



# Mt. Zion Fellowship News

## January 2011

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Dear Friends,

One year ends and another one begins, however our church year begins with Advent. Each year we celebrate the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. Everyone's mood is brighter when we look at Christmas through the eyes of children. The Christmas story is a familiar one that we all know. We actually wait to hear the angels singing, we watch for the shepherds and the Wise Men as they bend in awe before the Christ-child. But now the tree is gone, it's either been burned on Epiphany or it's packed back away to wait for next year when again we haul out all our decorations and adorn ourselves and our homes for the coming of our Savior. We need to make sure that we don't pack away our goodwill for others or replace the smiles on our faces with frowns as we return to the rat race that many of our lives have become.

I would like to share a poem I read. It's in a book written by Ann Weems, Kneeling in Bethlehem. The poem is called "Last":

Later, after the angels, after the stable, after the Child,  
They went back ... as we always must, back to the world  
That doesn't understand our talk of angels and stars  
And especially not the Child.

We go back complaining that it doesn't last.  
They went back singing praises to God!  
We do have to go back,  
But we can still sing the alleluias!

How very true that poem is. We all have to turn from the stable and go back into the world. What is the attitude that you take with you. Has this been the Christmas when you learned about forgiveness, or tolerance, or when you were able to open your heart to the unlovable? Were you able to return to the world and leave the cynicism behind or felt the chains of sin that held you captive fall to the ground leaving you free to praise God?

I pray that each of you has felt the touch of God in your lives and that you can do great and wonderful things giving God the glory and praise for everything. God bless each of you in this New Year. May it be one filled with the sound of our alleluias!

Your pastor, brother and friend,

Rev. David A. Watkins

# NOTES

"Christmas Around Mt. Zion": \$305 was raised from the donations from "Christmas Around Mt. Zion". Thank you ever so much to the Coles, Geyers, Grosses, and Leers for opening their homes to 57 people for delicious food, great fellowship, and warm hospitality. Thank you also to those who helped with food, donated money, and participated. \$152.50 has been sent to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and also to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. God Bless You ALL!

Everyone - THANK YOU - for supporting the "Glove Collection" for Downtown Daily Bread. Our Church provided many pairs of gloves for those in need. Also, we delivered numerous winter jackets and clothing for men. Upon delivering these items, we were told that many of the individuals coming in for the noon meal had asked for gloves. God answered this request by using the Mt. Zion congregation. Again, THANK YOU. - Bob and Ann Geyer

## JANUARY NEW HOPE FOOD PANTRY ITEMS:

CANNED MEATS,  
PAPER TOWELS,  
&  
POP TARTS

## To Our Forever Young Friends:

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Party at Hoss's! We had almost 60 youngsters and everyone enjoyed a great evening of fun, good food and fellowship! The committee will be meeting soon to plan more activities for 2011. Again, thank you for your support and have a happy and blessed New year!

JoAnn Wolfe, Jean Zidik, Mary Magda,  
Helen Vogelsong, Kay Ellis, Norma  
Bussinger, Ruth Weller, Sheree Stehr and  
Carol Smvers

The Women of Faith Bible study will not meet until January 10, 2011. We will discuss the lesson called "Nervous Nellie" in Patsy Clairmont's book, I Second that Emotion. The scripture for this lesson is 2 Timothy 1:3-12. The DVD segment for this lesson is called the "Qualifier".

May you all have a blessed Christmas and New Year. See you at Patsy's Spa in January!



# From the Music Room



## On Christmas Eve....

--- The Zionaires vividly portrayed the Friendly Beasts around the manger (they are precious children!)  
----- Some of the other choirs joined them at the manger to ponder the stupendous gift of the Christ child.

THANKS and APPRECIATION are expressed to all the choirs for your ministry of music during Advent and Christmas. Thanks also to BJ Leer who organized a male quartet to greet worshipers as they entered the gathering room on Christmas Eve. All of you are a blessing to Mt. Zion's worship of the God who visited planet earth in Jesus Christ to save the world from sin.

CHI RHO SINGERS - our conference ministers' chorus will present a concert in Bethany UMC, Marysville, on Thursday, January 27 at 7 PM. The chorus, comprised of UM pastors (active and retired), sings once a month and this is the nearest concert to Mt. Zion this year. No tickets necessary; a free-will offering is always received. MARK YOUR CALENDARS for an enjoyable evening.

