



The Shepherd's News

132 East Valley Forge Road · King of Prussia · Pennsylvania · 19406

December 2011 · January 2012 · February 2012



Glory to the Newborn King!

Sundays in Advent — November 27th, December 4th, December 11th and December 18th

4th Sunday in Advent

Sunday—December 18th



8:30 A.M. — *The fourth Sunday of Advent will be celebrated at this service.*

11:00 A.M. — *The worship will include the Sunday School Christmas pageant as well as the Chancel Choirs' presentation of portions of Handel's Messiah. This service will be followed by a Christmas celebration in the Fellowship Hall where we will share a light lunch of tea sandwiches. You are invited to bring a few of your favorite Christmas cookies to share. Following lunch, all are invited back to the sanctuary where we will 'hang the greens' for our Christmas services. It will be a great day of celebration as we prepare for the birth of the Christ Child.*

Christmas Eve

Saturday — December 24th



5:00 P.M. — Family Worship with Holy Communion and Candlelight

Enjoy worship in the early evening. This abbreviated service will include a children's message and the singing of favorite Christmas Carols.

7:30 P.M. — Holy Communion Candlelight Service

Relax and enjoy dinner with your family and then come and worship the newborn King.

10:00 P.M. — Holy Communion Candlelight Service with Festive Brass

Experience the joys of Christmas Eve with Glory and Praise! Beginning with a magnificent prelude, the service will be filled with music by our Chancel Choir, organ and the FESTIVE BRASS. From the Brass fanfare of "O Come All Ye Faithful" to the much loved, "Silent Night" this Service will ring out with glory and great tradition.

Christmas Day

Sunday—December 25th

9:30 A.M. — *A Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion*

The Name of Jesus

Sunday—January 1st

9:30 A.M. — *Service of Holy Communion*



Sunday School will not meet on December 25th or January 1st — Classes resume Sunday, January 8th



Away goes the turkey platter and out come the Christmas decorations! Of course the mall didn't wait for Thanksgiving to even start to begin putting up their decorations! The stores have been decking their halls since Halloween!

I have noticed that the older people get, the fewer decorations they put up. Maybe you have noticed the same thing. The house that used to have two huge Frazer furs, with every branch adorned with ornaments, is now down to one small artificial tree that sits on the table in the corner of the living room. The mantel above the fireplace that used to have greens and angels covering every inch, now has only one little angel announcing the Christ Child's birth. The Spode Christmas dishes, that were once part of every Christmas dinner, will not come out this year. Too much work.

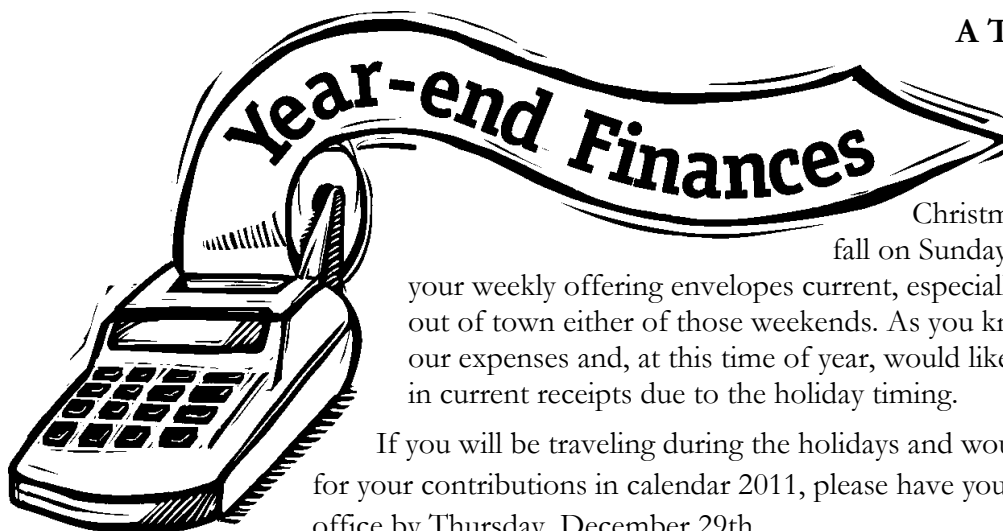
In my earlier years, I use to feel sorry for older people who downscaled Christmas. When I would make my visits to the homebound members and the only evidence of Christmas would be the red and green candy dish and maybe a few Christmas cards carefully placed on the coffee table, I would think that certainly they must miss the hustle and bustle of the season.

