

JANUARY 2012



A Stephen Series Congregation
TIME DATED MATERIAL



The newsletter of Wallingford
Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Rob Ross
<i>Director of Music</i>
Elizabeth Braden
<i>Jeni Pedzinski</i>
Director of youth Ministry
<i>Administrative Secretary</i>
Susan Schwarz



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Spirit Song—January

Interim Pastor's thoughts...

Dear Family of Faith,

As I write these thoughts for the January newsletter, we are in the midst of preparations for our Christmas celebrations. The sanctuary has already been transformed with greens and candles, poinsettias and ornaments, all to note our celebration of God becoming flesh and dwelling in our midst. From the Advent Festival, the Messiah Sing, an evening of carols and poetry, through our Advent worship, we joined in joyful celebration of the good news that to us a Savior is born. Through the food given to share with others, toys and clothes given for families we did not know, donations given in the name of loved ones to twenty different serving organizations through the ChristMarket, we have presented our offering of gifts to the Christ Child who was born that we might know God's love. In Word and song, in prayer and deed, our Advent and Christmas celebration are a glory to behold.

By the time many of you read this, we will have gathered for worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and will be preparing for the celebration of Epiphany in our worship on January 8th. Epiphany is a celebration (which to parts of the Christian church is even more important than Christmas itself) of the manifestation of the Messiah to the whole world. With its imagery of the visit of the Wise Men, and

the morning "star with beams so bright", Epiphany witnesses to the reality that the Savior whose birth we sing on Christmas is the Savior of all people. The question for each Christian, and for each Christian congregation, is how will we carry that witness to the world that lies all about us?

The interim time, the time a congregation spends in preparation for and in search of a new pastor, provides a unique opportunity to understand how your church is called to share the good news that the Kingdom of God is already breaking into this world. The Congregational Study that will begin soon is an important part of this discernment process. A Transition/ Study Team has been formed to guide this congregation through the process of learning that good news with the community around this church, and on into the world. I will join Ron Bloch, Lin Floyd, Frank Grunseich, Leslie Krowchenko, Michelle Walker, and Angela Waltman in guiding the congregation and its leaders through this discernment process.

Please be looking for more information from the Transition/ Study Team in the coming weeks on how each of you might be a part of this journey, following the star to the places and people, the ways and means by which we can best share the gospel of God's presence in this world. Along the way we will

learn a lot about each other, and about the kind of pastor that will be needed for the future of this church.

Please plan to be a part of the gatherings and conversations that will take place as we learn how Christ is calling us to spread the bright light of God's presence through this church's ministry. It's your opportunity to be heard, to be involved in naming the future directions of ministry, and identifying the skills and abilities of your next pastor.

In Christ's Service
Paul Rhebergen

Opportunities

Presbyterian Women of Wallingford Women of Wallingford United Happy New Year!

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 **Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting will begin at 7:00 for a time of fellowship and light dessert. At 7:30, the group will continue the new Bible study from LifeChurch.tv . The study will include a video program followed by a time of discussion that relates to our busy and varied lives. All women of the Church are invited and encouraged to join this new group.

Report for Missions Project in December – Thanks to the generous response from everyone, we were able to send many personal items for “Ditty Bags” for Broomall Village. Thanks to all who contributed to this project.

Progressive Dinner – Save the Date

The annual WPC progressive dinner is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, February 25. Please save the date on your calendar for this popular event! The progressive dinner is an opportunity for adults to mingle together as a large group and divide into smaller groups for dinner at various host homes. More details will be in the February *Spirit*

Song. For more information, please contact Lise Meloy (610-544-5760) or Chris Darr (610-874-2415).

New Members

Lise Meloy has developed a shepherding program to assist with the assimilation of new members and long-term visitors into the life of the congregation. She also coordinates lunches for new member classes. If you would like to volunteer to be a shepherd, please let Lise know (Immeloy@verizon.net or 215-990-7320)

Strategic Plan Implementation

Remember the Wallingford Pres strategic plan? It's still alive and kicking, as demonstrated by the above listed activities. In addition, the Outreach Council has been working with a group of Widener University seniors in the school of communications to develop a program to assist in getting those not associated with a church to come and find out more about us. The final report will be available at the end of April. An initial result of mall intercepts to interview people has yielded some interesting preliminary results. One finding is not a surprise. People like to attend worship where their friends are. Have you invited anyone to an activity at WPC? If not, there is no time like the present time to start. If you would like more information on the Widener project, contact Walt Kaminski (kaminsww@gmail.com or 610-334-2025) or Dwight DeWerth-Pallmeyer (dwrightddp@comcast.net at 610-990-6254).

