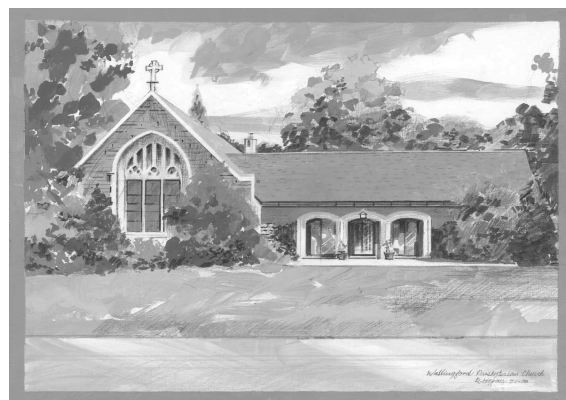


DECEMBER 2011



A Stephen Series Congregation
TIME DATED MATERIAL



The newsletter of Wallingford
Presbyterian Church

Wallingford Presbyterian Church
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<i>Interim Pastor</i>
Rev. Paul Rhebergen
<i>Associate Pastor</i>
Rev. Rob Ross
<i>Director of Music</i>
Elizabeth Braden
<i>Jeni Pedzinski</i>
Director of youth Ministry
<i>Administrative Secretary</i>
Susan Schwarz

December 2011

The newsletter of Wallingford
Presbyterian Church



Spirit Song-December

Interim Pastor's thoughts...

Welcome to Advent, the season of the church year just before Christmas. It's that season during which the pastor's and ministers of music love to pick "those" Advent hymns, while the congregation wants to sing all the Christmas Carols. But Advent is a very important season for we who call ourselves Christians. It is when we come to appreciate that Christmas is not just the celebration of something that happened long ago. It is also the season that prepares us to celebrate that which is now, and is yet to happen, the return of Christ.

Advent helps us to experience the expectation, of waiting for both what has already happened, and what is yet to come. The Advent Carol, "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" catches this as well as anything:

Come, Thou long expected
Jesus, Born to set Thy
people free;
From our fears and sins
release us; Let us find our
rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and
consolation, Hope of all the
earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom
bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine own sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious
throne.

The season reminds us that even as we are celebrating the birth of our Savior who has already come to set us free, we anxiously await the coming return of our Savior. "Since we believe that Christ is coming, Advent becomes a time for words and deeds that witness to Christ's new age. Our Advent witness to the coming of Christ requires caring about our world, our neighbors, our enemies—everyone. Advent is the time to care about peace and justice in the world, since we believe that Christ has come and, therefore, everything that has come in Christ will be fulfilled in the world. Come Lord Jesus! Our Lord has come!"¹ Through Advent then, our Christmas celebration becomes the celebration of the birth of the Messiah, and the celebration of the certainty of Christ's return.

I think that you will find this

Advent and Christmas Season all the more poignant because it is also an interim time, a time between called pastors. You celebrate what has already been, and yet, we also anticipate what is coming to be. Like the Advent Season, the Mission Study in the midst of the interim time is a way to look at what has already happened in our midst, and what God is making happen in our midst. It is a time that, by definition, creates tension, but also frees us from the old and opens us to the new.

In the weeks ahead the Transition/Study Team of your church will invite you to participate in bringing that future into existence. I pray that all of you will find the time and the ways to be fully involved in the study process. Meanwhile, remember, without "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" there is no "Joy to the World!"

¹"Liturgical Time", Call to Worship vol.35.1 2001,pg.69.

In Christ's service,
Paul Rhebergen

MANY OPPORTUNITIES



Presbyterian Women of Wallingford Women of Wallingford United

For the past more than 40 years our Circles have offered the Women of Wallingford a chance to journey together and follow where Christ has led us in worship, fellowship, and service to our world. This year **ALL** of the women of our Church family are invited to join in new opportunities for Christian fellowship.