But now I am not so sure. There is something about the smallness and the quietness that seems far more reflective of the season. During Advent, we wait for the baby who will be born in a simple, quiet, manger in Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve we will reflect on God, who stoops down from heaven to kiss the earth.

Whether you are pulling out all the stops this year, or whether you have simply decided to put up the pre-decked ceramic Christmas tree, I hope you will take time out to worship with your brothers and sisters at Good Shepherd during Advent. Take time to center yourself on the baby that is to come ... the baby who transformed the world, not through power and might, but through gentleness and simplicity.

Pastor Julie

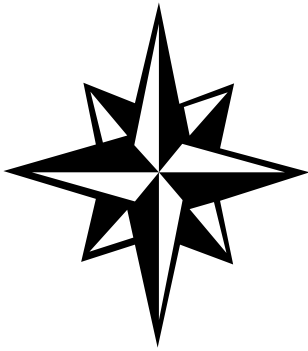
Pastor Julie



A TIMELY REMINDER...

The Finance Committee would like to remind all of our members that both Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Sundays this year. Please try to keep your weekly offering envelopes current, especially if you are planning to be out of town either of those weekends. As you know, we are closely watching our expenses and, at this time of year, would like to avoid any untimely drop in current receipts due to the holiday timing.

If you will be traveling during the holidays and would like to insure recognition for your contributions in calendar 2011, please have your envelopes in the Church office by Thursday, December 29th.



OPERATION SHINING STAR

Christmas is the time when we remember the gift of Christ come to earth by giving to others. As in years past, we continue to work with Community Housing of Montgomery County, who provides us with wish lists of local families who are in need. This year we will sponsor seven families.

Each individual will have a tag on the tree with their name, age, sex and a wish for a child or adult. Look for the tree in the narthex. Please sign out the tag using the gift number on the left of the tag and corresponding number on sign out sheet by the tree, so that we can reach you if the gift has not been returned by the deadline. Please buy only the gift listed on the tag so that each child has the same number of gifts. The wrapped gift, with tag attached on the outside, **MUST** be returned to the church by Sunday, **December 11th**. If you are delayed, please call Janice Rackovan (610-935-7247) or the church office at 610-265-4545.

In addition to buying gifts, we offer the congregation the opportunity to donate money (which will be used to buy food gift certificates, or gifts not purchased.) We are also grateful to Thrivent who provided an additional \$700 for this year's project. Please use the specially marked "Operation Shining Star" envelopes found on the kiosk. The Outreach Committee will need help delivering the gifts to Community Housing on December 19th. If you are willing to deliver gifts, please call Janice or the church office.



OUTREACH IN DECEMBER

In December, our special outreach offerings will benefit Bridge of Hope Buxmont. This program offers a three-way partnership between the homeless family, a local church mentoring group and the Bridge of Hope BuxMont professional staff. They provide financial assistance on a gradually decreasing basis for one year. What makes BOH work is the pairing of families to church-based mentoring group. These trained mentors help the single parent find a job, childcare, housing, transportation or whatever is needed. Mostly, however, they offer support, encouragement and friendship. We at Good Shepherd have mentored two families and have seen how well this program works. Please help by donating through your special outreach envelopes or fill out a pew envelope and mark it Outreach.

OUTREACH IN JANUARY

January's outreach will help to subsidize Casserole Day at Good Shepherd. Every other month, on a Saturday morning, our church prepares casseroles to feed 200 homeless people who come to the Germantown Soup Kitchen for nourishment of body, mind and spirit. The soup kitchen is just one part of St. Vincent DePaul's ministry to the poor, which they call "Face to Face."



All of the ingredients that are needed to prepare the casseroles must be purchased. And although every attempt is made to get the food at the best possible price, there is still a substantial cost involved. We hope that by designating one month's outreach funds for Casserole Day, we will be able to offset the cost of preparing the casseroles through the year.

OUTREACH IN FEBRUARY



Outreach funds for the month of February will be donated to Montgomery Hospice through the Chrissie Olsyn Memorial Fund. Montgomery Hospice provides support and care for persons in the last phases of incurable disease so that they may live as fully and as comfortably as possible. The program also takes into account the emotional needs of the family, providing counseling and support activities to assure the fullest understanding of and preparation for the patient's last days. They continue to offer support services for the family for over twelve months after the death. Please use your Special Outreach envelopes to contribute or mark a pew envelope "Outreach." If you have questions regarding hospice or are interested in acting as a volunteer for this program, please contact Janice Rackovan RN at 610-935-7247.

