

PEACEFEST²

Sunday • December 2 • 4:00 p.m.
Rock • Folk • Jazz • Reggae
Soundscape Meditation
Service of prayer, song, and Eucharist

ADVENT

As we enter yet another holiday season, with all of its many temptations and general spirit of over-doing, let us also be mindful of Advent, a holy time of waiting, wondering and beholding, of making space for the new things waiting to be birthed in our world and in our lives. Meister Eckhart reminds us to "Be prepared at all times for the gifts of God and be ready always for new ones. For God is a thousand times more ready to give than we are to receive." Let us practice, then, our readiness to receive. Let us remember to pause now and then, to pay attention, to ponder, to pray, to be mindful of the many blessings in our lives, to receive gratefully. —*Ethel Hornbeck, Parish Assistant for Spiritual Formation*

COMMUNION THROUGHOUT ADVENT The Session approved communion for each Sunday service in Advent (**Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23**). There is a growing interest in the Presbyterian Church for more frequent communion through which we experience the "real presence of Christ." This is an opportunity to taste what has been a practice for many Christian communities for centuries.

Christmas Joy Gift Dinner

The whole congregation together in one place at one time
Sunday, December 16 at 5:00 p.m., Shepherdstown Fire Hall
Guests of Honor: New Members Class of 2007

Hands-on service activity for children • "The Twelve Days"

The Joy Gift Offering is dedicated to our 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 and flatware, plus ham, chicken and beverages provided. Bring a food dish to serve 12. Food assignments per last name: A-F main dish, G-L dessert, M-Z vegetable or salad. Volunteers needed to set-up at 12:30 p.m. and clean-up after dinner. Please contact Esther Murphy, 304-876-8133, or esther_murphy@comcast.net.

CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY SERVICES

December 23 and 30: One service only (10:45)

Christmas Eve Candlelight services

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

Offering divided between JCCM and the Presbyterian Disaster Fund

December 30 at 10:45: Children's Epiphany Pageant

All children (grades 5 and under) are welcome to participate. A suitable part for one and all. Parts assigned **December 9 & 16** after the 10:45 service. Costume fitting and rehearsal **Wednesday, December 26**, 4–5 p.m. (parental support needed this day). Rehearsals **Friday and Saturday, December 28 & 29**, 10–11 a.m. Questions, want to help? Contact Karen Waugh 304-876-2585, kwaugh@comcast.net.

CREATION, CHRIST, AND THE COSMOS

or St. Francis, the Patron Saint of Ecology

The SPC school of love was in session on Saturday, November 3 when about 50 people from SPC and the Shepherdstown community gathered to hear Dr. Iliia Delio of the Washington Theological Union present her view of the earth based on the principles of St. Francis, and his legacy for the modern world. Dr. Delio summarized the prevailing views on global climate change and what the warming of the planet means for the present and future. She then moved to defining key terms used in the climate change discussion such as ecology (actually a 19th century term meaning “the household of the earth”); ecological footprint; and sustainability. Dr. Delio stated that St. Francis saw God in all of nature. His view should have an impact today as we work to retain and sustain the Earth and perhaps to undo at least a small part of the damage that has already been done.

Following is a little more food for thought she provided:

- Our awareness of the poor is our awareness of the earth.
- Christians have a responsibility to the earth.
- To turn to God is to turn to the earth.
- Poverty is the key to freedom in love.
- Perhaps we need a new kind of “Eco-Penance” that would consist of poverty, interdependency, and a kind of conversion to the earth. —Becky Phipps

Yootz Corner...

DECEMBER 2

- Junior Yootz gift wrapping and Christmas Party after 10:45 service
- Senior Yootz Christmas Party, 6:00-7:30.

SHOPPING FOR ADOPT-A-FAMILY On Sunday November 11, the Senior Yootz went shopping for needy families. Each year we do this through the Jefferson County Community Ministries (JCCM). We shop for what the families need and what they want Santa to bring them. We started after church by getting together in the basement. We discussed our plan for the day and assigned what we should shop for.

After lunch we went to Wal-Mart to shop. Sara Hornbeck and I shopped for sisters. For my eight-year old, we selected clothing, some jewelry and two dolls—Hanna Montana and Raven (from the Disney Channel). We shopped for about an hour and fifteen minutes. We then gathered at the head of Wal-Mart. At the checkout line there was a little bit of chaos. Thanks to Charlotte Baker-Shenk and Wal-Mart we got it all straightened out. We arrived back at the

church and our day was over. The Junior Yootz will wrap these presents and JCCM will give them to the families for Christmas.

