



## Christmas Eve Services

There will once again be three Christmas Eve services at Mount Nittany. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

- 5:00 pm – Family Service Eli, the Shepherd, will tell the story “Last Year In Bethlehem” interspersed with many familiar Christmas carols. The service will conclude with candle lighting.
- 7:00 pm – “O Holy Night” The good news of Jesus’ birth will be told through scriptures, readings and the singing of many Christmas carols. The service will conclude with candle lighting.
- 11:00 pm – Communion Service “A Tapestry Of Christmas” will weave story, song and the message of hope that the Holy Child brings to a dark world. Communion and candle lighting will conclude the service. Communion will be served at the altar rail.

### More than a Wreath and Candles

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Lighting its candles is a common practice of the four Sundays leading to Christmas.

Different color combinations for the candles are used depending upon the church or denomination. Some churches use four blue candles around the wreath with one white candle in the center, while some use all white candles. Many denominations light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth Sunday and a large white candle on Christmas Day.

The wreath, the candles and the colors all have symbolic significance. Here are just a few of the many and various interpretations:

- ◆ The circular green wreath symbolizes the everlasting love of God, have no beginning or end. Green represents eternal life.
- ◆ The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents one thousand years. They total 4,000 years – the time from Adam and Eve until the birth of Christ.
- ◆ Purple, in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence.
- ◆ Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ’s birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- ◆ The first purple candle signifies Hope.
- ◆ The second purple candle stands for Peace.
- ◆ The pink candle for the third Sunday symbolizes Joy and signifies the halfway point of Advent.
- ◆ The final purple candle is for Love.
- ◆ The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior – “the light of the world”.
- ◆ The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ’s life was the light for all earth’s people – “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5,NRSV).

### Christmas Eve



(\* 9:00 am service, \*\* 10:30 service)

## WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS DECEMBER



### Greeters

Dec 5 Marc & Lisa Authier  
Dec 12 Jim & Jane McKivison  
Dec 19 Robert & Pat Kidder  
Christmas Services  
5:00 – Rick & Ryan Boucher  
7:00 – Wayne & Darlene Zweig  
11:00 – Norm & Jo Moore-Houser  
Dec 26 John & Louisa Shawver

### Money Counters

Dec 5 Ed & Donna Jane Benner  
Dec 12 Bob & Judi Yohn  
Dec 19 Karen Rowland, Jean Juba  
Pat Weaver  
Dec 26 Ron Traverno, Pat Fenton,  
Wayne Zweig

### Sound System Team

Dec 5 Shawn Kopp\* Evan Rowland\*\*  
Dec 12 Vinnie Scalamogna\* Mark Whitfield\*\*  
Dec 19 Rick Edminston\* Evan Rowland\*\*  
Christmas Services  
5:00 Ryan Spotts  
7:00 Mark Whitfield  
11:00 Jim Young  
Dec 26 Ron Traverno\* Wayne Zweig\*\*

### Tape Ministry Visitor

Dec 5 Bob Kidder  
Dec 12 BJ Wurst  
Dec 19 Ric Rowland  
Dec 26 Bob Kidder

### Preschool Class Helpers

Dec 5 Beth Biss  
Dec 12 Dawn Foster  
Dec 19 Patricia Kidder

### Ushers

Vernon Crawford, Emily Gregory, Paul Gregory,  
Wilden Nuss\*  
Ben & Carrie Feldmeyer\*\*

Central Pennsylvania Conference  
The United Methodist Church

## **UNDER CONSTRUCTION BRIDGE BUILDING DAYS**

Tri-district training events designed to equip every person in every ministry of the local church to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

**See Bulletin Board for More Info**

Mt. Nittany United Methodist Church  
1500 E. Branch Rd., State College, PA 16801

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## Interfaith Mission Update

If you don't volunteer, who will?

Interfaith Mission helped 82 adults and 51 children in November 2004.....