Men's Breakfast Jan 14th, 7:45-9 am

The men of Wallingford Presbyterian Church are invited to our first Men's Breakfast! Pancakes will start being served in the Reception Room at 7:45. At 8, we'll have a short presentation followed by conversation. We'll close in prayer together. You'll be out the door (and off to start your Saturday “to do” list) by 9 am. This is a great way to start your Saturday with some good food and good conversation. To RSVP, please e-mail Pastor Rob at rob@wallingfordpres.org or call him at 610-566-1644 ext 13.

Seminarian Publication

WPC congratulates Jessica Hawkinson, one of our Seminarrians, whose reflections appear as part of the current issue of “These Days” (a Christian daily devotional that is written and distributed to thousands of Presbyterian churches and members across the country). Jessica is in her 2nd year at Princeton Seminary and wrote the devotionals for February 19th – 25th. If you would like to read Jessica's devotions or any of the other devotions in “These Days,” you can pick up a copy in the hallway outside the church office.

For unto us a child will be born!

We are excited to announce that Pastor Rob's wife, Debbie, is expecting her second child. He or she is due on April 25th. Debbie's health is holding up much better during this pregnancy, and Rob and Debbie are very thankful. We'll be sure to let you know more as the exciting day gets closer!

Children & Youth Ministries

Sprouts: Teamwork

January 6th, 6-7:30 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.

At Sprouts in January, kids will learn about and practice teamwork. We will play team-building games like group juggling and team relay races. We will talk about what makes for a good team. We will even make our dinner team-style. (We split into groups of four: one person prepared sandwiches, one the fruit, one the drink, and one the dessert. Each plate has to be completed before anyone on the team can eat.)

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

MS LIVE Time

December was a great time with the middle schoolers!



Thursday afternoons are a special time for friendship-building between the students and LIVE Time volunteers. It is a wild few hours in the basement of the church, with games and dancing and music! January will continue to the good times with more interesting topics and activities and our regular trip to Cradles to Crayons late in the month. If you know a middle schooler who would like to skip the “dead time” between school and dinner at home on Thursdays, be sure to tell them about LIVE Time at WPC! Email Jeni Pedzinski with questions: jeni@wallingfordpres.org.

HS Youth Group

December was wrapped up for the high school youth group with two new attendees at our first annual Christmas Cookie Bake! We made four kinds of cookies to share with the staff of the church and our families. If the group expands by next year, who knows, you might find a plate of goodies on *your* doorstep! January kicks off early with a prayer-drive on New Year's Day, during which we will be making our way through the community and praying for needy residents, the elderly, the schools and our public servants. If you would like the youth to pray for your family on New Year's Day, please email your name and address to jeni@wallingfordpres.org. Keep an eye on the bulletin board on the first floor of the church near the kitchen for upcoming events!

Sunday School

The fall season of Sunday School was wonderful! All of the teachers and leaders are so thankful for the opportunity to teach and lead our youngest disciples! Each week, in addition to learning Bible stories in class and sharing fellowship time with friends, the children are learning more about the seasons of the church year; the prayers and praise songs that we sing in church; and the basic flow of a worship service through our large group time.

This winter, the children will be focusing on God's role in their lives as they explore the themes of God as Creator; listening for God's voice; the calling of the first disciples; and singing the psalms as a way of praising God.

Elementary Bibles

On January 15th, at the 9:30 am worship service, Bibles will be distributed to all students in Kindergarten and 3rd grade. These Bibles will be age appropriate, so that students can read (and be read to) and encounter God's message in a way that they will understand. If you have a Kindergartener or 3rd grader, you should have received a letter in the mail inviting you to the Jan 15th worship service. If you have not yet received one, please e-mail (office@wallingfordpres.org) or call (610-566-1644 ext 0) Suzan Schwarz in the church office and let her know. That way, we can be sure to have a Bible ready for your child.