The new united **WOW Circle** will be meeting at the Church on the **Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m.** for a pot luck supper and Christmas celebration. Everyone attending should bring their choice of a main dish, salad, side dish, or dessert. After supper and a time of fellowship, we'll share in the reading of the Christmas Story and singing of hymns. All women of the Church are invited and encouraged to come and be part of this special Christmas event.

Ditty Bags for Broomall Home – We'll be collecting items for these bags to be distributed in December. These are some of the items that are needed by the male and female residents: personal care items like deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, shower gel, Chapstick, Polident tablets, pocket tissues, combs, brushes, shower caps, shoe laces, socks, and knee highs. Other items needed: word-search and crossword puzzle books, pocket or wall calendars, memo pads, note-cards or stationery, postage stamps, pens, jewelry or pins, and hard candy such as Lifesavers and candy canes.

Contributions should be **new and unopened** and may be left in Room 1 marked "Ditty Bags." Items will be collected until December 14.

A Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All!

Caregivers Support Group First Tuesdays, 7:00 PM December 6

This small group is a gathering of folks who have found support in sharing the journey of caregiving together. A time to check in, shared readings and wisdom, and an occasional speaker highlight the informal conversation each month. Drop in when you are able and find encouragement, friendship and partners in prayer. Why not give yourself a place and a people to gather and give strength? First Tuesdays, 7PM Questions? Contact Barb Demos 610-565-2696, barb.demos@gmail.com

The Giving Tree



The Deacons will be sponsoring the giving Tree to collect gifts for needy families and individuals again this year. The Giving Trees will be in the narthex and fellowship hall on November 27, December 4 and December 11. **All gifts need to be returned to the church by December 13.** Deacons will wrap them on December 16 and distribute them before Christmas.

Pantry Brigade-December

Save your Soups



The WPC Pantry Brigade is collecting soup during the month of December. We will deliver the

cans to Chester Eastside Ministries and City Team Ministries in Chester. Please deposit your donations in the bin near the Sunday School entrance. Thank You.

A Word about the Christmas Joy Offering

"Good News of Great Joy" is this year's theme for the Christmas Joy Offering. As we reflect on the significance of God's presence born into the world as a babe in Bethlehem, we stand before a mystery that changes everything. The ordinary is transformed by the coming of God into history.

A Presbyterian tradition for over seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. Particularly, this offering supports former servants of the church; pastors and educators, who are living on inadequate pensions AND it provides scholarship support for racial ethnic students who are pursuing higher education and need financial assistance to do so. One gift, in Christmas Joy, can help to change lives for the better!

You will find offering envelopes in the pews and outside the church office throughout the weeks of Advent. Please consider putting retired church servants and racial ethnic students on your list this Christmas season! The Christmas Joy Offering will be **dedicated on December 18th.**

Contact Info:

Clerk of Session
Barbara Meahl
610-876-3029
rpmeahl@aol.com

Moderator
Paul Rhebergen
610-566-1644 X16
pastorpaul@wallingfordpres.org

Currently serving on Session:

Class of 2012: Chris Darr, Harold Floyd, Chris Macy, Liv Mansfield, Henrik Oetinger, Helene Wastler

Class of 2013: Dan Glenn, Walter Kaminski, Andrew McAdoo, Barbara Meahl, Kenneth Rose

Class of 2014: Judy Kenworthy, Mike Meloy, Rick Miller, Holly Renegar, Julia Winton

From the Clerk of Session

At the November meeting session:

Approved a motion from the Worship Council to have one service at 10:00AM on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Learned our income to date is about \$25,000.00 less than projected budget.

Learned the per member assessment for 2012 will be \$23.23 defined as \$14.40 going to the Philadelphia Presbytery, \$2.20 to the Synod, and \$6.63 to the General Assembly, approximately \$11,500 for our church.

Heard a comprehensive report given by Wynne Edelman, trustee, concerning the work of the Community Design Collaborative. A final report containing their recommendations for repairs and projects such as access and facilities for the physically challenged will be presented to session in January.

