Checks should be made payable to "Heritage Presbyterian Church" and marked "Poinsettias Order." Poinsettias may be picked up after the 7:30 pm worship service on Sunday, December 24.

**Light of Life Mission**

*3rd Monday of each month,
 December 18, 2017*

Volunteers are needed for hands-on outreach at the Light of Life. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

*4:45 - 6:00 pm - Volunteers serve meals and clean tables.

*6:30 pm - Chapel Service - Volunteers needed.

If your gifts include preaching, teaching and sharing the Gospel with others (either in word or song), consider volunteering.

Christmas Joy Offering

A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, (USA) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. The receipts of the offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.

Envelopes will be in the December 24 bulletin. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in supporting this mission.

Thank you for Supporting Our Bellevue Meal Ministry in 2017

Jill Matos at the Center of Bellevue has decided to close the Center on Monday, November 27. She said, this year there are other local special meal opportunities being hosted for Thanksgiving. She is confident that folks have other choices and the Center can take a much needed break. Our December date falls on Christmas and the Center will be closed that date too. **Our next Bellevue Meal will be on Monday, January 22, 2018.**

Thank you so much for your continued support of and beautiful ministry to our friends in Bellevue. It's been awesome to volunteer along side you in 2017. God always provides everything we need through your lovely willing hearts!!! If you are in the holiday spirit and bummed about missing Bellevue in November and December, we have many other opportunities that could use your attention at Heritage Church. Here are a few that are top of my mind:

1. **We desperately need holiday cookies** for the Christmas Cookie Trays for our Single Mom Families. They need to be brought to the church by December 6. Attached is Julie's flyer with details. Please see her with any questions.
2. **Christmas Babysitting Helpers** for our free Christmas Babysitting Drop-Off on Saturday, December 2 from 1 to 4 pm. What a blessing you will be to parents who need a couple kid-free hours to run holiday errands. The more helpers we have, the more kids we can watch. We also need snack supplies (oranges, popcorn, hot chocolate) and craft supplies (we'll know what we need when we finalize our projects and know how many children are attending). Flyer attached. See Wendy, Carolyn, Melanie or Julie if you'd like to help.
3. **Doorway Angel Tree Tags:** These should be available the first week of December. Please see Melanie Thomson or Bill Johnston for questions on this ministry.

Thank you again for showing the love of Christ to not only the food insecure but those who feel lonely, isolated, or are in need of some extra love, hope, and fellowship. It amazes me all that the Lord does through our little church and its members, family, and friends!

Mark your calendars in 2018 for the 4th Monday of the Month. If you have any questions or would like to help with our Community Meal Ministry in Bellevue, please see Wendy Cibula or Melanie Thomson.

Pancake Breakfast and Christmas Carols

Please join us after the Christmas pageant and service on December 17 for a Pancake Breakfast served by the youth group. Any donations will go to support the children at the Doorway. We will have Christmas caroling with accompaniment by David Shreiner for the whole family. We hope your family will enjoy this event. Invite your friends to come along, too.

Save the Date

Chocolate Extravaganza February 10 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Mission, Service & Outreach

Prayer Ministry



...Please pray for those we know who are ill or have concerns:

Barbara Berger - classmate of Donna Johnston

Betty Jane Burke - cousin of Wayne Dillner

Annette Curtis - neighbor of Johnston's

Evan Dillner - grandson of the Dillner's

Bob & Joan Donaldson - former members

Linda Felkar - member

Jennie Hilliard - Donna Johnston's sister-in-law

Joyce & Pete King - Donna Johnston's sister & brother-in-law

Louise & Jim Martin - Terry Martin's mother & father-in-law

Heather McAleer - wife of Eric McAleer

Mike McAleer - member

Tim McAleer - member

Cammy Nichols - daughter of Donna & Bill Johnston

Gary Pelfrey - Brother-in-law of Terry Martin

Alan Pettengill - Nancy Pettengill's brother

Chrissy Mill's uncle

Alta Pettengill - Nancy Pettengill's mother

Chrissy Mill's grandmother

Michael Seapker - son of Carol Jo & Milt Seapker

David P. Shreiner - father of David Shreiner

Ralph Tissue - brother of Carol Harvey

Elaine Wilson - member

Caroline Wise - member

If you would like prayer or know someone who should be added to this list, please contact Terry Martin in the church office at 412-366-1338 or heritagepcusa@verizon.net.

