

The Messenger

Volume 12, Issue 1

January 2010

Small Miracles

It was in the middle of a blizzard, and my brother was trying to get home from work. After waiting an hour for a bus, he decided to try and walk home. The snow was very high and walking was very difficult, but he kept at it. After what seemed like a lifetime he was nearly home. It was a good thing too, because he was freezing and didn't think he could last much longer.

Just then his foot hit something and to his horror, he realized that a woman was lying in the snow. At first he wasn't sure that the woman was alive, but as he knelt down he heard her moan. She said that she too had been trying to walk home but she fell and wasn't able to get up. My brother didn't know what to do. He could hardly drag himself along, but he made a tremendous effort and picked her up.

Somehow he got her into a building next door where she sat and warmed up. They exchanged names and addresses and when he was sure that she would be able to make it home, my brother left her and walked the remaining three blocks to his apartment.

My brother didn't make too much of this incident. He thought he had just done what anyone else would have done, but to us he was a real hero.

Imagine his surprise when the following week in the same envelope as his paycheck, there was a check for \$5,000 and a note from his boss thanking him for saving his sister's life!

—Taken from Small Miracles II by Yitta Halberstaum & Judith Leventhal

Announcements

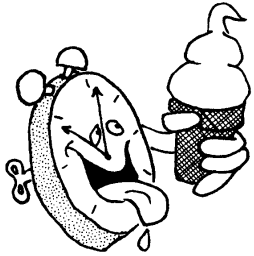
Rocket Club

Kids of all ages (2-12) are welcome to join us for Rocket Club. Our kids club meets once a month on the first Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be on January 6th from 6:30-8:00. So, come! And why not bring a friend?

United Methodist Women

The first meeting of our new year will be on January 20th. A planning meeting was held on December 28th. Please check your mailbox for a bulletin which will give you information on theme and scripture. We trust it's going to be a good year! If you would like to join, and haven't done so yet, please see Debbie Reichenbach.

Ice Cream/Game night



Our annual ice cream and Game night will be held on January 16th at 7:00 pm.

This is a tradition for Hummel's church for many, many years. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game or games to play with your friends. If you don't like games just come to socialize and have a great night!

Youth News



January 2nd—Jr. Youth will meet at the Susquehanna Valley Mall Cinema Center to see Alvin and the Chipmunks. Check with Kathy Waite for time.

January 16th-17th—Youth sleepover. Yes, it is that time again! Come for Ice Cream Game night but bring your sleeping bag, a pillow, and clothes for church the next morning and stay all night. You might even get a half hour of sleep!

Welcome



Greeters Needed for 2010

It is important that people feel welcome in our church when they walk through the doors. If you can commit to a month of getting here early to greet people as they come in please sign up on the sheet in the table in the narthex by the water fountains.



TBA: Sr. Youth, keep your eye on the bulletin for an announcement about our ski trip. This will probably happen end of January/beginning of February. Details will follow.

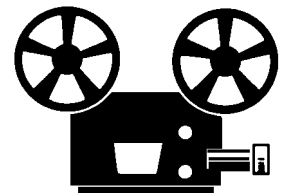
Every Sunday: Don't forget every Sunday evening we have a Youth Group meeting. If you have not already tried it you really don't know what you are missing! Make it a New Year's resolution to at least try it one time and if you like it to keep coming! Ask your friends who have been there! It's FUN!

Prayer Breakfast

Mark your calendars for January 30th. A prayer breakfast will be held at Carriage Corner. Missionaries Myron and Alice Loss will be with us! Please see the bulletin in the upcoming weeks for further details.

