

# tidings!

*We are people who expect to learn from God's Word, expect to work as God's hands, expect to encounter God in all people, and expect to rejoice in God always.*

JANUARY 11, 2012

VOLUME 22, #01

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## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

### A NEW YEAR — KEEP ON KEEPING ON

Right before Christmas I had breakfast with one of our members who happens to be a high level leader in his company. His friendship is one that I value in terms of the gifts of wisdom and encouragement he offers me which support my call to leadership in the life of FPCA. I asked him, “Is there a point in your leadership life where you take a break; stop introducing new ideas or taking on new projects or initiatives?” He said, “No. You certainly want to take time to celebrate accomplishments and success. You certainly want to pause and reflect on challenges and growing edges. You don’t want to have too much on your plate. You most certainly want to take time for personal refreshment and rejuvenation. But you should never stop visioning and challenging yourself and those you lead to be more of who they want to be and, in your case, to be more of who God is calling them to be. In terms of visionary leadership, you have to keep on keeping on.”

2011 was filled with great successes: strong stewardship; the introduction of alternative worship; worship attendance up 20% from last fall; and the reception of 100 new members. We were awarded a grant from the Templeton Foundation for their Scientists in Congregations initiative and we welcomed or expanded the role of nine staff members. We commissioned our first Stephen Ministry Class and we

restructured the Deacons to be more efficient in carrying out their call to pastoral care. We deepened our spiritual lives with Summer on the Lawn and Lent and Advent Small Group studies. We deepened our missional relationship with our ministry partners at Daybreak and the Roosevelt School in Allentown. We sent a team to Malawi Africa and continued to have strong participation from our congregation with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance resourcing flood victims to restore homes and lives. These are just some of the ways God was moving and acting in and through the people of FPCA.

In 2012, we will indeed “Keep on keeping on!” We will continue to pray and vision for a deeper faithfulness to who God is calling us to be as we seek to follow Jesus—empowered by the Spirit—to love and bless the world. I would encourage you to pray for the current Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Staff who will gather on January 13 and 14 for our annual leadership retreat. This is an important gathering as we continue to do the critical leadership work for our community. God is alive and well and has great things for us in 2012! Let’s keep on keeping on!

See you in worship and the world,

Tony

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2012 in the Sanctuary at 11:30 a.m. The Meeting will include the Annual Report reviewing the past year, reports on Stewardship and the Session's approved budget, and recommendations regarding changes in the terms of call of the Pastors, and will elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. The Corporation meeting will ratify the election of the officers of the corporation. Any other business appropriate to such meetings will be considered. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

Janet Ney, Clerk of Session

**CHURCH DIRECTORY TO BE AVAILABLE**

Copies of the church's new pictorial directory are now available. Members can pick up one copy per family at tables in the narthex and in the hallway outside Fellowship Hall following traditional and alternative worship services on January 15. Copies are also available during the week in the church office.

**BEERITUALITY IS BACK**

January 19 kicks off a new series of Beerituality gatherings for men and women, residents of the Lehigh Valley, who live at the crossroads of the sacred and the secular. Gatherings are held at the Allentown Brew Works on the third Thursday of every month, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. This month's Beerituality features musician John Hardt in the High Gravity lounge. For more information, visit [www.beerituality.wordpress.com](http://www.beerituality.wordpress.com).

**JOHN S. PIDCOCK SCHOLARSHIP**

Brochures and application forms for the 2012 Pidcock Scholarship are available at the church's Welcome Centers in the narthex and in the hallway behind the sanctuary, as well as in the church office lobby and on the church's web site at [www.fpcallentown.org](http://www.fpcallentown.org). Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Allentown in memory of the late John S. Pidcock, the scholarship is available for education, service or mission opportunities. Complete details and requirements are outlined in the brochure. All applications are due in the church office by January 31, 2012.