Members are reminded the next meeting of the Philadelphia Presbytery is on November 29 at the Media Presbyterian Church starting at 10:00AM. We are permitted 3 elder/commissioners. Anyone who has been ordained as an elder may be a commissioner. If you would like to be a commissioner please tell Barbara Meahl of your interest.

Barbara Meahl, Clerk



Stewardship 2012 Sowing Seeds



"One thing, I know, everybody's got a seed to sow."

These words heard in the choir's anthem on Stewardship Commitment Sunday are not from the Bible, but the sentiment is. We ALL contribute to the work that our church does and the seeds that are sown and later harvested. Our church leaders are best able to plan for the church's programs and ministry when we have an estimate of what giving will be for the next year. If you have not yet turned in your pledge card with your estimate of giving for 2012, please do so. And don't forget about 2011 – pledges are presently under budget, so please take care to meet or exceed your pledge. Thank you!

ChristMarket @Wallingford

Gifts for those who need none to help those who have little...

The Market is in full swing after the November grand opening. For your Christmas shopping you can choose among seventeen different outreach projects. Supporting one of these is in lieu of a tangible gift to family or friend. A descriptive card will tell the recipient of your generosity on their behalf. It is a fun activity for children too. Shopping lists are available at church or on Wallingford Church's web site. Orders may be placed Sunday morning at fellowship time or mailed to the office.

Children & Youth Ministries

Sprouts:

The Light of the World

December 9th, 6-8:00 pm

Sprouts is a monthly fellowship group for 1st-5th grade students. All students are welcome to attend. There is no charge for Sprouts, and dinner is included in the evening.

Light is one of the most common metaphors for God. John, the gospel writer, calls Jesus, "the true light that enlightens everyone." Jesus goes on to call his followers to be the light of the world. At Sprouts this month, we'll talk about light as an ancient Christian symbol. Surrounded by candles, we'll look at different characteristics of light and fire and ask what those characteristics have to do with God, us, and a life well lived. We'll also shop at the Christ Market and make luminaries which will be used at WPC for Christmas Eve Worship.

To RSVP or ask questions, call or e-mail Pastor Rob at 610-566-1644 ext. 13 or

rob@wallingfordpres.org.

MS LIVE Time

Our midweek, after school program for Middle School



students has been a great success this fall. 6-8 students have been regularly attending LIVE Time, and we're all enjoying the opportunity to play, study, laugh and learn together. A BIG THANK-YOU to the women in the church who have volunteered to provide our snacks... the first question the students ask when we start walking to the church is, "What's for snack?!" We always tell them it's the best snack in the world - and they're never disappointed! After games and

homework time, we have creatively studied topics like communion, compassion and the love of God. Many of the students took the challenge to memorize Psalm 51:12b during the month of November and won prizes! We would love to see our group grow, so if you have a Middle Schooler, or know one, we would love to have them join us! We meet after school every Thursday at the tables next to the concession stand, near the middle school track. Email Jeni Pedzinski with questions: jeni@wallingfordpres.org.

HS Youth Group

The high school youth group has enjoyed some fun times this fall, including dinner at Nifty Fifty's, a movie night and carving pumpkins! In November we participated in Stop Hunger Now, joining four other area youth groups to make 10,000 dehydrated meals to send overseas for relief work. The winter will bring more good discussion and fun events. Hope to see you there!

Here's what is coming up:

Dec 4 - Advent Festival-the youth will join other church members in decorating the church for the Advent season! **This event begins at 4PM!**

Dec 11, 6-8 pm - Caroling & Cocoa
Dec 15, 6:30-8:30 pm - Youth Group Christmas Party! **This event is on Thursday evening!**

Dec 18 & 25 - No Youth Group (Christmas Break)

Jan 1, 6-8 pm - Prayer Walk/Drive-the youth will visit local sites to pray, including their school, and the homes of church members. If you would like the students to come pray for your family, please contact Jeni.

Jan 8, 6-8 pm-Discussion night: Christ, the King of Our Lives.

