

Christmas Joy Gift Dinner

The entire congregation together in one place at one time
Sunday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m., Shepherdstown Fire Hall
Guests of Honor: New Members Class of 2009

Recognition and Release of all Committee, Guild, and Crew Members

Litany of Thanksgiving • Carol singing • Hands-on service activity for children • *The Twelve Days of Christmas*
The Joy Gift Offering is dedicated to the Presbyterian church's racially ethnic schools and medical supplement for retired Presbyterian ministers and missionaries. (The racially ethnic schools and colleges offer a training ground by which leadership development can take place, where racially ethnic people can gain the confidence and skills that they need to go out into the broader society and take their place.)

Dishes, flatware and beverages provided. Bring a food dish to serve 12. Food assignments per last name: A-H vegetable or salad, I-R main dish, S-Z dessert. Volunteers needed to: set-up at 12:30 p.m. and clean-up after dinner; arrange table decorations; make coffee at SPC and transport to Fire Hall. Please contact Mary Ellen Lloyd, 304-876-0805, or gregandme@frontiernet.net.

CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY SERVICES

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

- 5:00 p.m. Especially for children
- 8:00 p.m. Choirs and homily
- 11:00 p.m. Carol sing and communion

Offering divided between JCCM and the Presbyterian Disaster Fund

ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:45

December 27 (Children's Pageant, see below) and **January 3**

IT'S PAGEANT TIME AGAIN! December 27. Calling all SPC children: your talents are needed. We have parts for everyone—speaking, non-speaking, sound effects, on two legs or four. Middle school band, we need your help also to make this phenomenal. Questions? Contact Karen Waugh 304-876-2585, lkwaugh@comcast.net.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SUGGESTIONS

1. Shop locally: support local merchants, save fuel, and have a great time.
2. Presbyterian Church USA: provide clean water, school kits, housing, and more.
www.pcusa.org/pda/tools/alternativegiving.htm
3. Alternative Gifts International: help dig a well, provide medicine, help save a coral reef.
<http://www.altgifts.org/bin/site/templates/splash.asp>
4. Fair Trade Federation: find links to online catalogues from dozens of sites that offer fair trade items from around the world. www.fairtradefederation.org
5. Heifer International: donate animals from chicks to water buffalo. www.heifer.org
6. National Arbor Day Foundation: Plant a tree. www.arboday.org
7. Honor someone with a donation to your favorite charity, e.g., local library, Rescue Mission, etc.
8. Medical Benevolence Foundation: provide healthcare training, medical supplies, etc.
www.MBFoundation.org

SECOND ANNUAL WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOP Sunday, December 6, 1–3 p.m. at Shepherdstown Train Station. All youth, their families, and other SPC members are welcome to attend. Dave Saville will lead the workshop as an expression of gratitude to the SPC youth for their work advocating for the WV Wilderness legislation. Dave will provide most materials, but bring hand pruners and any decorations you'd like to add such as bows, ribbons, pinecones or other ornaments. Questions? Contact Dave Smith drsmith58@frontiernet.net, 304-283-6235.

ALL YOOTZ CHRISTMAS PARTY Saturday, December 12, 7–10 p.m. plus all night lock-in for Senior Yootz. Help wrap Christmas presents for JCCM needy families and enjoy food, movies, and fun!

Yootz Corner...

YOOTZ WORK DAY November 15. Before we left, we talked about how/why we treat senior citizens with respect. Jessie Schmitt, Alex Wagner and I first stopped at the Boyer's where Jessie and Alex did a great job and dragged some pretty large tree pieces! We spent a few minutes talking to Mr. and Mrs. Boyer and watched a little bit of the Redskins game, too.

From there we went to the Wilson's right next door! We swept leaves from the deck and walkway and cleaned out the gutters. Jessie and Alex were very excited to get on the roof and use the leaf blower—especially Alex who imagined he was some sort of action hero. Mr. Wilson shared milk and cookies Mrs. Wilson had baked for us. This, of course didn't keep us from stopping at Nutter's on the way home.

