



The

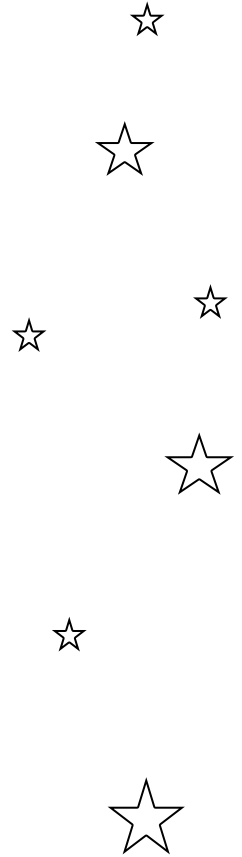
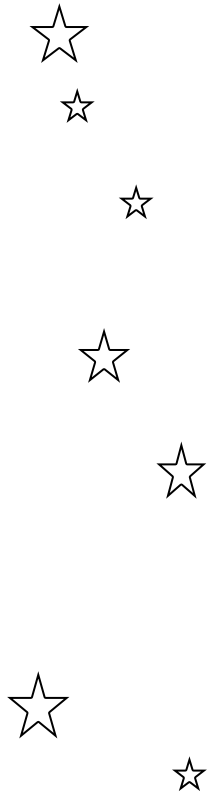
Crown

Sharing Christ and His Love with All People

A publication of Church of the Apostles,
a United Church of Christ congregation



January 4, 2012
Vol. 36 No. 1



Winter Cancellations & Late Openings

Worship

TV Stations: WGAL -TV Channel 8, WHP-TV Channel 21, WLYH –TV Channel 15 and ABC 27 TV

Radio Stations: WDAC, WJTL, WROZ, WHP Talk Radio, WRVV, and KISS.

Church Office

Closed when the Hempfield School District is closed.

Opens at 10:00 am when Hempfield School District opens late.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Letter & Council News	2
Outreach	3
Stewardship & Worship	4
Thank You's	5-6



FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE

And so, here we are, another “new” year. Whenever we discuss such things as time, two songs come to me: Chicago’s happy music with the sober lyrics, “Does anybody really know what time it is, does anybody really care?” and James Taylor’s meditation on time, “The thing about time is that time isn’t really real.”

We Christians have a thing about time, too. We also wonder what time it is in God’s eyes. We read passages about looking for the “signs of the times”. Or we say that God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow while also acknowledging that God’s love is new every morning. How can both be true? How can we say that January 1 is any different than December 31 just because the calendar tells us that one is in the year 2011 and the other in 2012?

In thinking about these things and about what I could write to you in this article I happened upon this verse from Paul’s letter to the Galatians. **“For in Christ Jesus ... the only thing that counts is faith working through love.”** (Gal. 5:6)

I find these words to be inspiring, compelling and, frankly, new. That is, while I’ve read the ideas expressed in this verse in other places in the Christian Bible, I had not seen them in quite this way until this week. To me, they cut right through any debate about time. It doesn’t matter what day or year or millennium it is, if we understand that the only thing that counts is faith working through love, then everything we do, everyone we meet, every idea that comes to us is a new opportunity for mission, a new hope for ministry, and a new way of following Jesus.

Think of this possibility: the only thing that counts for Church of the Apostles UCC in 2012 is that our faith works through our love.

Our faith is in Jesus Christ who makes all things new by doing to others what we would have them do to us.

Our work is serving the young and the old, ministering to the poor and marginalized, and welcoming all God’s children no matter who they are or where they are on life’s journey.

Our love is for the beauty of God’s creation, the hearts of God’s children and the peace and wellbeing of God’s world.

What if we were to focus on building our faith, doing our work and strengthening our love? I think that

if we were to begin our planning, all of our meetings, every service of worship, all fellowship, service and mission events with these goals our life together would be much different. I believe that our coffers, our pews and our ministries would be full to overflowing. What do you think?

God is good. Our hope and our help is in God. All God wants is our faith, our work and our love and God will provide all that we need.

2012 COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Council for Church of the Apostles for 2012 will be made up of the following members:

George Alspach, Joy Angevine, Julie Berkow, Gary Brown, Lisa Christofel, Emily Daggett, Chuck Erisman, Tom Lewis, Jane McCartney, Erika Neiderer, Cathie Oliphant, Doris Robb, Annette Rohloff, Ellen Schellenberger, Andy Smith, Randy Sweigart, Eileen Thomas, Judy Waltman, Allison Weiser.

The officers for 2012 were unanimously elected at the December 2011 Council meeting and they are: Gary Brown, President, Doris Robb, Vice-President, Julie Berkow, Secretary. Tom Lewis has been appointed Treasurer because that is an appointed position.