## Rehearsal schedules:

No rehearsals on January 2

Sunday after worship – Zionaires  
(children K-5)

Sunday, 5:45 PM - Chimes choir (we need MORE ringers!)

6:30 PM - Praise Team

Wednesday, 6:15 PM - TTBB (tenor and bass singers)

7:00 PM - Adult Choir

January is an appropriate time to join the choir(s) - hint, hint!

January begins not only a new fiscal year, but a new emphasis in music and worship. With the Christmas celebrations still fresh in our memories, we move on to start another journey through the life of Jesus, starting with His baptism and following Him again through His teaching and healing ministry during Lent. Easter is late in 2011 (April 24), but we'll soon be starting rehearsals for the Easter cantata "His Last Days". Presentations will probably be Good Friday evening and Easter Sunday morning.

Persons who prefer short term commitments are invited to join the choir for this project. Again, we will need extras to portray some of the scenes. Get ready to volunteer to make this an instrument of evangelism which will bring people closer to Christ.

Three new mics, stands, cables and clips have been added to our equipment to get the sound across the sanctuary. These were purchased by a bequest from the Estate of Rev. Arthur and Julie Edmunds and are a welcome addition to our facilities. They were first used December 12.

In case you were wondering where the attractive, new choir gowns went, they went back to the company ----- to be rehemmed. We were stepping on them while going up steps.



As most of you know our former Youth Director, Breanne Brunner, is serving in a 1 year missionary position to help with disadvantaged youth in some of the poorest sections of London, England. Breanne is receiving a stipend each month for her work which is unfortunately not enough money to pay for her rent and food. Breanne left in such a rush that she did not have time to set up any sort of fundraising to fill this financial gap. She has enough money to last her through January. Breanne would like to fulfill her 1 year commitment and stay until September but she needs some financial help to make this happen. She has a short fall of approximately \$600.00 per month. To help Breanne, the Youth Group will be collecting a free will offering after the service on Sunday, Jan 9 and Jan 16. In addition, some folks have shown an interest in "adopting" Breanne by sending a gift to her each month. If this is something that your heart is leading you to do, you can send the money directly to Breanne's father (who deposits it in her checking account) or you can give your check to either Pastor David or Betsy Harmon who will forward the group of checks to Breanne's father. His address is Mike Brunner, 204 St. Charles Way E307, York PA 17402. If you are interested in sending a card or letter to Breanne her address is 89a Brondesbury Villa, London NW6 6AG. Breanne has sent the following correspondence to keep us up to date on her activities.

This is my typical week....

Sundays I help with kids' work, under age 5 at the early service, and ages 5-11 at the later service. Then worship for myself at the evening service at 6pm.

Mondays I plan for the week with my line manager, and prep for kids' work the next Sunday. In the evenings I have Mission Year Training called Love is a Verb, concentrating on urban mission training. We tackle such issues as debt, power and powerlessness, domestic violence, gangs, drugs, and what it means to live as a Christian community.

There are so many problems that need to be dealt with to heal our society. We've been learning a lot about the difficulties of living in an urban setting, and how one small change in policy can affect so many lives.

In working with XLP I help with a number of projects including the MTV van. MTV's Pimp My Ride show has fixed up a police van, donated to XLP, with a recording studio that we take onto an estate (housing project) in the local area. The young men come to express themselves through recording songs, playing X-box, and generally hanging out. This gives us a chance to get to know them, and help with any immediate needs as well as building relationships.

Also as part of XLP I work in Agincourt Pupil Referral Unit or PRU. PRU schools take students that have been expelled from other schools and try to help them earn their GCSE's. GCSE's are the basic level of education here in the United Kingdom. Being similar to the High School Diploma, it's hard to get a job without having passed it.

Wednesday nights we have started a girls' group. This group is for girls from the community 11-13 to come and have dinner, games and a chat about life. The aim is to reach out into the community and help girls who might need a little extra support.

Fridays I help at the Food Bank in Poplar. The Food Bank is an emergency organization that gives food through vouchers for 3-4 days, and then helps people contact the proper benefits agencies to help them sort out what help they can receive from the government agencies. It is basically being a listening ear, and a hub of contact to get people connected to the proper agencies.