The Valley Forge **Chorale**

Christmas Concert —December 3rd—7:30 P.M.

at Good Shepherd

featuring Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*
along with other Christmas favorites

Tickets are \$10.00 and are available at the door.

Christmas Poinsettias

Is there someone you would like to remember or honor this holiday season? You can do so by ordering a poinsettia plant as a memorial or in honor of someone special. There are envelopes available, posted on the kiosk, or you may call the church office. The flowers will beautify the church sanctuary and may be picked up after the service on Sunday, December 25th. The cost is \$8 for each plant.



ALTAR FLOWERS



The new flower chart has been posted for placing flowers on the altar for 2011. The cost for the flowers is \$10. Each week, when the altar flowers are purchased, the flowers are available following the 11:00 worship service. We request that when you purchase the flowers, please come by following the 11:00 service. Then you can take the flowers home or deliver the flowers to a member of the church who is homebound or sick.

Thank you!

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2012 offering envelopes are available for pick-up in the Narthex. If you do not see a set of envelopes with your name, please contact the church office.



From the GIFT & MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

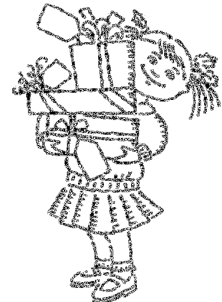


The Memorial Gifts Committee gratefully acknowledges the monetary gifts given in loving memory of Virginia "Ginny" Bauer Clarke, sister of Betsy Smith. These gifts were received from Jerry & Marion Royer, Donna Miles and Harry and Betsy Smith. Thank you to all who contributed.

These gifts are important to the life of our church: they remind us of our connections to one another through our life in Christ. At the same time they provide Good Shepherd with a source of funds needed to purchase furnishings and other items for our facility which are not included in our budget.

Do you plan to do any of your Christmas shopping online this year?

If you do, please consider using GOODSHOP and while you enjoy shopping at all of your favorite online merchants, Good Shepherd could receive 2% of all of your purchases. Many of your favorite merchants are included: Staples, Apple, L.L. Bean, Amazon and Travelocity...just to name a few!



All you have to do is:

Go to www.goodshop.com — Locate Who Do You Goodshop for?

Select Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – **King of Prussia**

Select the merchant you want to buy from

So now that you know how easy it is, you can GOODSHOP all year long!

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

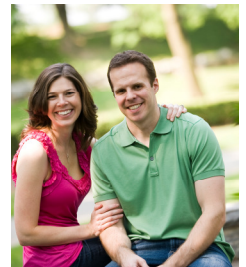
Jennifer & Keith Readman—have been living in King of Prussia for eight years. Jennifer (or Jen) is originally from Broomall and Keith is from Phoenixville. Jennifer and Keith met in “jail.” They met on a blind date at Eastern State Penitentiary’s annual Halloween Haunted House. Jennifer and Keith are both in healthcare. One is involved in physical health and the other in mental health. Jennifer is a nursing supervisor at CHOP Home-care. Jennifer earned her nursing degree at Thomas Jefferson. Keith is director of both the Crisis and Admissions departments at Belmont Hospital. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Social Science from Houghton College and his Masters degree in Social Work from Bryn Mawr College. Jennifer enjoys reading. Keith’s hobby is computer and technology. Both are members of Camp Innabah which is a local Methodist camp open to people of all ages, plus those with special needs. Both are also involved in Walk To Emmaus, a movement that helps build church leaders. Lastly, the pastime that the entire Readman family enjoys (including Chase) is camping. They have three children—**Madison, Benjamin and Mackenzie**. Madison is 9 years old. She attends 4th grade at Caley Elementary. Madison enjoys music, Girl Scouts, sports (particularly softball). She is a member of the Marlins swim team. Benjamin is 7 years old. He is in 2nd grade at Caley Elementary. Benjamin likes music and is learning the violin. He also enjoys football, baseball, Boy Scouts and is a member of the Marlins swim team. Mackenzie is 2 years old and goes to Kindercare preschool. She enjoys coloring. Mackenzie has a new special friend to help her get in trouble around the house – Chase – the Readmans’ new puppy. Many thanks to Lisa Santini for inviting the Readman family to visit Good Shepherd.