New Beginnings to Gather on Thursday, January 19

Our motto – *“We stand for fun, fellowship, education, prayer, and mission.”*

New Beginnings, the seniors’ social group, will gather on Thursday, January 19, in room 310, beginning with a dessert social at 1:00 p.m. Donations of desserts will be appreciated.

The program that day will feature Andy Appel, a member of Apostles, telling about his mercy mission to Honduras, the most poverty-stricken country in Central America. Andy will be returning from Honduras only on January 16; that’s why we pushed the gathering back to the third Thursday of the month.

New Beginnings is the seniors’ group, but we welcome juniors who are preparing to become seniors. Bring a friend.

Outreach

Wishing Well

Thanks to the generous support of this congregation and the Apostles Community Preschool, we were able to provide about 90 Headstart children with backpacks loaded with fun supplies this Christmas! It was a huge project and seeing all of those backpacks loaded onto a truck and into a van was so rewarding! Four of us delivered them on December 13th to a very grateful staff. One of the staff members saw me in a restaurant three days later and told me that the children were so excited to get the backpacks and that they looked so happy and proud wearing them home that day. Please take a minute to look at the photos on the Outreach bulletin board.

Our next project is to support the McCartney family's annual Day of Smiles, which is a project of giving to agencies in our community in memory of Jane's daughter, Erin, and son-in-law, Max, who were killed in a tragic and senseless accident on Super Bowl Sunday in 2005. This project supports the Clare and Milagro Houses, Mom's House, Brereton Manor nursing facility, and the Humane League. We will be collecting items for distribution on Feb. 6th so we will need to have these items in the Wishing Well by February 5th. There will be a sign posted at the Wishing Well to indicate what items are being collected. Once again, thank you for all of your support of our Outreach missions. It always feels good to serve God through helping the less fortunate. If you have any questions, please see Jane McCartney.



Special Offering Mission to the Homeless

On January 15, 2012, this special offering will be collected to support various shelters in Lancaster City with their efforts to provide service and shelter for the homeless in our county.

Last year, the Outreach Commission voted to divide the 2011 Mission to the Homeless Offering between four shelters that serve a segment of the homeless population. Thanks to your generosity, \$1552.00 was

collected and supplemented by Outreach funds, \$400 donations were sent to LCCC Winter Overflow Shelter, the Water Street Family Shelter, Domestic Violence Services of Lancaster County (DVSLC), and Transitional Living Center (TLC).

**VERIFIED
SHELTER**



The Lancaster County Council of Churches sponsors a temporary Winter Overflow Shelter for the homeless during cold weather. Housed in the YWCA this year, these beds provide a refuge from the cold for homeless women and children in our area. COA will once again be staffing the shelter for an evening. If you would like to volunteer and are available Friday-Saturday February 3-4th, please let me know.

In addition to a community, men's, and women's emergency overnight shelter, The Water Street Rescue Mission also offers a Family Emergency Shelter. This 30+day program offers shelter, case management, and counseling to local homeless families.

Each year DVSLC provides emergency protective shelter to over 175 victims of domestic violence. In addition to emergency shelter services, over 1,800 victims are provided comprehensive services such as individual and group counseling, legal assistance, and other supportive services such as emergency food, clothes, bus passes and lock changes.

TLC provides housing and support to those experiencing homelessness. The 51-room facility is fully operational and staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Thirty-four rooms in the facility are set aside for singles, couples, families, senior citizens, infants, and teenagers and 17 rooms are reserved for veterans who are experiencing homelessness. The focus of the TLC program is to end the cycle of homelessness and each household must be committed to the goal of finding permanent housing upon enrollment into the TLC program.

All of these agencies and shelters do wonderful work serving our disadvantaged citizens while operating on a minimal budget. Please give as generously as you are able to help provide a warm, safe place for those less fortunate to stay while they strive to get back on their feet.

Outreach Commission

Stewardship

Second Mile Giving Stays at COA

Second Mile giving is a program to help COA meet its yearly budget. It does not go to the Jerry Sandusky charity of similar name. COA has a very significant budget gap this year and your year-end giving is vital. Please give your donation marked Second Mile Gift and be assured it will be applied to COA's ministry.

Worship

Nativity in the Park

Nativity in the Park was held Dec 17 and 18 and was a great event. We had approximately 80 people in attendance each night.



Everyone stayed and enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies after the presentation and just sat and talked, in the cold weather! Twenty-one children were involved: 11 shepherds, 8 angels, Mary, Joseph. Three adults were kings. Several parents were adult shepherds and angels. The idea for the Nativity began 2 years ago and planning began in earnest last Christmas. There are so

many people to thank for this project: the script writers, the scenery builders, folks who prepared music on an iPod, the lighting, the luminaries, the costuming, the narrating, those who held flashlights when necessary, van drivers, Pastor Cowles for opening and closing remarks, folks who prepared cookies and hot chocolate, and the families who wholeheartedly supported the entire event. Everyone had a great time and said they were ready to go again next year! Thank you to everyone for making a dream come true!