**2012 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE**

The 2012 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service will be a diverse expression of worship from across various Christian traditions and experiences held on Sunday, January 29 at 4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Allentown. FPC's Director of Mission, Chris Cocca, has been working with the Ecumenical Committee of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches in preparation for our church's turn to host this great event this year. Please join with us in welcoming sisters and brothers from across the County in worship, celebration, and Christian fellowship and unity! Light refreshment reception to follow. Typically, the host church provides cookies and punch. If you can prepare a tray of cookies for the 29th, please email Chris at [chris.cocca@fpcallentown.org](mailto:chris.cocca@fpcallentown.org) or stop by the office to sign up.

**MINISTRY WITH OUR ELDERS (SENIOR ADULTS)**

Luther Crest (800 Hausman Road, Allentown) will host a Moravian Theological Seminary course on Mondays, January 23 through February 27, 2012, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. This six-week course is designed for clergy and laity, including parish nurses, secretaries of congregations, pastoral care visitors, and other caregivers who want to become more effective in ministry with the senior adults with whom they serve. Participants will have an opportunity to improve their skills of communication with older adults, as well as gain an understanding of the life issues that confront them. The course will cover the following topics: grief, dynamics and issues of dementia and aging, caring for the caregiver, life review, spirituality and faith, visitation and communication skills, effects of aging on family systems, and community resources. Cost for this 1.8 CEU course is \$50 (payable to Moravian Theological Seminary, 1220 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018-6650) if registered by January 16, 2012. For more information, please contact Luther Crest's Chaplain Dianne Kareha (610-391-8210) or go to <http://www.moravianseminary.edu/conted/Spring12/Elders.html>.

## MALAWI – THE RURAL SOCIETY

*As FPCA strives to understand our calling to Malawi, we need to understand their society to work effectively with our brothers and sisters.*

Aside from the government structure of Malawi, there also exists a rural society in the villages which includes several levels of authority. A village consists of individual households ranging up to perhaps 100; each village has a Village Headman. Interestingly, there are females who hold the title of Village Headman. Ranking above this position is the Group Village Headman. Known as the Disi, the Group Village Headman we met oversees 22 villages. In some regions, there is a Sub-Traditional Authority above this position. Then ranking above is the Traditional Authority; this position is an inherited responsibility and is considered the Chief of the Chiefs.

*Submitted by Karen Lee Ensley on behalf of the Malawi Exploratory Team.*



The Group Village Headman with Marlene Merz, Exploratory Team Member.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### GRADUATING SENIOR RETREAT

Attention Class of 2012! This retreat is just for you! All current High School seniors are invited to join us for the Graduating Senior Retreat on March 9 - 11, 2012 at Kenbrook Camp in Lebanon, PA. This retreat is designed to give you a time away, a time to remember and look ahead, and a time to look at how your faith will continue after High School. Brochures with complete details are available in Room 220 and at the church kiosks. If you have any questions, please contact Allyssa Miller at the church office (Ext. 40). The registration deadline for this retreat is Sunday, February 19.

### HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER EVENT DEADLINES

Sunday, January 15 is the registration deadline for High School Workcamp in Pittsburgh, PA (Sunday - Saturday, June 24 - 30, 2012) and the Montreat Youth Conference in Montreat, NC (Saturday - Saturday, July 28 - August 4, 2012). Flyers for both events can be found in Rooms 218 and 220, in the church kiosks, or on the church's website. Confidential Financial Assistance is available for **BOTH** events. If you have any questions or are in need of financial assistance, please contact Allyssa Miller at the church office (Ext. 40).



### YOUTH SPIRIT CARDS AVAILABLE AGAIN IN 2012

Catch the spirit with our Youth Spirit Cards: Stop by for your gift cards and help support our Summer Youth Ministry Program. Cards are on sale on Sunday mornings in the hallway outside the Church Library from 9:45 - 11:00 a.m. We have gift cards for Giant and Weis/King grocery stores, Barnes & Noble, Kohl's, and Macy's.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### START THE NEW YEAR BY JOINING A CHOIR!