Heather Francis grew up in Wayne. She has been living in Upper Merion for 12 years. Her husband Michael is a building contractor. You may have seen his truck with “Work Horse Construction” on it, driving around town. They met through friends at work. Heather works as a Health & Welfare Consultant in Conshohocken. She helps employer groups with health plans. She is also busy working towards a Business Management Bachelor’s Degree at University of Phoenix. Heather is an avid runner and makes it a point to participate in the Broad Street Run every year. Michael is an Ultra Marathoner. Heather is joining Good Shepherd with her three daughters—**Amber, Kaylie and Pepper**. Amber is 12 years old and is in the 6th grade at Upper Merion Middle School. She enjoys cheerleading and is on the Marlins Swim Team. Recently, Amber has become interested in drama. Kaylie is 6 years old. She is in 1st grade at Bridgeport Elementary. Kaylie enjoys cheerleading and is a member of the Marlins Swim Team. Pepper is 4 years old and attends a Preschool. Pepper loves painting and following in her sisters’ footsteps. She also enjoys cheerleading.



Colleen Hellman-Michel—Originally from Nashville, TN, Colleen relocated to King of Prussia from the D.C. area two years ago. Colleen is a subcontracts manager at Lockheed Martin in King of Prussia. Outside of work, Colleen is actively involved with her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, and oversees recruitment for 11 collegiate chapters in the Northeast. On October 29th Pastor Julie married Colleen Hellman and Pete Michel at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Lancaster. Pete is a software development manager at Dell in Berwyn and is a member of Mother of Divine Providence Catholic Church, but can occasionally be seen with Colleen at Good Shepherd. Colleen and Pete enjoy working out, hiking, and traveling.



Nama Susheela grew up in India. She speaks 3 languages: Telegu, Hindi and English. Nama has spent many years traveling back and forth between the United States and India. Our faith family of Good Shepherd had the pleasure of seeing her whenever she was in the states. She is now a U.S. citizen. A year ago she settled down permanently in the U.S. when she moved in with her daughter, who conveniently lives right across the street from Good Shepherd. She also has another daughter who lives in Philadelphia. Nama loves her role as grandmother to six grandchildren and her special role as great-grandmother to a one-year-old. She enjoys spending time praying, reading the bible, babysitting and singing. She especially enjoys singing to her grandchildren and great-grandchild.



DATES FOR THE YOUTH

- Sunday, December 4—Youth Council after church
- Saturday, December 10—Junior High Night 7-9pm
- Sunday, December 11—Caroling for Shut-Ins (lunch provided); New Orleans Meeting (4pm after caroling)
- Wednesday, December 14—New Orleans Fundraiser at Ten Thousand Villages
- Saturday, December 17—WHAM Christmas Party 6-9pm:
 We will be making Christmas Cookies to share at church as well as having a gift swap (gift must cost \$4.17 or less!)
- Thursday, December 22—Luminaries 6:30 bringing them up from the basement
- Saturday, December 24—Luminaries putting them around the church
- Friday & Saturday, January 13-14—9pm-9am Bowling Lock-In
- Saturday, February 4—Applebee's Breakfast Fundraiser 7:30-10:30am
- Sunday, February 12—Chili Cook-Off



COME ONE COME ALL FOR "CHRISTMAS CAROLING"



The youth would like to invite anyone who likes to sing to come out.



Date: December 11, 2011
Time: After 11:00 service

Lunch will be provided to all singers. A signup sheet can be found on the youth kiosk. Please sign up if you are planning on coming so we can make sure we have enough food and drivers.

RENT-A-YOUTH

Our youth, who will be traveling to New Orleans for the ELCA National Youth Gathering this summer, are available for 'rent'! They can do basic yard work, house clean out, babysitting or any other job you may need an extra hand with. Please contact Diane Smith at 610.265.5943.



**YOUTH FUNDRAISER
 For New Orleans**



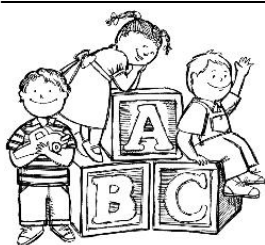
In order to raise funds for their trip to New Orleans for the ELCA National Youth Gathering in 2012 the youth are inviting Good Shepherd members to a Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's in Audubon.

Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser (It is an all you can eat pancake and sausage event.)
 Place: Applebee's—Trooper Road, Audubon

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2012 * Time: 8:00 to 10:00 am * Ticket price: \$7.00

Tickets will be sold after services starting in mid-December.
 Tickets for our raffle baskets will also be available.

GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL NEWS



Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will begin January 15th for church members. Classes are available for children who will be two, three or four years old before September 1st, 2012. For more information please contact Diane Smith at 610-265-0733.

