



Tower Topics

The monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Mansfield, PA

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<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com>

With the temperature near 55 degrees this week is it possible that Christmas is almost here? It just does not seem possible that a whole year has passed since we celebrated the anniversary of Jesus' birth; and yet Christmas is only a month away according to my calendar.

I love the time of Christmas, with all of its sights, sounds and laughter. I didn't always like it, in fact many was the year when I was called Scrooge because I got tired of all the hustle and bustle etc., of the season. But Christmas speaks well of family; the family that is there through the joys and sorrows of life. Those individuals who accept us, and we them, in spite of all our faults. Christmas is, and needs to be, a time of peace on earth and good will to all people. What a tremendous time of year to heal the wounds of past arguments; to renew those ties that supposedly binds us all together in Christian love. Perhaps we speak too often of extending Christian love and friendship to our neighbors and the spreading of Christ's gospel to the nations and forget about extending the same Christian love and friendship to our relatives and friends.

Martin Luther wrote, "There are some of us...who think to ourselves, 'If I had only been there! How quick I would have been to help the baby. I would have washed his linen. How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!' Yes, we would. We say that because we know how great Christ is, but if we had been there at that time, we would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem...why don't we do it now? We have Christ in our neighbor." I thought about this and in looking at the calendar wondered to myself, how many of you will be with us on the 24th of December, let alone the 26th for the worship and celebration of our Lord's birth. How many will indicate that "we have guests coming from out of town and...well, you know..." Would we really have been any different had we been there on that first Christmas night?

This year reach out not only to your neighbor but also to that family member who needs to feel your love once again. Invite him or her to come and join you for Christmas Ever Service and/or the day after—the Lord's Day for worship and celebration. Come let us celebrate the greatest birthday known to the world—the birthday of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords—the birthday of Jesus the Christ.

“FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID, A SAVIOR WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD.”

AMEN AND AMEN - Pastor Steve



CHANCEL COMMITTEE HOLIDAY REPORT:

Chrismon Repair and Create:

A good working group showed up December 17th. They tackled delicate reconstruction and strengthening to restore some of our original ornaments. Some folks saw all the makings and decided (with encouragement) to make new ones rather than repair old ones. When the big tree goes up in the Sanctuary you will see the whole collection honoring His whose monograms we used. Our helpers in this project included Joyce Bixby, Miriam Cummings, Anne Nevin, Dorothy Smith, Richard Becker, and Benjamin Nevin (supervisor). Our thanks to each one!

Our Chancel Committee took time on a busy morning to set up our Thanksgiving tradition, the Harvest Table. The bounty on the Table, provided by the Committee members, reminds us to give thanks to God for the gift of food and to “count your blessings, name them one by one”. Committee members include Faye Hotelling, Dorothy Smith, Nancy & Richard Becker, and Benjamin E. Nevin.

“Hanging of the Greens” and many other decorations happened Saturday, November 27th, beginning at 2:00 PM and breaking for supper at 5:00 PM. Helpers of all ages and abilities were needed, with (of course) a strong crew of supervisors. All had a good time and enjoyed the soup supper.

Poinsettia time will soon be here!

We will begin to use poinsettias on the First Sunday in Advent, November 28th, and add more each Sunday. Poinsettia order forms are available from the Ushers. Last day to place an order will be Sunday, December 12th so we can use all the Poinsettias for our Christmas Worship Service on December 19th, the day of our Christmas Cantata.

(Please note: The order deadline is earlier than previously announced.)



FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Last month our Food Pantry served 251 different families (that's 821 individuals). There is always more need in December, so they will serve even more.

The donations of food items are a great help and cereal is needed especially at this time. The money that is received is used to buy food through the Central PA Food Bank at a reduced rate. Several local stores also sell to us at a reduced rate.

This summer the Food Pantry building needed some repairs. New siding and the replacement of the sliding doors made it more energy efficient.

Our church was thanked at our last meeting for our generous donations of food and money.