Contact Info:

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Barbara Meahl
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Moderator
Paul Rhebergen
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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 December meeting the session:

- * Learned our income to date is still below anticipated budget.
* Approved the following members of the transition/study team: Angela Waltman, Leslie Krowchenko, Ron Block, Frank Grunseich, Lin Floyd.
* Approved a Worship council motion to hold one service on January 29, 2012 at 9:30AM with the annual meeting of the congregation/corporation to follow.
* Learned the deacons delivered meals to 24 families at Thanksgiving.
* Heard a report of the Presbytery meeting given by J. Kenworthy who, along with B. Meahl, was an elder/commissioner.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Meahl

Notice of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation January 29, 2012, 10:30AM

On January 29, 2012 the church will hold its annual meeting of the congregation and corporation. The session has decided to hold only one service that morning at 9:30AM with Sunday School as usual. The annual meeting will be immediately following the conclusion of the worship service. Nursery care and child care for the children who attend Sunday School will be provided. Our deacons have promised a lovely fellowship time. Please plan to attend this important meeting in the life of our church. We must have a percentage of our church membership to have a quorum for the meeting. That percentage is our entire membership, not just those who happen to attend worship that morning. But more importantly this is your opportunity to question the elected officers of the church. Is there something you disagree with? Is there a program you think should be provided that isn't? We hope you will take this opportunity to voice your opinion.

Concerns/Celebrations of our Church Family

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:



- Beth & Tim Philbin
Rick Sakers
Tommy Waltman
Judy Veloski
Ralph Parks
Lindsey Crain
Liz Greene
Sally Flemer
Tony & Colleen Borden
Beryl Kubik
Joe Hawkinson
Ed Donahue
Ken Rose
Tennyson Ross
Jacquelyn Zarro Young
Emily Maguire
Katy, friend of L. Erickson
Pat Utzinger

Our sympathy as a church family to:

Lenora Seglem and family on the loss of Cliff Seglem on 11/23.

Jane Ann Said and family on the loss of Camilo Said on 12/13.

Missions



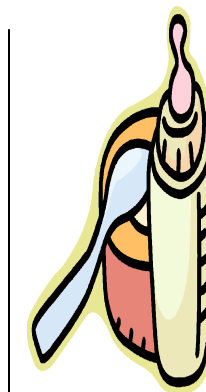
The Giving Tree

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the Deacon's Giving Tree. We collected and distributed more than 100 gifts to church and neighboring families, to CityTeam and Chester East Side in Chester and to Presbyterian Children's Village. For anyone who needs a receipt for tax purposes, please contact Teresa Ahern-Sawyer and let her know the value. She will send you a receipt that can be used for IRS substantiation.

Feeding the Hungry

Teresa Ahern Sawyer has been leading our effort to prepare sandwiches for people who get food at Chester Eastside. All congregation members have been encouraged to drop off food in the kitchen on Sundays. Teresa makes sandwiches and delivers them to Chester Eastside on Mondays after the food is collected. With the help of an anonymous donor, she will be delivering meals for the Chester Eastside Christmas Pageant. Beginning in January, we are asking others to join Teresa in preparing the sandwiches. If you are interested, please contact Teresa at mtahern@comcast.net or 215-900-6781.

Pantry Brigade -January



New Beginnings: Babies & Breakfast! Thank you for the generous donations of baby clothes and baby food. January is a month of new beginnings and we will continue to

focus on babies with an addition of breakfast foods. Specifically: Baby food, formula, clothing (new or gently used), wipes, diapers. Breakfast: cereals, juice and milk boxes, bottled juices, peanut butter and breakfast bars. Any of these items can be dropped off any time in the barrel by the church office.

Update your Church Directory

Please note that our Director of Music, Liz Braden has a new address. 23 E. Coulter Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108. Her phone number is the same.

Worship Schedule Abbreviated on January 1st!

Don't forget that we'll worship at 10AM on the first Sunday of the year, with communion by intinction, and return to two worship services, 9:30AM and 11:00AM on January 8th! Childcare through age 2 will be offered on January 1st 10AM to 11AM only.

Confirmation and Commissioning Journey Begins January 26th!

The Confirmation and Commissioning Journey (CCJ) is a four month long opportunity for study, prayer, reflection and discernment that is available to current High School students who are not already members of WPC. (Folks coming from other churches may recognize CCJ as a confirmation class). During CCJ, High School students will have the opportunity to think deeply about faith, make some amazing new friends, and grow in their understanding of what Christians believe (and what they themselves believe). CCJ ends with the opportunity for those students to join the church as members by professing their faith.