Also, if you are willing to prepare and deliver a meal, drive to doctor appointments or grocery shopping, or can babysit, the Deacons have an "at need" individual that they can pair up with you.

Prayer Chain

If you wish to put something on the Prayer Chain, first contact Terry Martin in the office between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday 412-366-1338 or at heritagepcusa@verizon.net. If your request is other than the church hours, please contact Donna Johnston at 412-364-3340 or dmj5393@verizon.net. Thank you.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
Craig Bentzen	12/7
Alex Dunmyre	12/9
Lauren Briggs	12/13
Ken Andrews	12/14
Craig N. Bentzen	12/22
Carolyn Briggs	12/24
Mike McAleer	12/24
Connie Bentzen	12/27
David Briggs	12/28

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES	
Stephanie & Bob Nestor	12/18
Courtney & Bob Young	12/22
Bobbie & Rick Berg	12/26



Worship Volunteers for December					
Date	Worship Leader	Sound System/ Projection	Coffee Setup/ Cleanup	Nursery (Worship) (Backup)	Ushers
12/3	Mike McAleer	Winn Dunmyre Pam Dierker	Lisa King Dolores Boeh	Dolores Boeh Erika Jani (B) Sonny Jani	Roy & Quentin Halyama
12/10	Reed Harvey	Jim Cummins Rick Berg	Lisa King Linda Felkar	Carolyn Briggs Joanne Dunmyre (B) Karen Hayworth	Winn Dunmyre Lex Felkar
12/17	Steve Paulson	Bill Johnston Grace Cibula	Barb White Cyndi McAleer	Katy Joseph Courtney Young (B) Matt Joseph	Sonny Jani Matt Joseph
12/24	Donna Johnston	Alex Dunmyre Wendy Cibula	Betty Olson Joanne Dunmyre	Karen Hayworth Connie Vitale (B) No Backup	Bob Nestor Maggie Nestor
12/24 Christmas Eve	Rick Berg	Marilyn Bond Pam Dierker		Melanie Thomson Grace Cibula	TBD
12/31	Mike McAleer	Winn Dunmyre Quentin Halyama	Carolyn Briggs Bobbie Berg	Julie Halyama Nancy Wise	Melanie Thomson Maggie Nestor

B = Backup for Nursery

Please consider joining our volunteers, contact the following:

Coffee Setup/Cleanup, call Carol Jo Seapker 412-366-8211

Nursery Worker, call Karen Hayworth Wildfong 412-259-8056

A/V Sound System, call Jim Cummins 412-364-3172

Usher, call Bob Nestor 412-369-9278

Projection Crew Phone Numbers

- Rick Berg 724-709-8601
- Dave Briggs 412-364-6225
- Grace Cibula 412-364-7885
- Pam Dierker 412-812-3599
- Morgan Halyama 412-548-3270

Sound Team Phone Numbers

- Marilyn Bond 724-625-2537
- Jim Cummins 412-364-3172
- Alex Dunmyre 412-367-4771
- Winn Dunmyre 412-367-4771
- Bill Johnston 724-816-0103

Thank you for taking the time to serve!

	Communion Preparation	Communion Servers	December Counters
December 3	Carol Jo Seapker	Bobbie & Rick Berg Connie Vitale	Marilyn Bond Wendy Cibula
December 17	Pam Dierker	Joanne Dunmyre Donna & Bill Johnston	



Communion Dates

DAY	DATE
Sunday	January 7, 2018
Sunday	January 21, 2018
Sunday	February 4, 2018
Sunday	February 18, 2018
Sunday	March 4, 2018
Sunday	March 18, 2018
Thursday, (Maundy Thursday)	March 29, 2018
Sunday	April 15, 2018