The Chancel Choir of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield will be presenting on Sunday the 19th of December during morning worship, the Christmas Cantata, "One Small Child." Created and Arranged by Tom Fettke and Orchestrated by Russell Mauldin. Song titles within the cantata include: One Small Child, King Jesus Is His Name, When Her Eyes are on the Child with O Little Town of Bethlehem, This Child Was Born for You with Angels We Have Heard on High, Here I am to Worship with The Majesty and Glory of Your Name, This Child Is, Child of Love with Angels We Have Heard on High, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, and O Come, All Ye Faithful and Jesus Will Reign with Joy to the World! The Chancel Choir will also be joined by Robin and James McCormick—our Choir Director/Organist's parents.



Come celebrate the birthday of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!



ABW Report for November

The ABW gathering on Saturday, November 20 resulted in completing our White Cross request for **rolled bandages to Congo missionaries**. 18 more bandages were rolled.

Wal-mart Gift cards totaling \$190.00 have been donated for Neighborhood Ministries in Youngstown Ohio. Whatever is needed for their Christmas request will be sent now, and the remaining will go toward the clothing items listed which we will send by next March 30.

We now have our Frozen Soup Kitchen ready! Twenty-one soups have been made and frozen. They are all labeled and in the freezer in the Church kitchen. These are for not only for our Church family, but also for folks in the community.

If you know of anyone who could use our soup, please let us know.

At our December meeting on December 18, we will be gathering food items for **Gift Baskets** for our shut-ins and care-givers in local Nursing Homes. If you would like to contribute to these baskets you may bring, or send: cookies, wrapped candy, nuts, and the little tangerines called Clementines.

Also at our December meeting we will be wrapping up items for the **Family** we adopted through Head Start. The family consists of Mom, Dad, 4 year old boy size 6, 5 year old girl size 6 and a baby expected in late January.

Pants and shirts for the children, diapers, and non-perishable items can be donated. These can be brought to the December ABW gathering or call Diane Case or Anne Nevin if you cannot attend. If you wish to make a contribution, checks may be made out to American Baptist Women, marked for Adopt a Family and given to Joyce Bixby.



Santa Sock Project 2010

We, along with other churches and organizations fill stockings for children of families in the Mansfield Area Schools. Stockings are available now from Dorothy Smith or Ruth Powlison and they must be **returned by December 12, 2010**.

Fellowship List for November 2010

Please check the list below for your name.

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled week, **please find a replacement for that date.**

Thank you for your help!

December 5

Main Street Greeter: Ruth Powlison

Sherwood Street Greeter: Lee Hoar

Ushers: Mary Ann Walker & Dorothy Smith

Hosts: Pastor Steve & Diane Case

December 12

Main Street Greeter: June Rudy

Sherwood Street Greeter: Cliff Wiles

Ushers: Mary Ann Walker & Dorothy Smith

Hosts: Lee & Mary Ellen Hoar

December 19

Main Street Greeter: Sarah Nevin

Sherwood Street Greeter: Mary Ellen Hoar

Ushers: Mary Ann Walker & Dorothy Smith

Hosts: Richard & Nancy Becker

December 26

Main Street Greeter: Ann Aumick

Sherwood Street Greeter: Sue Wilber

Ushers: Mary Ann Walker & Dorothy Smith

Hosts: Ben B. & Sarah Nevin

January 2, 2011

Main Street Greeter: Mary Ann Walker

Sherwood Street Greeter: Judy Bott

Ushers: David & Rob Garrison

Hosts: Sue Wilber & Brenda Rumsey

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dec. 3 - Nancy Dart

Dec. 9 - Martha Whitfield

Dec. 15 - Sylvia Sumner & Ben B Nevin

Dec. 16 - Judy Bott

Currently on our Prayer List:

David & Linda Cook (Tammy Nevin's parents)
Hortence Taylor (Diane Case's Aunt)
Faye Hotelling's daughter Sonjia
Nevin Buck
Iris Berguson
Jon & Gayle Clark
Lou Sine
Carolyn Swinsick
Omer & Betty Sumner
Nancy Spencer (Marilyn Wiles' Mother)
Rev. Charles Mercer
Evelyn Henninger
Shut-ins and those in our Armed Forces

Please visit our website to see our calendar!

<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com/calendar.htm>

*Have a safe and blessed holiday season,
from all of us at First Baptist Church Mansfield!*