In between all that I am helping with children's work and youth work in the church. I'm helping to lead children's work at the early service on Sundays. On Wednesday evenings I help with the home youth group, time for the youth of the church to get together and learn. Very similar to what I did at Mt. Zion.

The people that I'm working with are fantastic. They have very generous giving spirits, and just a heart about this church to serve the community. Holy Trinity Swiss Cottage church (HTSC) is a part of a cold weather shelter where seven churches in the area each take an evening in the week and host up to 14 homeless guests a night. They are given a warm place to sleep, hot meals evening and morning, and bus fair to the next church the following evening. There is such a great need in the city for people with open hearts to welcome the lost and forgotten. There is a need for someone to be positive and full of hope and joy at a time where many are worried about losing jobs, benefits and even homes. I want to thank you for your continued support. I ask you to give, not to me but to God and the people here in London who need our help. Above all else I covet your prayers, I can feel them from across the ocean. They are most helpful when I'm missing being home. Thank you again. Love,

Breanne

# FINANCIAL REPORT

<b><u>Mt Zion January – NOV Report</u></b>			91.7%
-			
<b>INCOME SUMMARY</b>		<b>Income</b>	
<b>Regular Income</b>		<b>\$245,735.89</b>	91.3%
	<b>2010 Budget</b>	<b>Expenses &amp; Obligations</b>	
<b>STAFF</b> (salary, benefits)	\$126,965.00	\$112,684.24	88.8%
<b>TRUSTEES - FACILITIES</b> (Church & Parsonage) includes heating	\$41,746.00	\$34,650.80	83.0%
<b>TRUSTEES - BUILDING</b> (includes interest & budgeted debt retirement of \$5200)	\$36,200.00	\$36,785.92	101.6%
<b>CONFERENCE MINISTRIES</b>	\$31,115.00	\$28,521.68	91.7%
<b>CHURCH AND SOCIETY</b>	\$8,000.00	\$7,333.33	91.7%
<b>MISSIONS</b>	\$7,959.00	\$7,295.75	91.7%
<b>EDUCATION</b>	\$4,800.00	\$3,325.65	69.3%
<b>CHURCH COMPUTER</b>	\$2,850.00	\$4,133.37	145.0%
<b>WORSHIP</b>	\$3,375.00	\$2,874.88	85.2%
<b>CHURCH ADMINISTRATION</b>	\$2,650.00	\$1,839.53	69.4%
<b>YOUTH</b>	\$1,850.00	\$729.00	39.4%
<b>NURTURE/OUTREACH</b>	\$1,500.00	\$286.80	19.1%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$269,010.00	\$240,460.95	89.4%
<b>Net Gain <span style="color: red;">or Loss</span> (Regular Income – Expenses)</b>		\$5,274.94	
<b>Non-Budgeted</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	
<b>Designated Funds</b>	<b>\$60,534.06</b>	<b>\$50,934.56</b>	
<b>Principal Payments made in 2010</b>		<b>\$23,729.69</b>	
<b>Total loans outstanding</b>	<b>\$347,587.62</b>		
<b>Interest paid in 2009</b>		<b>\$23,486.56</b>	
<b>Interest paid in 2010</b>		<b>\$16,185.39</b>	
	<b>Planned</b>	<b>Expended</b>	
<b>Total Missions/Outreach</b>	<b>\$45,694.10</b>	<b>\$39,859.05</b>	
	13.9%	13.6%	
Outreach=Missions+Church&Society+Conf Benevolences+Designated Missions			