Men's Retreat Nov 2011.... a weekend of "Finding"

On Saturday morning, we found ourselves gathered in prayer in the church parking lot, about to begin a journey into the unknown. Finding was a huge part of the weekend...getting to Camp Kirkwood didn't involve just driving there...but included finding things on the way (a picture of a Bethlehem sign, a picture of the Appalachian Trail, a cup from a convenience store, something large and pink, etc.). This was fun and challenging and helped us learn to work together.

Once at Kirkwood....we found out more about each other as we embarked on a great weekend of fellowship and learning. We worked in small groups, finding out what traits we share as men and finding out how we can become more Christ-like. We even found ourselves in a wonderful Communion worship service on Saturday evening led by Pastor Rob.

Finding out who can cook and who snores the loudest was also a challenge. We found our way in the dark...as we traveled through the woods to a special campfire and shared stories in the cool of the night. We found out that by working together we not only learned more about each other, but also grew closer to one another and to Christ. It was a wonderful weekend and we hope that more men from WPC will "find" their way to our next Men's Retreat.

The Men's Retreat Leadership Team,
Jerry, Frank, Tom, Bob and Pastor Rob

Concerns/Celebrations of our Church Family & Church News

We are one body in Christ...related to each other by the love of God between us. One of the ways that we celebrate our unity is by continuing to hold each other, especially those of us struggling, in daily prayer.

This month we prayed for:

- ♥ Dave Utzinger
- ♥ Ed Donahue
- ♥ Joan & Don Heneberry
- ♥ Cliff & Lenora Seglem
- ♥ Walt Kaminski
- ♥ Joe Hawkinson
- ♥ Beryl Kubik
- ♥ Tony & Coleen Borden
- ♥ Mary Gindhardt
- ♥ Marissa



- ♥ Katy, friend of Leslie Erickson's
- ♥ Josh Conley
- ♥ Bob Foley
- ♥ Sally Flemer
- ♥ Hope Northam
- ♥ Liz Greene
- ♥ Gerry Lucht
- ♥ Lindsey Crain
- ♥ Ralph Parks
- ♥ Judy Veloski
- ♥ Tommy Waltman
- ♥ Rick Sakers
- ♥ Those traveling for Thanksgiving

Our sympathy as a church family to:

•The family and friends of Charles Rankin who died 10/18.

•Michael Lehman and family on the loss of his father, Herman Lehman on 11/12.



We give thanks for new life!

Blessings of love and joy on the birth of:

Nathan Gray
Vernon, born to Randy and Stephanie Vernon on 10/12. The proud grandparents are Jim and Fran Vernon.



MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

Messiah Sing Sunday, December 11, 7:00 PM

Come and join the choir, guest organist Jeffrey DeVault, and special guest soloists as we sing the Christmas section of Handel's great work *Messiah*. Hear the prophecies of Isaiah sung with longing and joyful anticipation. Rejoice with the angels singing 'Glory to God in the highest!' Listen to the words of comfort, 'Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden and I will give you rest.' Come and sing in your pew, and just sit back and listen to the glorious sounds of Christmas! You will not regret making the Messiah Sing part of your Advent celebration. Following the concert, there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us - admission is free and all are welcome!

Christmas Eve Music

Would you like to join the choir for Christmas Eve? The 11:00 PM Christmas Eve service features some of the best choral Christmas music, and we'd love to have you join us! Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 PM. If you have some choral experience, can carry a tune, and have a heart for singing your praise, then come and join us! For more information, contact Liz Braden at music@wallingfordpres.org.

End of Year Giving

Gifts in support of the work and mission of WPC will be received and accounted for through December 30, 2011. Please remember to fulfill your pledge and keep the church in mind for charitable end of year giving. 100% of your gift is applied to Christ's service in the church and our community.

Sunday School

Thanksgiving Baskets



The deacons delivered twenty-five complete Thanksgiving dinners and provided a turkey and pie for 7 additional

families on Saturday, November 19. Many thanks to the people who helped pack and deliver the food, and to the Acme for providing most of the food and the Giant for providing the turkeys. A special thank-you goes to the people who donated turkeys and home made pies for the food baskets.