- \$7,088.00 was paid out for client services for housing, fuel, utility and medical assistance to help local families.
- 5 families were saved from being evicted from their homes.
- 2 families were saved from having their utilities terminated.
- 7 families were provided permanent housing to end their homelessness.
- 3 families were provided with heating assistance.
- 4 people were provided emergency medical, prescription, or dental help.
- 2 people were provided with transportation assistance.
- 143 pieces of furniture were given out to clients.

Thanks to those who participated in the Christmas Interfaith Mission Wishing Well Bell Ringing, and those who contributed to the Wells. With the increasing demands for Interfaith Mission's services, your ringing the bells or making a contribution makes a difference to someone in need. Over \$10,000.00 was raised at four locations (the Corner Room, both Wal-Marts, and Meyer Dairy) between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Wishing Well campaign is Interfaith Mission's largest and most important fundraiser to help those with emergency needs in the State College area. Mt. Nittany UMC doubled the days it has historically rung bells, from two to four.

# YOUTH EVENTS



The Youth are sponsoring two families through Interfaith Mission again this year. The "Angel" tags are on the tree in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider taking a tag or two as you are able. Purchase the item indicated on tag(s) selected, place the item and tag in a bag and put it under the tree no later than Sunday morning, December 19<sup>th</sup>. The collected items will be wrapped by the Youth and delivered to Interfaith Mission by December 20<sup>th</sup>. Questions should be directed to Jerry and Susan Park or Kari Corbett. Thank you!

## Caroling



Please join our Youth for some old fashioned Christmas caroling in the neighborhood followed by hot cocoa in the FLC on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. We plan to gather at the church at 5:30 and carol until about 7:30 (Weather Permitting). We will come back to the FLC for Hot Cocoa and some treats. Bring a plate of cookies to share. We hope you will join us – the more, the merrier!

## CALENDARS

Don't forget to see a Youth Member for your beautiful 2005 Calendar. These calendars make great gifts for family and friends and at just \$6.00 each, they are easy on the budget. Relatives would love to get a calendar with your families special dates already noted for them.

## Education notes for December

The children of the Sunday School invite you to join them for "A Gift For Christmas" on Sunday, Dec. 19 at 4:30. This short, lighthearted play explores the usual pitfalls of Christmas pageants and answers the question "What is the best Christmas present ever?". Thanks to members of the Drama group for helping with roles, Susan Park for assisting with musical direction, Phyllis Field for accompanying; Lori Williams, Jennifer Boucher and Brenda Harpster for rehearsal help, and Nicole Fornicola and Bonnie Spotts for getting the preschoolers ready.

**Rehearsal schedule** (all children will be singing, and they all have speaking parts too!) Children should dress for the play in everyday clothing...the most important thing parents can do to help their children succeed is bring them to Sunday School every week!

Dec. 5 and 12<sup>th</sup> : rehearsals during part of Sunday School

Dec. 18 4-5pm dress rehearsal in the sanctuary

Dec. 19 3:30 a quick rehearsal before we start!

January will bring our next Power Express unit, Jesus is Baptized. There's always room for people who want to help make our ministry great! Look at the signup sheet posted on the Education board to see how you can help. Youth are reminded that they, too, can help as shepherds if they are 10<sup>th</sup> grade and above.

Because our congregation generously supports our education ministry, Advent gifts were handed out to all Sunday School class members. Adults received nifty advent devotional magnets, preschoolers and elementary children took home very pretty advent calendars to count down the days to Jesus' birth, and our youth now have a whole year of fun with a devotional 2005 calendar aimed at examining the gifts they bring to their church.

The Education department would like to compile a current list of babysitters! If you can provide names for references, etc., please contact Joanna for a form so you can be put on the list. Parents who are looking for sitters should be able to obtain the list by Valentine's Day.

## INTERFAITH MISSION UPDATE

If you don't volunteer, who will?

The Central PA Conference of the United Methodist Interfaith Mission helped 91 adults and 74 children in October 2004.....