December CHILDREN'S SERMON SCHEDULE	
DATE	TEACHER
December 3, 2017	Bobbie Berg
December 10, 2017	Ted Griffin
December 17, 2017	Pastor Brian
December 24, 2017	Cyndi McAleer
December 24, 2017 Christmas Eve	Pastor Brian
December 31, 2017	Bobbie Berg

Heritage Calendar of Dates December 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans in Cranberry	2 9:00 am-Noon Hanging of the Greens 1:00-4:00 pm Babysitting Outreach
3 10:00 am Worship Service Communion 1st Sunday of Advent 11:15 am Sunday School	4	5	6 6:00-7:45 pm SPIN	7	8 7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Bob Evan's in Cranberry	9
10 10:00 am Worship Service 2nd Sunday of Advent 11:15 am Sunday School	11	12	13	14	15 7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans in Cranberry	16
17 10:00 am Worship Service Communion 3rd Sunday of Advent Children's Pageant Pancake Breakfast following the service and Christmas Caroling 11:15 am Sunday School	18 4:45-6:00 pm Light of Life	19	20 7:15 pm SAF Team Meeting	21	22 7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans in Cranberry	23
24 10:00 am Worship Service 4th Sunday of Advent No Sunday School 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day Offices Closed	26	27	28	29 7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans in Cranberry	30
31 10:00 am Worship Service No Sunday School New Year's Eve						

CE=Christian Education
M&E=Mission & Evangelism
MFC=Membership, Fellowship & Care
SAF=Stewardship, Administration, Finance
FH=Fellowship Hall

Christmas Baby Sitting Drop-Off

Saturday, December 2, 2017

1pm to 4 pm at Heritage Church

Shopping with the kids stressful?

Have gifts to wrap ?

Errands to run?

Want to sneak out for coffee with a friend?

Drop the kids off with us for a fun afternoon!



Christmas Baby Sitting Registration Form

(One form per child please)

Child's Name _____ Grade/Age _____

Medical/Physical Limitations (explain) _____

Allergies (explain) _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Emergency Number _____

Email _____

Parent's Number for Day of Event _____ Who Will be picking your child up? _____

This event is free. However, space is limited. Pre-Registration is required.
Fun, games and crafts for children ages 3 to 5th grade
Light snacks will be available. Picky eaters are welcome to pack their own snack.



Please send or email this form to
Heritage Church • heritagpecusa@verizon.net
2262 Rochester Road • Pgh PA 15237



Christmas Cookie Trays

Do you like to bake cookies, eat cookies and share cookie recipes?

If the answer is yes to any of the above, please join us as we prepare Christmas Cookie Trays for our SPIN moms, homebound friends and a few others who could benefit from some holiday cheer.

We are hoping to have enough cookies for 15 trays with 2 dozen cookies each. We need your cookies!

Please email Julie at rjhelma@aol.com if you would like to help spread some Christmas cheer.



Not a Baker?

Donations of bows, wax paper and quart size ziplock bags are also gladly accepted!

Cookie Tray Details

1. Bake a few dozen of your favorite holiday cookie/candy (homemade please).
2. Make copies of your holiday recipe to share.
3. Cookie trays will be assembled on Wednesday, December 6th and they will be given to the Spin moms that night and delivered to others that day.

Please drop off your cookies and copies of your recipe at the church kitchen Wednesday, December 6th by 2:00 PM.



HERITAGE CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

Christian Education

Worship

Mission & Evangelism

Melanie Thomson '18

Peter Wildfong '20

Wendy Cibula '19

Jim Cummins '19

Stewardship

Membership,

Administration & Finance

Fellowship & Care

Randy Thomson '18

Carol Jo Seapker '20

BOARD OF DEACONS

(Class of 2017)

Dolores Boeh

Sara Briggs

Pam Dierker

Chrissy Mills

Nancy Pettengill

Barbara White

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

AT

HERITAGE

10:00 am Worship Service

11:15-11:50 am Sunday School

Adult Bible Study

DECEMBER, 2017 NEWSLETTER FROM

Heritage Presbyterian Church

2262 Rochester Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237-1518

***Proclaiming the good News of Jesus Christ
to our community and the world!***