I think the kids really enjoyed getting to know the senior members of our congregation. It can be difficult to bond with folks during a church service, but getting to visit and help them fostered good conversation and created new friendships. I think both Jessie and Alex were impressed by the experiences and wisdom the Boyers and Wilsons were kind enough to share with us.

—Chris Swisher, Deacon for Youth

B'NAI ABRAHAM SYNAGOGUE VISIT The SPC youth accompanied Reuben Cohen for the first in a series of interfaith experiences. We were fortunate to visit during a special service where the children read Hebrew prayers. While the congregation's children read Hebrew characters, we followed phonetic and English translations. Although the prayers were in a different language and the traditions unfamiliar, there were similarities to an SPC service. We stood to sing and recite prayers, prayed for peace and for others, and listened to the story of Esau and Jacob.

After the service Rabbi Fred Raskind answered our questions. The Torah is laboriously scribed onto scrolls, which are important to Jewish tradition and worship. During the service the rabbi carried a covered scroll through the aisle for members to touch. The congregation was formed in the 1890s. Men wear hats indoors as a sign of respect, and people do not send flowers to Jewish funerals.

Later we gathered in their fellowship hall for refreshments. Our hosts shared more about their faith until it was time to leave. On the way home Reuben introduced us to another tradition as we stopped by Krumpé's bakery for donuts.

—Eric Smith

And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors.

—Rabbi Harold Kushner

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING On November 15 the Senior Yootz took a trip to Wal-Mart to buy gifts for three less fortunate families from our area. We bought necessities like clothing and kitchen materials but also threw in some extra fun items like toys or movies for the families. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation we had \$2000, which came out to \$200 per person. I had a lot of fun shopping for these families along with all of my friends. This service trip is always a highlight of my Christmas season.

—Michael John Roy

Mark Your Calendars...

THE ENLIGHTENED HEART OF ISLAM Sundays, **December 6 and 13**, 9:15 a.m., Classroom 3. Explore the writings of Islamic scholars and prophets, which take the form of stories, quotes and verse.

ADVENT RETREAT This is a 24-hour retreat offered by Verle and Vivian Headings at Rolling Ridge Retreat House, **December 4 and 5**. The theme of *Awaiting Enablement in the Midst of a Broken World or of a Disability* will be experienced through meditative reading of selected scriptures, poems, and short prose pieces, interspersed with personal reflections on seeking hope in a broken world. Information about the retreat is outside the church office. Call Verle or Vivian with questions or for registering, 304-725-2312.

ADVENT BOOK DISCUSSION Wednesday, **December 9**, 7 p.m. *Mr. Ives Christmas*, a novel by Pulitzer Prize winner Oscar Hijuelos. Books available at Four Seasons.

SUNDAY FORUM Jefferson County Community Ministries, **Sunday, December 20**, 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall. Executive Director Bill Willingham will describe the current needs for JCCM to effectively serve the community.

FREE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER AND OPEN HOUSE Sunday, **December 6**, 12 noon to 3 p.m., Shepherdstown Fire Hall. Special guest: Santa Claus! Gifts for children, fire safety literature, fire, rescue and ambulance displays. This is the fire department's gift to show their appreciation to the community.

SING-A-LONG with Carol Wood and Rie Wilson at O'Hurleys, **Sunday, December 6**, 2–4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING in downtown Shepherdstown, **Monday December 21**. Meet at the Rumsey Monument, end of Mill St., overlooking the Potomac, 7 p.m. sharp.

SPC Monthly Activities...

EVENING PRAYER In the way of Taizé. First Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A Service of Prayer in song, silence and candlelight. **Next: December 2**.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE First Thursdays, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Bible study book is *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*. All women of the church are welcome. **Next: December 3**.

SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTIONS with college students. Includes dinner and discussion with Pastor Tremba and Ethel Hornbeck. Second and fourth **Tuesdays** at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Next: December 8** (only one this month).

FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY Coins for relief of hunger and non-perishables for JCCM (see list under **Mission: JCCM**). **Next: December 6**.

ROUNDTABLE WITH ETHEL HORNBECK Conversation and reflection with and around scripture, poetry and other selected texts. Third Thursdays, 10–11 a.m. in the sanctuary. **Next: December 17**.

SUPPER GROUPS

Moveable Feast, **Saturday, December 12**, 6:30 p.m. hosted by Carole & Dave Scott, 304-876-2263.

TGIF, **Friday, December 18**, 6:30 p.m. hosted by Cathy & Don Cross, 304-876-2412. Bring a wrapped gift (not new) for Yankee Swap.

MEN'S BREAKFAST Third Saturdays. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Discussion 8–9 a.m. **Next: December 19.**

CONTEMPLATIVE AND CENTERING PRAYER Third Sundays, sanctuary, 7 p.m. **Next: December 20.**

Notices...

NEW OFFICERS ORDAINED AND INSTALLED on November 22. **Deacons:** Ann Barrat, Suzanne Swartz, and Wanda Young; **Elders:** Paul Kradel, Melinda Landolt, and Mike Williams. Please welcome them and give them your support.

POINSETTIAS Would you like to donate a poinsettia for the sanctuary during the Christmas season? They can be picked up after December 27 or donated to someone. Forms are in the bulletin. Make check to SPC; memo, poinsettia. \$10 each. Deadline is **Dec. 13.**

PAPER RECYCLING 4-H group at Christ Reformed Church, 8–9 a.m. Paper, cardboard, magazines, books. Place in paper bags, boxes, or tie securely. **NO PLASTIC BAGS. Next: December 5.**

DISHES, DISHES, DISHES Thanks to all who have provided food for various events, we have many dishes/containers left in the kitchen. Please check to see if one is yours.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2010 available in Fellowship Hall. If you can't find yours, contact Kathy in the office 304-876-6466.

Keeping up with Members...

Welcome these new members who joined SPC November 15. They were asked: Where were you born? What brings you joy? What do you like about SPC? What is your favorite hymn?

Moria Artlip: St. Ann, Jamaica; Gardening; Supper group and opportunities to serve the community, plus when children leave for Sunday Studio (Moria is Naomi's mom); *God of our Life Through All the Circling Years.*

Perry Jamieson: Detroit, MI; Getting up in the morning and hiking Antietam Battlefield; SPC is an inclusive church and helps people grow both spiritually and intellectually; *For the Beauty of the Earth.*

Stephanie Jamieson: Morristown, NJ; Spending time with Caleb, my 18-month-old great nephew; SPC community seems open and accepting, and is a place for study and service; *Be Thou My Vision.*

George Jordan: Burlington, NC; Friends; members, pastor, and church building; *Morning Has Broken.*

Chris Laybourne: Sao Paolo, Brasil; Being with Robin, my wife and James, our son, gardening and sports; From the very first visit I felt welcome, Randy is a terrific pastor and has gone to great lengths to make Robin and me feel welcome and part of the church; *Amazing Grace* if I had to pick one.

Robin Laybourne: Newburgh, NY; Being with my husband, Chris, and son, James; Friendly, open-minded spirit; *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.*

Brad Toole: Redbank, NJ; Singing in the choir with the woman I love!; The theology, the congregation, and Randy's sermons; *O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

Georgiann Toole: Steubenville, Ohio (never lived there; grew up in Weirton, WV); Time with husband Brad and friends (including my dogs), music-making and teaching, travel, gardening, and cooking; Diversity of backgrounds and ideas, the openness to those ideas, and the support for music in worship; Whatever the choir is singing that day!

IS GOD KING OF THE COSMOS OR KING OF THE COMPOST?

Dr. William P. Brown lets you decide, but those very different titles could come from the two creation stories in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2. Was their contrast an editorial oversight? No, Professor Brown thinks: "The ancients knew that the world is more complex than any one tradition can express."