Bernie Fickes



HERSHEY BEARS HOCKEY GAME TRIP

Sunday, January 22, 2012
5:00 PM

**Bears vs. Manchester Monarchs
Tickets - \$9.50 each – 200 level**

**Contact Judy Waltman for tickets –
285-7395/jlwaldman@comcast.net (home) or
399-6521/jwaldman@lnpnews.com (work)**

DON'T FORGET ... We need used sheets (any colors) for bed pads. We are also collecting cotton fabric to make clothing. You can drop off all items in the Cloak Room.

Pastor on Call

**Pastor Kuhn's number is 471-3001.
Pastor Cowles' number is 717-862-8573**

**Jan 4 - 8
Jan 9 - 15
Jan 16 - 22
Jan 23 - 29**

**Pastor Kuhn
Pastor Cowles
Pastor Kuhn
Pastor Cowles**



Altar Flowers



Our altar flowers are an integral part of our worship service. Not only providing a physical symbol of beauty during our worship, after the service, they are given as a symbol of love and caring to a member of our community who is unable to be with us physically. The cost of our flowers and bulletins averages about \$140/week. Our suggested contribution for sponsoring flowers and bulletins is \$35.00; however, any amount is welcomed and appreciated.

If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or send it into the office. A thank you letter will be sent following your sponsorship with directions for sending in your donation. Thank you for your support in this important ministry.

Worship Commission

I would like to sponsor altar flowers on the following date:

“In honor of” or “In memory of”

Your name

Phone #

**If you have any questions please contact:
Dawn Dougherty (892-0350) or Bonnie Jolly (872-4053)**

Crown Deadlines

Due at noon on...

Will be published on...

Jan. 5

Jan. 18 (Wed.)

Feb. 2

Feb. 14

Feb. 16

Feb. 28

Donations

Pull tabs, Campbell Soup Labels & Box Tops for Education are needed. These benefit the Ronald McDonald House and Hoffman Home.



To Church of the Apostles,

*We were pleased to receive the poinsettia delivered by Bev Moran. It was good to visit with long time friend Bev and talk about things of common interest. Thank you for adding to our celebration of Christmas.
Miriam and Bill Irwin*

Dear LAUCC Member Congregations,

The Executive Committee of the Lancaster Association would like to thank you for your continued support. Without your faithful support we would not be able to sustain our ministries and activities. If you have remaining commitment balances, they should be to the Association by January 17, 2012. Again, thank you for your continued support.

*Lancaster Association Executive Committee
Brenda Conley, Treasurer*



A big Thank You to all who baked and bought Christmas cookies this year. The sale was a great success and we are thankful to be able to contribute \$392 to the Apostles Assistance Fund. What a fun and yummy way to assist the Church.

Joanne Shenberger

Parish Life would like to thank Joanne Shenberger and Judy Jarvis for organizing the Christmas Cookie Exchange that was held on Sunday, December 18. It's a relatively new tradition that many members look forward to each year and the money raised is added to the Apostles Assistance Fund to help those who have critical needs.

Karen Culp

I wish to thank Church members who visited with me at Moravian Manor. I appreciate the visits, communion, and gifts I received. God bless!

Maitland Frank

Dear Church of the Apostles Congregation,

I wanted everybody to know of the good work George and Jean Heidig are doing for our church. I had the pleasure of their visit to my home delivering a beautiful poinsettia after a several-day stay at Lancaster General Hospital. It was a visit that was full of good conversation and sharing some of the St. Paul's history with them. Their dedication to the church was very apparent.

Thank you Pastor Kuhn for a very nice visit while I was in the hospital. My son Don enjoyed meeting you in person since he always reads your remarks in the church bulletin sent to me.

Merry Christmas to everybody in the church. Best Wishes.

Kitty Nestel

Church of the Apostles,

Thank you for your church's gift of \$741.00 to Mission:1. You have been the key to our victory during these 11 powerful days!

By December 1, we met, and indeed exceeded, our goal in all of the four categories: Neighbors in Need special gifts for hunger-related ministries, East African famine relief, letters to Congress, and items of food

donated. The mobilization of both individuals and congregations has been nothing short of awe-inspiring.

During Mission: 1, the United Church of Christ accomplished something significant together. We testified to the power and potential of our oneness in Christ. We were on a shared mission to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice, and we harnessed our unity – God's gift to us – to change lives at home and around the world.

Although we have officially closed the tally board, we are still updating it daily. Feel free to check in at www.ucc.org/tally.html to review our collective progress.

Again, thanks for your generosity.