Movie Night

Beginning on January 24th at 7:00. Hummel's will be holding a movie night once a month. Fun for the whole family! Hope to see you there.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1/2 Ronald Aucker | 1/20 Rochelle Paige |
| 1/3 Melanie Reich | 1/22 Paul Howell |
| 1/4 Rick Smith | 1/24 Darlene Stahl |
| 1/6 Kristen Smith | 1/25 Anna Shemory |
| 1/7 Michael Beaver | 1/29 Brian Hauck |
| | Sharon Herbster |
| 1/11 Shawn Higley | Anna Kreamer |
| | Roger Kuhns |
| 1/12 Howard "Bud" Houtz | |
| | 1/31 Ray Stoneroad |
| 1/13 Linda Smith | |
| Krista Snyder | |
| Izzy Harris | |
| 1/14 Heather Pyle | |
| Theda Sanner | |
| 1/15 Steve Eichman | |
| 1/16 Stephanie Brouse | |
| Leroy Hibbs | |
| 1/18 Michael Shirk | |
| Bonnie Weirick | |



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 1/1 Paul & Phyllis Howell
- 1/7 Andy & Melanie Reich
- 1/15 Butch & Faye Kuhns
- 1/16 Jim & Sue Gill

Happy New Year!!!

May your 2010 be blessed.

Bulletin Bloopers

“The over 60s Choir will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church.”

“Anointing of the sick...If you are going to be hospitalized for an operation, contact the pastor. Special prayer also for those who are seriously sick by request.”

“The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.”

“It’s drug awareness week: Get involved in drugs before your children do.”

“When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.”

Hymn blooper: “All people that on earth do swell.”

Please be praying for...

Pray for our Nursing Home Residents

Henry Reich.....Penn Lutheran
Cathy Shrawder.....Bloomsburg
Cora Master.....Zendt's
David Kratzer.....Nottingham Village
Thelma Brouse.....Penn Lutheran
Betty Mitchell.....Penn Lutheran

Pray for our Extended Family

Rick Shipe
Ethel Stuck
George Swineford
Vance & Virginia Thompson
Warren C. Johnson
Mildred Shirk

Recent Surgeries/Procedures

Wayne Smith



In the care of family

Peg Gilbert

Our College Students

Amy Bowersox
Stephanie Brouse
Brandon Craven
Kim Dreese
Yvonne Herbster
Becky Hibbs
Zach Royer
Katie Stuck
Amanda Waite
Casey Wendt

Recent Hospital Stays

Betty Mitchell

Please pray for our Shut ins

Scott Smith

With Sympathy

Please pray for the Reich Family following the passing of Henry Reich. He passed away on December 1st. Henry was the oldest member of our congregation and will be missed greatly. May God give the family peace and comfort.

In Deepest Sympathy



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"If you want your dedication to Jesus to last, put Him first"



...a life devoted to the interests and enjoyments of this world, spent and wasted in the slavery of earthly desires, may be called a dream; as having all the shortness, vanity, and delusion of a dream; only with this great difference, that when a dream is over, nothing is lost but fictions and fancies; but when the dream of life is ended only by death, all that eternity is lost for which we were brought into being.

—William Law, *The Spirit of Prayer*

It's What's Inside that Counts

John 14:1-21

Something magical happens when someone slips a hand into a puppet. Suddenly even the deepest voice takes on a higher pitch. Children sit up straighter. And the lesson becomes memorable as scraps of fabric become animated and, well, "real."

Inevitably, too, at least one child will concentrate on the mechanics of the puppeteer. "Your hand is making the puppet move," he will invariably shout. "It's not real! The puppets not really doing it. You make the puppet's voice! It's not real." And the child is right. The puppet is not real—not in the same sense that the children and the puppeteer are.

What about our service to Christ? Is it real, authentic? Yes, yes, yes! We are definitely not puppets! Our God created each of his children with a free will precisely because he wants our love to be genuine, not robotic. We serve because we "get to," not because we have no other choice, not because we "have to."

But authentic service—service that genuinely pleases God—happens because the Holy Spirit lives within our heart. As we surrender our will to his service, he animates our hands and heart as we help with the food pantry, serve on the property committee, or direct cars in the church's parking lot. The Spirit gives us voice as we lead a Bible class, teach little children about Jesus, or speak words of hope to the grief-stricken.

The Holy Spirit moves us to genuine service. He is the power within us. How might you draw on that power source today?