If you love to sing, now would be the perfect time to join one of our choirs as we begin a new season of rehearsals. The Gospel Choir and Cantate Domino rehearse two Sundays a month at 4:00 p.m. and sing once a month. The Youth Choir rehearses most Sundays at 5:00 p.m. before Youth Fellowship. The Chancel Choir rehearses most Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and sings about three Sundays a month in worship. For more information or to join a choir, contact Laura Rabenold at 610-395-3781, Ext. 17, or at [laura.rabenold@fpcallentown.org](mailto:laura.rabenold@fpcallentown.org).

Make Music a  
Part of Your Life



Join  
our  
Choirs!

### LEHIGH VALLEY POPS - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, January 22 when the local orchestra **Lehigh Valley Pops** will present a concert at **3:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. A free will offering will be received. The program will be enjoyable for all ages!



### IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY (Parish #)

(as of 12:00 p.m. Tuesday)

**OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS** are with those who have been hospitalized recently. So that we might keep each other in prayer, it is the custom of this congregation to publish hospitalizations unless requested not to do so. *At Lehigh Valley Hospital (1-78)*: Judith Diehl (#19), Clair Brown (#6), Helen Potts (#10), Gail Cole; *At Lehigh Valley Hospital (17<sup>th</sup> St.)*: Marilyn Snyder (#13); *At Lehigh Center*: Al Saleh (#24).

**If you'd like to send cards or letters to those in the hospital, please contact Kathy Mammele, Director of Pastoral Care 610-395-3781, Ext. 39, [kathy.mammele@fpcallentown.org](mailto:kathy.mammele@fpcallentown.org).**

**HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL**: James Eaton (#19), Thyrgve Meeker (#8), Barbara Johnson (#18), Robert Reese (#24), Mary Jane Martin (#1), Dorothy Kintzel (#19).

**CONGRATULATIONS TO**: Megan, Jeff and Derek Skumin (#4) on the birth of Margaret Elizabeth Skumin, daughter of Megan and Jeff, sister of Derek on December 17; Betsy and Steve Adams (#22) on the birth of their grandson, Ethan Mosebey, on December 28. Parents are daughter and son-in-law, Lara and Seth Mosebey.

**MILESTONES**: Burt and Barbara Johnson (#18) will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on January 19.

**CHURCH TRIUMPHANT**: Alonzo Mantz (#24) on January 1, Donald Gordon (#24) on January 2, John Hudders (#17) on January 9.

**SYMPATHY OF THE PASTORS AND CONGREGATION TO**: Roberta and Ralph Longworth (#8) on the death of David Wallace, brother of Roberta on December 30; Carolyn Gordon (#24) and family on the death of her husband Don, on January 2; Gail Mantz (#24) and family on the death of her husband Alonzo, on January 1; Sylvia Hudders (#17), William and Thomas Hudders, Ann and William McDonough, on the death of John Hudders, husband of Sylvia, father of William, Thomas and Ann on January 9.

**LINDSAY HARREN-LEWIS**, our Director of Younger Family and Children's Ministry began her maternity leave on January 9. As she and Tim prepare to welcome their first child into the world and their lives, please hold them in your prayers. Lindsay is scheduled to return from her maternity leave on April 3.

#### WELL WISHES TO PASTOR EMERITUS, BILL BARKER

Pastor Bill Barker was recently hospitalized and is now recuperating at home: While some of you may not be familiar with this name, others will remember Bill as the pastor and friend of many in our congregation between 1972 and 1991. Bill has had some ongoing health concerns which had caused him to be hospitalized recently. But he is now home, and we know he would appreciate the prayers and good wishes of those who remember him and his ministry here. If you would like to send a card or note, his address is: P.O. Box 116, South Wellfleet, MA 02663-0116.