The journey will begin on January 26th with orientation (for parents and students), and will meet on Thursday nights, January-May (with a few exceptions) from 6-7:30 pm.

Some students ask if they have to believe everything the church stands for and be ready to join in order to participate in CCJ. They do not! Participating in CCJ doesn't mean that you think Presbyterians have it all together (or that you even know what Presbyterians believe!) It doesn't even mean that you know what *you* believe. What it means is that you are interested in trying to find out! CCJ is a journey of faith and knowledge. It is a journey that we take together, but it is also a very personal journey – and not everyone will come to the same conclusions at the end. If it sounds like a journey that you or someone you love wants to take, give Pastor Rob a call and talk it over. Rob's office number is 610-566-1644 ext. 13. If you prefer e-mail, Rob's address is rob@wallingfordpres.org.

Confirmation and Commissioning Journey (CCJ) Mentors Needed

One of the most important components of the CCJ experience for students is their relationship with an adult Christian, who acts as their mentor. Mentors are matched to a student of their gender, and stay with that student through the entire four month experience. Mentors attend the CCJ retreat with the students, so they get to know each other very well. Mentors are also asked to meet with the students throughout the CCJ experience. Mentors have a huge impact on their students, simply by sharing their own story, their own questions, and their own reasons for staying connected to their faith. Mentors don't have to be saints. They just have to be real with their student and care about their student. If you are interested in becoming a mentor for this year's CCJ class, or you have questions about the mentoring process, please contact Pastor Rob at 610-566-1644 ext. 13 or rob@wallingfordpres.org.

9:30 a.m. Sunday Adult Forum in the Reception Room, led by Ken Wells The Muslim Gospel of Jesus : Sayings & Stories of Him in Islamic Literature

Arab scholars for 1,000 years (8th-18th centuries) preserved texts known in their tradition as The Muslim Gospel of Jesus. In his Muslim habitat, shorn of Christian doctrine, he becomes an object of intense devotion, reverence and love. He bears the stamp of a *Qur'an* prophet, ceases to be an argument between competing religions, and becomes a living and vital moral voice.

Sunday, Jan. 8 - with a background sheet proposing some Questions, we'll discuss the development of Islam and its sketch of Jesus, why he is esteemed, 7th century attitudes toward the Christian community, and the character and function of the Sayings & Stories about him.

Sunday, Jan. 15 we'll examine some of the Sayings & Stories about Jesus (there are over 300). How do they differ from their core in selected passages out of our 4 Gospels? Can they be considered Parables? What themes and influences shaped them? How useful are they for our own devotional life?

Outreach Council

The Outreach Council continues to upgrade its plans for 2012. Listed below are the activities and dates for the first half of 2012. If you want more information, please contact the person listed next to the activity.

Youth/Family Oriented Activities

Date	Event	Contact
1/28/12	Pizza supper and board games	Teresa Ahern Sawyer & Jen Nicholas
2/10/12	Cupcake decorating for your valentine	Walt Kaminski
3/9/12	Movie Night	Teresa Ahern Sawyer & Jen Nicholas
3/31/12	Easter egg hunt	Liv Mansfield
4/27/12	Healthy cooking and garden herb planting	Walt Kaminski

Adult Education

Beginning during MLK week in January, the Outreach Council will be sponsoring a second round of educational presentations on the current situation in Palestine and Israel. The fall course was entitled Steadfast Hope and was, in many ways, a life changing event for most participants. Based on the enthusiasm of the audience, we have prepared a series of movie/discussion and presentation/discussion nights that will begin on Tuesday, January 17 and continue until shortly before Easter. We will meet on Tuesdays, approximately at two-week intervals. Cost of the course will be \$10. Please contact Walt Kaminski (kaminsww@gmail.com or 610-334-2025) to register or for more information. Participation in the Steadfast Hope course is not a pre-requisite for this course.

Date	Event
1/17/12	Movie: Life in Occupied Palestine
1/31/12	Birthright Israel
2/14/12	Movie: The Land Speaks Arabic
2/28/12	Right of Return
3/13/12	Movie: Budrus
3/27/12	Point/Counterpoint (Focus on how to talk to others about the current situation)