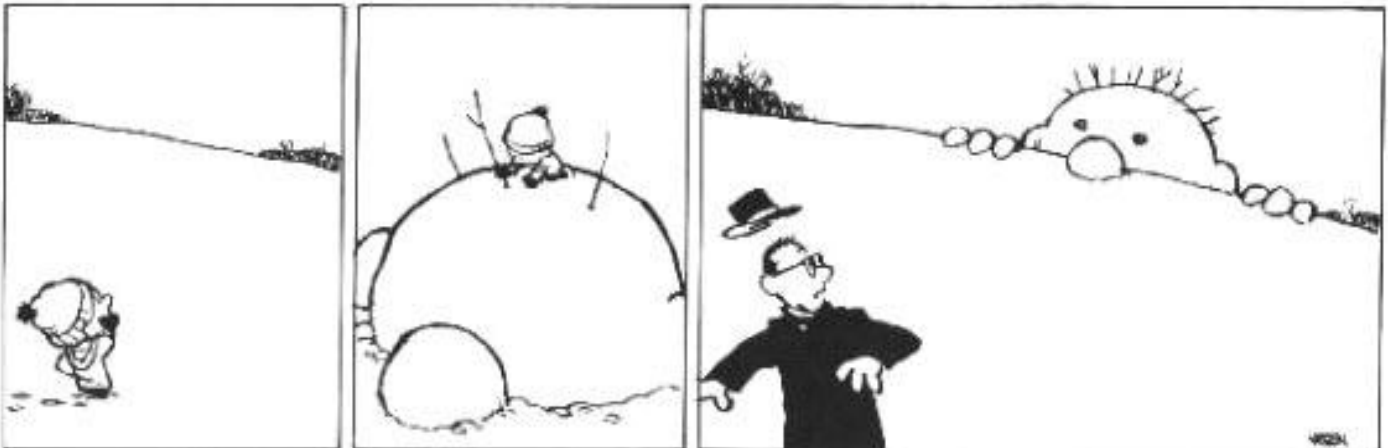
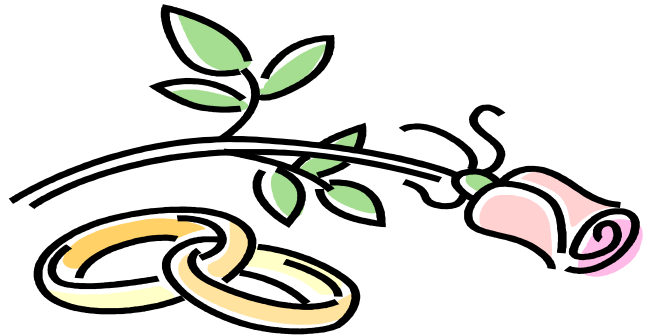


# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Hailey Mixell	14 Jack Brightbill	17 Shayne Elliott	24 Nate Raupach
6 Gene Council	15 Arlene Gontz	19 Amanda McKee	26 Ken Kammeier
12 Roxanne Damsky	Zach Leer	21 Ed Manbeck	29 Patsy Milbrand
Lisa Davis	Van Milbrand	Rebecca Slenker	30 Dick McMichael
Paul Smith	16 Beth McKee	22 Ginger Walters	Tristan Paul
			31 Sheree Stehr

# HAPPY JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

7	Dick & Bev Kreiger	50 yrs
12	Bob & Joanne Shuey	48 yrs
22	Tom & Judy Fry	13 yrs
29	Carl & Arlene Gontz	56 yrs



**MT. ZION'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS IS . . .**

the monthly newsletter of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, a congregation of Christ's people serving East Pennsboro, Hampden and Silver Spring Townships.

**MT. ZION'S PURPOSE IS . . .**

to be the people of God in this area, to minister to the Spiritual needs of the people in this area, and to be their advocate for justice and mercy.

**MT. ZION'S MISSION IS . . .**

to declare the Gospel of Jesus Christ in loving and redemptive ways, to be the caring, sensitive fellowship described in the Scriptures, to reach out to the community with ministries that meet social needs.

**Pastor**

*The Rev. David A. Watkins*

**Youth Ministry Coordinator**

*Ms. Breanne Brunner*

**Organist**

*Mrs. Ruth Weller*

**Minister of Music**

*Rev. Paul Zieber*

**Parish Nurse**

*Mrs. Annabelle Bolig, R.N.*

**Secretary**

*Mrs. Barb Leer*

**Missionaries**

*Ms. Diane Allen*

*The United Methodist China Program*

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**WEB ADDRESS**

[www.mountzionumc.org](http://www.mountzionumc.org)

**Sunday Service Schedule**

Church School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM



**Visitors welcome**



# JANUARY

**MT ZION U M CHURCH  
4685 MT ZION DRIVE  
ENOLA PA 17025**

**Please notify us if you are willing to receive this newsletter electronically or if you are no longer interested in receiving the newsletter. Thank you!**  
**Email us at: [mtzionumc@mtzionumc.comcastbiz.net](mailto:mtzionumc@mtzionumc.comcastbiz.net)**  
**or phone: 717-732-1577**