With joy we announce
the marriage of
Colleen and Pete Michel
who were married on October 29, 2011



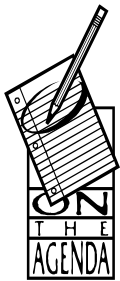
We welcome...
...Paul Michael Schmeltzer, Jr.
born on November 8, 2011
to parents Becca (Atlee) and Paul Schmeltzer
His baptism will be January 22, 2012



A big thank you to the 9th grade confirmands for their skillful handiwork in creating the banners for the All Saints Day service honoring those baptized since All Saints' Day 2010. What an exceptional way to mark the special event of baptism for Good Shepherd's newest "saints," and to bring together members of our faith family who are in different places on their spiritual journey.



Thank you also, to the ladies of Hearts & Hands who baked goodies and assembled and shipped "care" packages to our college students in November. What a treat for the students to receive their package...complete with an Advent devotional booklet and note from the ladies.



WINTER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING * SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th

This is an especially important meeting since this meeting will include taking a vote to extend a permanent call to Pastor Julie.

Also at this meeting, we will be electing new members of our church council as well as approving the 2012 church budget.



All are invited to attend, however, only members are permitted to vote.

Following the meeting the Fellowship Committee is hosting a luncheon. Details to come in January.

A REMINDER...



Ash Wednesday will be observed on February 22nd. In addition, this year during the season of Lent, Soup Suppers will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:00 P.M. (including Ash Wednesday). Also, guest preachers will be joining us on Wednesday evenings as we explore, "Instructions in Faith—Preparing for the Resurrection."

More details will follow.

MEET OUR MISSIONARIES—TOM AND SUSAN MACPHERSON!

This fall Tom and Susan left for a two-year term as volunteer missionaries at the Irete Children's Home, a ministry of our companion synod, the North Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The couple first visited Tanzania in 2008 as part of their congregation's visit (Saint John's Lutheran in the Mayfair section of Philadelphia) to their companion parish, Kana Lutheran Church, in Tanga.

You may remember that back in September, Tom and Susan were with us in worship (delivering a minute for mission and the children's sermon). In addition, they taught our adult, high school and confirmation classes during the education hour. Those who attended were inspired by their story and how the Holy Spirit is working in their lives.

In a courageous and faith filled move, our Outreach committee has committed to supporting the MacPhersons and their work by pledging a gift of \$1,000 in 2012 and \$1,000 in 2013. During Advent, Sunday School families are asked to honor their teachers by supporting the MacPhersons.

Over the next two years the MacPhersons will be blogging, sending us emails and communicating with us in a whole host of ways —letting us know how our mission dollars are being spent.



PEACE TO PEACE TO PEACE

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

132 East Valley Forge Road
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-2031
(610)265-4545 (PHONE) (610)265-4771 (FAX)
Email: gskopstaff@verizon.net
Web: www.gskop.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Shepherd's News Winter 2011-2012

MARCH • APRIL • MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE...Tuesday, February 12th

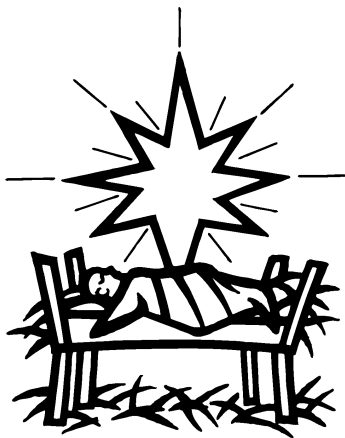
Please submit your articles to the Church Office using pink form in "forms" slot in

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 A.M. – Noon

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 and 11:00 A.M. Worship Services
Education Hour—9:45 A.M.



R E M E M B E R
THE CHILD

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Pastor—Julie DeWerth	610-308-2675
Director of Music Ministries—Steven J. McBride, Jr.	610-633-3442
Youth Worker—Jonathan Steiner	301-785-0518
Parish Administrator—Dawn Zadroga	610-265-4545
Office Assistant—Nancy Brown	610-265-4545
Preschool Director—Diane Smith	610-265-0733
Sunday School Superintendents—Jenn DeStefano and Karen Lehman	610-525-2029 610-337-7296
Sexton—Ray Erwin	610-265-4545

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor's Mail	gskoppastor@verizon.net
Office Mail	gskopstaff@verizon.net
Music Mail	SMcBrideJr@gmail.com
Preschool	gskoppreschool@verizon.net