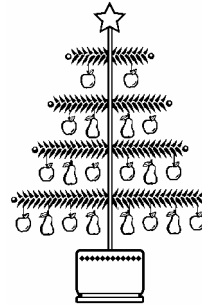
- \$7,654.83 was paid out for client services for housing, fuel, utility and medical assistance to help local families.
- 3 families were saved from being evicted from their homes.
- 12 families were saved from having their utilities terminated.
- 9 families were provided permanent housing to end their homelessness.
- 8 families were provided with transportation assistance.
- 1 person was provided emergency medical, prescription, or dental help.
- 76 pieces of furniture were given out to clients.

Thanks to those who signed up for the Christmas Interfaith Mission Wishing Well Bell Ringing. The Wishing Well campaign is Interfaith Mission's largest and most important fundraiser to help those with emergency needs in the State College area. Mt. Nittany UMC has doubled the days it has historically rung bells, from two to four. Locations include the Corner Room and the Benner Pike WalMart, as well as Meyer Dairy. If you did not sign up, but would like to participate, call Dick Stuby at 278-0372.

Your holiday shopping can help those in need in the community and around the world. The Alternative Christmas Fair will be held on Sunday, December 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at University Baptist and Brethren Church, 411 South Burrowes Street, State College. Calligraphers will be on hand to personalize gift certificates for the charity of your choice, including Interfaith Mission, the Women's Resource Center, House of Care, the Youth Service Bureau, Habitat for Humanity, PAWS, and many others. Soup and sandwiches will be available for eat-in or take-out.

Housing Transition's Third Annual Gingerbread House contest and fund-raiser will take place at the Nittany Mall December 3, 4, and 5, 2004. The contest will feature houses created by professional bakers as well as amateur groups. The money raised will go to Centre House Emergency Shelter. You can support the event by making and donating a gingerbread house, or visiting the mall to purchase raffle tickets or a house for holiday decorating. For more information, call Jackie at 237-4863.

The Central Pennsylvania Conference 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Seminar to the Board of Global Ministries is scheduled for Sunday, January 30 to Wednesday, February 2, 2005. Participants will spend two full days at the Board of Global Ministries offices, and a full day visiting parishes in Manhattan and Queens, seeing churches in mission to all kinds of people with all kinds of needs. The cost is \$315, including bus fare, 3 nights double occupancy, baggage handling, and Tuesday's all day tour. Registration deadline is December 15, but you are encouraged to register early because spaces fill quickly. For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin board.



## PRESCHOOL NOTES

Hristos Razdajetsja! Frolicke Weichnachten!! During December we learn about children around the world and how they celebrate Christmas. We introduce them to new languages, fashions, foods, and customs. We learn about children with special needs and collect pennies for Easter Seals. It is a great time of year to learn to accept individual and cultural differences. If any of you have a custom, food, or language you would like to share, we would love to

have you share with our group. Please call Bonnie Spotts by December 3 so we can schedule it.

The culmination of our unit is the Christmas program on December 22 at 7:00 P.M. The children work hard preparing songs about Christmas around the world and acting out the Christmas story. You are welcome to come & watch.

**Central Pennsylvania Conference**  
**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Seminar to the Board of Global Ministries**  
January 30 – February 2, 2005

This experience is offered to pastors and laypersons of Central PA working in and interested in the local and global mission of the church. See bulletin board for details.