In oneness,

*Geoffrey Black
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ*

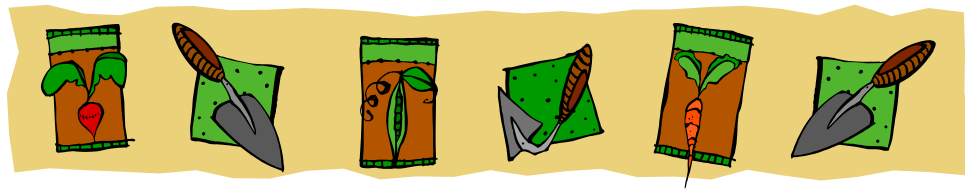
Thank you to all those who have served so faithfully on the Church Council and Commissions this past year! Special thanks go to John Eshbach, John Payne, Bernie Fickes, Donald Freeman, Steve Daniels, and Karen Culp. Their terms have expired and they are rotating off the Council. Thanks also to Tabitha Haigh who served faithfully and well on the Council. While all members of Council and the Commissions deserve our thanks, I especially lift up the commitment and leadership of Karen Culp as President. It has been a difficult year in many ways for Church of the Apostles. Karen has stuck through it all with diligence and hard work. Thank you all.

Rick Cowles

Thanks to all of our Church Family who thoughtfully provided Susan and me with your good wishes, cards and presents over the holidays. We are very grateful for your generosity and prayers.

Rick Cowles





APOSTLES PICKIN'S GARDEN

It's the plowed area near the barn in Rader Park.

Spring is coming! Get out your hoes, spades, shovels and rakes. Please look carefully at those seed catalogs. Get ready for the Apostles Pickin's Garden. Food will be grown by God, but tended by COA gardeners. It's bursting to grow! Read on for more details.

Why do we need a garden?

- * Our property in Rader Park can be used more productively.
- * Growing food helps children learn how their food arrives on their tables.
- * Growing vegetables can help the needy and supplement the Food Bank.
- * Selling our vegetables can help our community neighbors and add to our General Fund
- * Our younger families would like to have a Corn Roast as a fund raiser for the purchase of playground equipment for Rader Park.
- * A Fall Harvest Celebration is being planned in September.

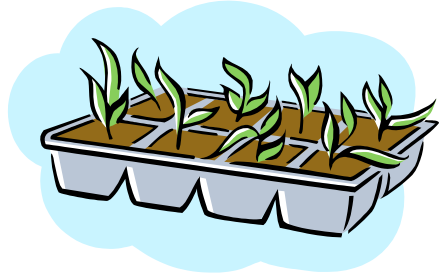
We will ALL need to "dig in" and help with this project to make it a success.

How can YOU get involved?

Volunteer: Sign up to help. There will be a calendar / schedule in the office to sign up for planting, weeding, tending plants, harvesting and selling our produce as it becomes ready for the pickin'. Work when you can and share the load. Many hands make light work.

Donate: A seed box will be placed in the office for donated seeds. Garden space will be available for: corn, tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce, spinach, potatoes, beans, peas, peppers, beets, carrots, pumpkin, and flowers, just to mention a few. Monetary donations will be accepted to purchase plants when the danger of frost is gone. We will need plastic bags and plastic/cardboard containers for carrying produce.

Let's work together to wisely use God's gifts of rich and fertile land. We can help others who really need the food. Our children need to know how to grow their own food. We could use a project that pulls everyone together. Fund raisers will also help meet goals and provide addition funds. It's an endeavor where everyone can help in a big way or a small way. If everyone works together, it allows everyone to feel that they are a part of our COA church family. Project Coordinator - Eileen Thomas



Church of the Apostles, UCC

1850 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603-2398
Phone: 717-392-5718
Fax: 717-392-6470
Email: webmaster@apostlesucc.org
www.apostlesucc.org



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1065
Lancaster, PA**

Church of the Apostles Staff

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Richard Cowles ext. 114
richardc@apostlesucc.org

Associate Pastor

The Rev. Kathryn L. Kuhn ext. 115
kathrynk@apostlesucc.org

Director of Music Ministries

Cynthia Kahler ext. 116
cindyk@apostlesucc.org

Music Associates

Dr. Debra Lenssen ext. 117
A.J. Walker ext. 119

**Administrative & Communications
Coordinator**

Diane Rogers ext. 111
dianer@apostlesucc.org

Bell Choir Director: Ron Bellamy

Children's Choir Director: Amy Williams

**Finance & Member Services
Coordinator**

Michelle Strohm ext. 110
michelles@apostlesucc.org

Church Council President

Gary Brown

Pastors Emeriti

The Rev. Nevin Schellenberger
The Rev. Glenn J. Rader

Property Manager

Eric MacLaren ext. 118

Sexton: Larry Rongione

Children's Sunday School Coordinator: Judy Bistline