I enjoyed my experience in shopping. It taught me the gift of giving. I have learned that it is better to give than to buy for yourself. It was a wonderful experience.

—Jessica Kinney

(Note: the Yootz shopped for: an elderly couple, an 18-year-old mom with a newborn, an elderly woman, and a family of five—husband, wife, girls ages 8 and 13, and a grandmother.)

MINUTE FOR NATURE All rhinos are vegetarians. In fact, white rhinos can eat plants that are toxic to other animals. If it weren't for the rhino, the African plains would be overtaken with these pesky weeds! There are five types (or species) of rhinos: white, black, Indian, Javan and Sumatran. The largest, the White rhino, can grow larger than any other land mammal with the exception of elephants.

The black and white rhino both have the same color skin of dull grey. Rhinos have lived on earth for over 50 million years. Rhinos got a bad rap due to their poor eyesight because they would charge easily (charge first, then see if it is something to worry about). They were once thought of as aggressive, irritable and stupid animals. This couldn't be further from the truth.

The black rhino is a symbol for conservation in Africa just as the Bald eagle is to us. All five species of rhino are in danger of extinction. Rhinos have been one of my favorite animals since I was very young and always will be.

—Madeline Madison

(Note: this was read in church on Sunday, November 18.)

Mark Your Calendars...

AN ADVENT SPIRITUALITY RETREAT *Waiting in Darkness, Carrying the Light: Transition, Loss, Grief and Healing* at Rolling Ridge with Janelle Rhorer and Jackie Sabath, **Friday, November 30–Sunday December 2**. Cost for the weekend is \$100. For more information call or email Jackie Sabath at 304-261-2653, jsabath@rollingridge.net.

THE SHEPHERDSTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT will be having their annual Christmas open house and **FREE** Community dinner on **Sunday, December 2**, noon to 3:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Santa will be the special guest of the day. There will be free gifts for all children, fire safety literature, fire & ambulance displays and much more.

GOOD SHEPHERD CAREGIVERS is holding a volunteer orientation and training workshop on **Wednesday, December 5** at 10:00 a.m. at the Parish

House of Zion Episcopal Church (221 E. Washington St., Charles Town). There are over 400 care receivers who seek our help with light chores, transportation, visiting, reassurance phone calls, etc. *Administrative office volunteers are also needed.* Current volunteers are encouraged to attend as a refresher and to share experiences. Light refreshments will be served. Students, clubs, and other groups are welcome, too! For more information, please visit www.gsivc.org.

MICROFINANCE COUPLED WITH A PRACTICE OF ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING The Mission Committee offers a unique opportunity to hear our own Dee and Tom Taylor share how small amounts of money go a long way as microfinance loans through KIVA and FINCA. These assist small business people to become self-sufficient. The Taylors have turned this opportunity into a family project through alternative gift giving at special occasions, such as Christmas and birthdays. This event will occur on **Sunday, December 9**, 9:45–10:15 a.m. in the SPC Fellowship Hall. Come and be prepared to be inspired!

ADDICTION & GRACE Gerald May's book is the focus of classes to be held on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., **January 9, 16, 23 and 30**. In his book, Gerald May, a psychiatrist and spiritual teacher, explores the "processes of attachment" that lead to addiction and describes the relationship between addiction and spiritual awareness. May's book offers a hope-filled vision for those who desire to examine the mystery of who and what they really are. Books are in the Fellowship Hall for \$15; pay what you can. The classes will be led by Yvonne Fisher and Ethel Hornbeck.

QUESTION: Where in the world is the SPC defibrillator? Lucy Gay will conduct defibrillator training on **Sunday, January 20** at 9:45 and 12 noon. Everyone (especially ushers) is urged to attend.

ANSWER: The defib is in the organ pit in a red fabric case.

Monthly Activities...

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLE First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Every woman is invited to join us for bible study and refreshments. We are studying the book of Jonah. **Next: Dec. 6.**

FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY Coins for relief of hunger and non-perishables for JCCM (see list under **Notices: JCCM**). **Next: December 2.**

TAIZE SERVICE First Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A Service of Prayer in song, silence and candlelight. **Next: December. 5.**

SUPPER GROUP TGIF, Friday, December 14 (note 2nd, not 3rd Friday), 6:30 p.m. at Cathy & Don Cross's, 304-876-2412. Bring a wrapped gift (not new) for Yankee Swap.