Fall Clean-up

The Trustees want to thank everyone who turned out on Saturday, November 12 & 19 for Fall Cleanup. The strong turnout, including what we believe was a record number of Boy Scouts, again proved the old adage that many hands make light work. We hope you noticed how good the grounds looked when you arrived at church last Sunday.



Worship/Sunday School/Child Care schedule for 2 Sundays after Christmas

December 25th

10 am Worship for all ages

- ◆ Take a time out from present opening to sing Christmas Carols, listen to a children's Christmas story, and celebrate Christ's birth as a congregation. Come as you are (which might mean pajamas) - we'll glad to see you!
- ◆ No Sunday School
- ◆ Nursery care for birth-2 years old

January 1st

10 am Worship for all ages

- ◆ Many of us will be tired from staying up late the night before. All of us will be new to 2012. Don't worry about looking your best—we just want you to join us as we begin the new year by singing hymns together, praying for the year to come, reflecting on the year that was, and talking with one another about resolutions.
- ◆ No Sunday School
- ◆ Nursery care for birth-2 years old

Christmas Flowers



Poinsettia Order Form 2011

Please return with payment (\$7.50 per plant)

by **December 11, 2011**

Make check payable to: Wallingford Presbyterian Church

Memo: Christmas flowers

Name (given by) _____

Phone # _____

Option # 1 red poinsettia # _____ white poinsettia # _____

Option # 2 red poinsettia # _____ white poinsettia # _____

Option # 3 \$ _____

Total plants or memorials requested: _____ @ \$ 7.50 = \$ _____

Name (In memory / honor of)

Poinsettias will again be used to decorate the church sanctuary for our Christmas services. As in past years you will have three options.

1. Order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone and then *take it home* after the Christmas Eve service.
2. Order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone and then *leave it* as a gift to be taken by the Deacons to the homebound.
3. Honor or memorialize someone by making a *donation* that will go into the Christmas offering.

Please put your name, payment and option choice, along with the name of the person to be remembered on the **form to the left**, and return to the church office.

Book Look

If you like to read and discuss books, then the WPC "Book Look" group is for you! We meet at 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday every other month to talk about books and pick out future books for us to read.

Here is the schedule for the next few months:

January 17, 2012 – Peace, Not Apartheid by Jimmy Carter. In this book President Carter shares his intimate knowledge of the history of the Middle East and his personal experiences of the principal actors, and he addresses sensitive political issues many British and American officials shy from. Palestine is a challenging and provocative book.

Pulling no punches, Carter prescribes steps that must be taken for the two states to share the Holy Land without a system of apartheid or the constant fear of terrorism.

March 20 –(tentative) Disintegration: The Splintering of Black America by Eugene Robinson. The author writes about how the black community has evolved into distinct sectors – the mainstreamers, the abandoned minority with little hope of escaping poverty, the transcendental elites, and an emerging group of biracial blacks and immigrants.

Outreach Council

The Outreach Council is planning a number of activities for the first half of 2012. All are aimed at trying to reach out to those beyond the church borders and make a connection to those within the borders of the church. If you see an activity you like, please think about inviting a friend to join in the fun. Here is the list of activities.

For anyone interested in finding out more about the situation in Israel and Palestine, we will have a follow up to the Steadfast Hope course. Attendance at the Steadfast Hope course given this fall is not a prerequisite. We are hoping to start during the week of Martin Luther King's birthday celebration. More details will be available in December.

Pizza Supper and Board Games night - January 28

Cupcake decorating for Valentine's Day - February 10

Movie night - March 9

Easter egg hunt - March 31

Healthy cooking for kids and garden planting - April 27

Please call an outreach council member (Liv Mansfield, Teresa Ahern-Sawyer, Dwight DeWerth-Pallmeyer, Lise Meloy, Jen Nicholas or Walt Kaminski) if you have any questions.