#### STAFF PRAYER LIST

***On January 17, 2012 the staff will pray for the following members of our church family who comprise a PORTION of Parish #31.***

Sharon Alexander; Chanel Ammary; Mary Attieh; Ralph and Richard Attieh; William, Simone, Donia, Aziz and Donna Attieh; Irene Benkovic; Bill Burdette; Penny Davies; Bud Durant.

***On January 24, 2012 the staff will pray for the following members of our church family who comprise a PORTION of Parish #31.***

Carol Eldridge; Wallace Eldridge; Amy and Gary Fields; Ken Fowler; Anna and Joshua Glueck; Jonathan Glueck; Tom and Pat Grammes; Tony and Ginny Gugliemini and Ryan Rossi and Tucker Kuhlmann; Genevieve and Fouad Haddad; Ghassan, Nena, Paul and Aziz Hadid; Jaimie Hansen-Rush and Joe and Lucas Mongi.

**Sunday, January 15**

- 8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship  
Alternative Worship
- 9:00 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Arabic Worship
- 10:10 a.m. Alternative Worship  
Second Hour Adult Classes
- 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Arabic Fellowship Time
- 11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting
- 2:30 p.m. Youth Led Worship Service  
at Luther Crest
- 4:00 p.m. Cantate Domino
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Middle & High School  
Fellowships
- 6:30 p.m. Community Youth Choir  
Rehearsal

**Monday, January 16**

- 5:30 p.m. Yoga Class
- 7:00 p.m. Serenity Al-Anon Group  
The Better Portion  
Peace, Justice and Mission  
Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

**Tuesday, January 17**

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
- 9:15 a.m. Pastoral Care Staff
- 10:15 a.m. Ministry Staff Gathering
- 1:00 p.m. Needlework & Fellowship
- 4:15 p.m. Youth Club
- 5:30 p.m. Tuesday Night Together  
ESL Classes
- 7:00 p.m. Staff Committee  
Lehigh Presbytery  
Committee on Ministry
- 7:30 p.m. Refugee Steering Committee

**Wednesday, January 18**

- 6:45 a.m. Men's Discipleship Group
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool  
Sewing & Quilting
- 9:30 a.m. Belles
- 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Formation Staff
- 3:00 p.m. Staff Lenten Planning
- 5:30 p.m. Greening Creation
- 6:30 p.m. Daisy G.S. Troop #6027  
Brownie G.S. Troop #6232
- 7:00 p.m. DBSA  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Men's Bible  
Study

**Thursday, January 19**

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
- 4:30 p.m. Jr. Bells
- 5:00 p.m. 10:10 Band Setup &  
Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. ESL Classes
- 6:30 p.m. Handbells
- 7:00 p.m. Caron Parent Support  
Al-Anon  
Alateen Meeting  
Girl Scouts SU Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Adult Handbells
- 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

**Friday, January 20**

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
- 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Arabic Women's Bible Study

**Saturday, January 21**

- 7:00 a.m. Youth Ski Trip
- 7:30 a.m. Saturday Men's Group
- 8:30 a.m. New Member's Seminar

**Sunday, January 22****Officer Ordination/Installation**

- 8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship  
Alternative Worship
- 9:00 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Arabic Worship
- 10:10 a.m. Alternative Worship  
Second Hour Adult Classes
- 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Arabic Fellowship Time
- 3:00 p.m. Lehigh Valley Pops Concert
- 4:00 p.m. Gospel Choir Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Community Youth Choir  
Rehearsals
- 6:45 p.m. Board of Deacons

**Monday, January 23**

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
- 5:30 p.m. Yoga Class
- 6:30 p.m. Jr. G.S. Troop #611
- 7:00 p.m. Serenity Al-Anon Group
- 7:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

**Tuesday, January 24**

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
- 9:15 a.m. Pastoral Care Staff
- 10:15 a.m. Ministry Staff Gathering
- 1:00 p.m. Lehigh Presbytery Meeting
- 4:15 p.m. Youth Club
- 5:30 p.m. Tuesday Night Together  
ESL Classes
- 7:30 p.m. The Book Lovers Group