Enclosed in this newsletter is the 2005 church budget. This is just an attempt on the part of the finance committee, with the help of Rev. Hartman and Bob Wilson, church treasurer, to estimate as closely as possible the actual and probable costs of running the church in the coming year. There are a number of items such as salaries, pensions, health insurance and the items under (G) Shares of Ministry (conference shares of ministry) that are set and will not change. Virtually everything else can end up being a bit more or hopefully a bit less than what was budgeted. Most of these numbers are based on what was actually spent (Jan.-Sept.) plus what very likely will be spent (Oct.-Dec.) in 2004 rounded off to a reasonable whole number. You will notice there is a slight increase in most categories (A-G) as well as the Benevolence Budget (Goals) on the last page. The health insurance under category (A) is not just for Rev. Hartman but also for all retired pastors as well as all pastors and any other full time employees in administrative positions in the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Also, the pensions or a portion thereof of all pastors and any other full time employees who served before the conference started paying and collecting for pensions is covered by the conference assessment titled Clergy Support in category (G). The grand total budget is an increase of about \$15,000 (5%) over last year's budget. The total budget for last year was a little over \$302,000 and for next year it will be a little over \$317,000. This is a lot of money and it is up to all of us who have money budgeted for the various church programs and operation to spend it wisely. Chairpersons or others who have budgeted items may request to spend more *if necessary* but at the same time if the job can be done for less than that budgeted, we will silently thank you, and if there is money left over at the end of the year it will likely be used to pay off the mortgage at a more rapid rate which will save money in interest in the long run. We plan to pay off 1/12<sup>th</sup> of the mortgage principle each year and it would appear that this year we will be able to pay off 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the principle. We have been able to pay all our bills this year (total income through Oct. = \$312,856.25) due to the generous giving of our members. Volunteering your time also saves us from having to hire something done if it is absolutely necessary that it be

done. We save a great deal because we have volunteers who help with maintenance around the church and parsonage as well as those who spend many hours helping with football dinners, egg making and other functions. If you have any questions please feel free to ask me directly or by email ([nlh@psu.edu](mailto:nlh@psu.edu)) and I will try to answer them.

~Nathan L. Hartwig, Finance Comm. Chair

## NITTANY NIGHT – DECEMBER MENU

- Dec 1 Cook: Annette & Jey Yorks  
Roast Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Pumpkin Pie
- Dec 8 Cook: Karen Kelly  
Baked Italian Dish, Salad, Rolls, Dessert



- Dec 15 Cook: Annette Yorks  
Chicken Bogg with Biscuits, Salad, Dessert  
We will Christmas carol throughout the local neighborhood and have cookies and hot chocolate upon our return. Please come out with your family and join us!

## PECANS

**We are going to keep advertising the pecans until they are all gone!! \$5.50 per 1 lb. bag. Contact Gretta Klinefelter 237-2239, Les Kline 237-2239, or the church office. How about donating a couple bags to the food bank...**

# DECEMBER 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5:15 Nittany Night - Dinner/Hanging of the Greens 7:00 H. Springs Bible Study - Brd. Rm. 8:05 Christmas Cantata	2 3PM GS - FLC 6:30 Disciple II 7-8 PM BS - FLC	3	4 9AM - 4PM Holiday Craft Show
5 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 4:30 Quilting 6:30 - 7:30 Conf. Class 6:30 Children's Choir	6 7:30 - 8:30 BS	7 6:30 H. Springs Youth - FLC 6:30 CS.	8 5:15 Nittany Night 7:00 H. Springs Bible Study - Board Rm. 8:05 Christmas Cantata	9 6:30 Disciple II 7-8 Boy Scouts - FLC	10 6:00 - 6:45 Pest Control in FLC; no one allowed in after spraying	11 12:00 BJ - Kitchen 5:30 - 9:30 Amy Maney
12 <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 2:30 Youth Caroling 4:30 Quilting 6:30 - 7:30 Conf. Class 6:30 Children's Choir	13 Lifeline Screening All day - FLC 7:30 - 8:30 BS	14 6:30 H. Springs Youth-FLC 6:30 CS	15 5:15 Nittany Night - Dinner & Christmas caroling 7:00 H. Springs-Board Room 8:05 Christmas Cantata	16 6:30 Disciple II	17	18 4-7 P.M. Football dinner Boston College
19 <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 4:30 Confirmation class to attend Bishop Service-Penn Stater Handbell Choir Begins	20 7:30 - 8:30 BS	21 6:30 CS	22 7:00 Children's Program 7:00 H. Springs Bible Study - Brd. Rm.	23 7-8PM BS	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26	27 BS 7:30 - 8:30	28 6:30 H.Springs Youth-FLC 6:30 CS	29 7:00 H. Springs Bible Study - Brd. Rm	30		

♥Healing Springs Youth Fellowship Tuesdays at 6:30 P.M. (except 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday) in FLC

♥Healing Springs Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 P.M. in Board Rm.