The amazing thing about Dr. Brown is that you could have him as your Sunday School teacher if you attended North Decatur Presbyterian Church, Decatur, GA. The glorious thing about Dr. Brown is that he has twice presented weekend seminars and sermons at SPC: the infamous 9/11/01 and the recent 10/24/09. Since 2004 he has been Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur.

In March 2010, Brown's seventh book *Seven Pillars of Creation will be published*. In October Professor Brown gave SPC and community friends a tour of the seven creation traditions that appear in the Bible. Two are in Genesis 1 and 2 and one each in Job 38–41, Psalms 104, Proverbs 8:22–31, Ecclesiastes 1:2–11, and Isaiah 40–55.

"The Bible is bookended with Genesis 1 and Revelation 22–24," Brown said, the latter a "new creation" based on Ezekiel 40. And the Gospel of John opens with "a revision of Genesis 1." "Scripture is sort of an Earth Bible," Brown said. "Ancient Israel and people in Jesus' Palestine were farmers. Agrarian images abound. Jesus drew from nature to craft his parables." "The ancients still have some things to tell us about the world." And Brown's driving question was "What is it like to reread these ancient texts in light of what we know about the world today?" With Professor Brown it's like a quantum shot of serial insights.

—Ed Zahniser

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SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mission...

Place items for these three missions in the containers at the bottom of stairs on the way to the nursery:

JCCM (Jefferson County Community Ministries) is very grateful for the generosity of our communities. The pantry shelves are now well stocked. Their only current needs are: toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, soap, jelly, and crackers. SPC contact: Sally Fitzgerald, 304-725-3795.

SHENANDOAH WOMEN'S CENTER (SWC) has made a special clothing request for women who have been raped and must leave their clothing for evidence. SWC provides kits, which include *new* sweat suits, underwear, and flip flops or slippers. Purchases from a dollar store are fine. SPC contact: Rie Wilson, 304-876-6591.

HISPANIC MISSION FOOD OUTREACH Most requested items include: rice; dry (not canned) pinto beans, potatoes, salt, sugar, cooking oil, and coffee. SPC contact: Jeff Hornbeck, 304-876-0566.

GOOD SHEPHERD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS Can you give some time to help older or disabled neighbors in Jefferson County? Volunteers for Good Shepherd Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers (GSIVC) drive people to medical appointments; do yardwork and household chores; help with paperwork; make visits and calls; and deliver medical equipment. If you can help, please contact Kelly Duncan at 304-876-3325 or kduncan@gsivc.org. For more information, go to www.gsivc.org.

Thank You...

Thanks to everyone for your prayers and kindness during my illness.
—Ann Teolis

A great big thank you to Chris, Alex and Jessica for

the fine job they did getting rid of leaves at our house this past Sunday!! We are so proud of our wonderful youth.
—Nancy and Bill Wilson

Dear Pastor Tremba,

I sincerely apologize for missing the Peacefest. The flu hit me the day before, so I was unable to schedule a replacement. I am deeply saddened that the cause of family violence was not in evidence. Shepherdstown Presbyterian has partnered with Community Alternatives to Violence longer than any church, agency or business, and I value that partnership. I look forward to the continued relationship between us.

—Sincerely, Carolyn Zdziera, Executive Director

Many thanks to Joan Keith and Karen Waugh for hanging the children's art work in the Fellowship Hall. And to the children for sharing their talent.

Financial Corner...

GENERAL FUND through November 30, 2009. Expected to date: \$261,692. Actual giving: \$238,172. Building Fund pledged for 2009: \$34,400. Submitted to date: \$29,966.

2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES available in Fellowship Hall. If you can't find yours, contact Kathy in the office.

NEXT NEWSLETTER January 2010. Announcements, articles or news of our members? Contact the office, 304-876-6466 or office@spcworks.org Copy deadline **December 30**.

Visit www.spcworks.org on a regular basis for all the latest news, podcasts, calendar events and much more.