**Wednesday, January 25**

- 6:45 a.m. Men's Discipleship Group
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool  
Sewing & Quilting
- 9:30 a.m. Belles
- 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Formation Staff
- 6:30 p.m. Brownie Troop #6232
- 6:45 p.m. Session
- 7:00 p.m. DBSA  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Men's Bible  
Study

**Thursday, January 26**

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
- 4:30 p.m. Jr. Bells
- 5:00 p.m. 10:10 Band Setup &  
Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. ESL Classes
- 6:00 p.m. Daisy #6051
- 6:30 p.m. Brownie G.S. Troop #6214  
Handbell Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Caron Parent Support  
Al-Anon  
Alateen Meeting  
Stephen Ministry
- 7:30 p.m. Adult Handbells
- 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

**Friday, January 27**

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
- 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Arabic Women's Bible  
Study

**Saturday, January 28**

- 7:00 a.m. Youth Ski Trip Raindate  
Mission Team Retreat

**Sunday, January 29**

- 8:15 a.m. New Members Meet w/  
Session
- 8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship  
Alternative Worship
- 9:00 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Arabic Worship
- 10:10 a.m. Alternative Worship  
Second Hour Adult Class
- 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Arabic Fellowship Time
- 12:00 p.m. Gospel Choir Rehearsal
- 3:00 p.m. Community Youth Choir  
Rehearsal
- 4:00 p.m. Week of Prayer Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Week of Prayer Worship  
Reception

## THIS SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

January 15, 2012

Congregational Meeting

Rev. Dr. Tony Sundermeier

Sermon: *“Exodus, Wandering, and the Promised Land”*

Scripture: Joshua 24: 14-18

8:45 Music (T\*): Chancel Choir

8:45 Music (A\*): 10:10 Worship Band

10:10 Music (A\*): 10:10 Worship Band

10:30 Music (T\*): Youth Choir

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

January 22, 2012

Installation of Officers

8:45 a.m. (T\*), 10:10 a.m. (A\*) services

Rev. Stephen Emick

8:45 a.m. (A\*), 10:30 a.m. (T\*) services

Jeremy Campbell, Seminary Intern

Sermon: *“The Exile and Homecoming”*

Scripture: Psalm 137, Jeremiah 31:1-14

8:45 Music (T\*): Cantate Domino

8:45 Music (A\*): 10:10 Worship Band

10:10 Music (A\*): 10:10 Worship Band

10:30 Music (T\*): Chancel Choir

\*Worship: T - Traditional; A - Alternative

## SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS

### Traditional Worship

#### Ushers – January 15:

8:45 a.m. - Joe Cavote, Captain: Team 9.

10:30 a.m. - Jim Guill, Captain: Team 2.

#### Ushers – January 22:

8:45 a.m. - Eleanor Smith, Captain: Team 1.

10:30 a.m. - Kevin Boucher, Captain: Team 3.

#### Audio Room Volunteers

January 15: Mark Monahan (8:45); Bruce Miller (10:30)

January 22: Martin Heimann (8:45); Tim Fritz (10:30)

#### Dial-A-Ride Volunteers

January 15: *Diver Needed & Driver Needed*

January 22: *Driver Needed & Driver Needed*

### Alternative Worship

#### First Impression Teams – January 15:

8:45 a.m. - Steph Berger, Team Leader: Team H.

10:10 a.m. - Jenney Henderson & Eric Staib, Team Leaders: Team B.

#### First Impression Teams – January 22:

8:45 a.m. - Karen Thompson & Susan Benner, Team Leaders: Team G.

10:10 a.m. - Chuck & Kelly Hess, Team Leaders: Team C.

#### Office Volunteers

January 15: Luella Shoemaker (8:00); Carol Miller (10:00)

January 22: Judi Kramer (8:00); Luella Shoemaker (10:00)