ROUNDTABLE WITH ETHEL HORNBECK Conversation and reflection with and around scripture, poetry and other selected texts. Third Thursdays, 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the balcony. **Next: December 20.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST Third Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. discussion from 8:00–9:00 a.m. **Next: December 15.**

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER Third Sundays, balcony, 7:00–7:30 p.m. **Next: December 18.**

Notices...

POINSETTIAS Would you like to donate a poinsettia for the sanctuary during the Christmas Season to be picked up after December 24 (or to donate to someone else)? \$10 each. Forms are in the bulletin. Make check to SPC; memo, poinsettia. Deadline is **December 16.**

2008 IRISH SUMMER INSTITUTE 28 people from all across the US have already signed up for the 2008 Irish Summer Institute, which will take place next **August 18-31, 2008**. SPC members who are interested in participating in this outstanding travel seminar need to contact Director Jim Macdonell, 304-274-1390 or jim.nancymac@verizon.net ASAP so that he can hold a place open for you.

JCCM (Jefferson County Community Ministries) The Food Pantry has been serving record numbers of needy families, largely with a big donation from Charles Town Races employees. Scouts, law firms and the Head Hunters Salon in Ranson (you can make a contribution and get a haircut or other beauty treatment there Sunday afternoon Dec. 2) are also doing fund and food drives.

Pantry needs now: toilet paper, jelly, saltine crackers, size 4 & 5 diapers, small canned hams. Collection at SPC on first Sundays. **Next: December 2.**

Financial Corner...

GENERAL FUND through November 25. Expected: \$231,385. Actual giving: \$226,574. **Building Fund** pledged for 2007: \$30,000. Submitted to date: \$22,016.

2008 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES will be available in the Fellowship Hall **December 9**. Please check with the office if yours is missing. Also, if you haven't returned your 2008 pledge form, please do so as soon as possible.

Non-profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 35
Shepherdstown WV

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Post Office Box 268
Shepherdstown WV 25443
office@spcworks.org

GIVE A CELL PHONE FOR CHRISTMAS Do you have an old cell phone you're not using? It could provide a safety net for a victim of domestic violence, and sadly, the violence increases during the holidays. A charged cell phone, even if not connected to a service, can be used to call 911. Please remove contact numbers and other information first. Then put the phone, THE CHARGER, and instructions (if you still have them) in a plastic bag and place in the box in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be collecting them until **December 16** with the final collection that evening at the Joy Gift Dinner. Questions? Contact Rie Wilson, 304-876-6591 or riew@frontiernet.net.

WE ARE PAINTING! The repainting outside progresses slowly but surely. The east and west window frames have been scraped and will be caulked and primed the week after Thanksgiving. As this is done, the shutter battens will be taken down and the holes pointed up.

Our painting crew has two jobs they can do on rainy days. One area needing work is the sanctuary. The other is the north wall of classroom #1; this needs to be retaped and painted. We'll lighten the room a bit by repainting the entire room the same color as the sanctuary.

We are starting a program this winter of repainting a new area every three months or so. Classroom #1 is first on the list. If you have suggestions on what should be next, please give them to John Burns 304-876-9146, JohnBurns211@frontiernet.net.

Congratulations...

Karen Davison entered two paintings for judging into the Cumberland Valley Show at the Washing-

ton County Museum of Fine Arts. BOTH were accepted for this very prestigious show. There were 149 entries and only 77 were accepted. The show is at the Hagerstown City Park museum **December 8 through January 27**. The opening reception is **Sunday, December 9**, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Brandon Dennison, our Assistant for Youth, was honored by the Campaign for American Wilderness and the Wilderness Society as a "Wilderness Hero" for his commitment to engaging youth and furthering the cause of wilderness protection in WV's Monongahela National Forest. This past summer, Brandon offered SPC's Yootz a chance to trade their summer mission trip for a special summer project that would culminate in a trip to Washington, DC to lobby members of WV's congressional delegation about wilderness.

Thank You...

Thank you to Brandon and crew! We want you to know how very, very appreciative Bill and I are for all the chores you did around our house. What a special group you all are. God bless you.

—Nancy and Bill Wilson

In Our Prayers...

Wanni Martin • Ada Hatchett • Anderson and Jan Clark • Barkley Sutherland

NEXT NEWSLETTER: January 2008. Announcements, articles or news on our members? Contact the office, 304-876-6466 or office@spcworks.org
Copy deadline **January 2**.