

So. Montrose Community Church
December, 2014 Newsletter



“What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.” UMH #219

Dear Friends:

A miraculous event took place over 2,000 years ago that changed the course of our lives. It was so special that it was difficult to talk about. It was something that people had a hard time putting into words. Every year we attempt to recall the details of Christ’s birth. For many mothers today the birth of a child is difficult to put into words. For a mom, a new baby is such a miracle. Holding a new born, a precious and fragile life, in one’s arms for the first time is among the most miraculous of events. Human language just cannot express what a mom feels at such a moment.

For Mary, Jesus’ birth was more than an ordinary miracle of birth. Jesus’ birth was extraordinary in every way. As I read Luke 2:1-20, I try to imagine what Mary was thinking and feeling at that moment, but words escape me.

The one symbol that speaks to me this year as I prepare for Christmas is the “heart”. The heart represents love and thoughtfulness for others. Jesus came into our world to pour out healing love, a love that transformed all manner

of hearts throughout scripture including tax collectors, prostitutes, lepers, men, women, children, and the rich and poor alike.

This Christmas we have an opportunity to turn the lights of our hearts on and make a difference in the world in which we live. Let us open the blinds of our hearts this year and let the love of Jesus Christ pour out of our hearts into the “everyday” of our lives. If others are able to sense the love of Jesus Christ in us, then we all will live better and stronger lives in the light of Jesus’ love.

Let us be a reflection of Christ’s heart this Christmas! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pastor Jane



Soup Night

We had a great time at November's soup night. We had 79 guests. The donations were \$172. I kept \$100 to use for December's soup night & donated \$72 to the food bank.

Charlie & Carol Reed joined us for a 4th year in a row. They are usually here in the spring so it was nice to hear Charlie play some Christmas music & Carol had all her cards including Christmas cards which I think we're quite popular. More people than usual joined in the singing this time with Charlie. I LOVED hearing all the guests sing. I LOVED seeing the peace on their faces when they sang songs for God. I bet He was smiling as he heard & saw them.

The next soup night will be on December 15. The soups will be chili & bacon cheddar. Again we will have beautiful music. The lovely ladies of Saving Graces will be with us.

Please join us. It's a nice night out visiting with people from our community. You won't have to do dishes...unless you're my mom, Gigi, Mary Jane, or Billy Sue. (A little joke for my best helpers) A big thanks to them for all their

help! Also to the best waitress, Janet Small! Another thanks to all the wonderful bakers in our church. We always have new & yummy treats to try!

The food bank appreciates the food & money donated each month. This is the time of year when people who are already struggling financially feel even more stress with the addition of heating bills & Christmas shopping. Thank you to all who donate.

Chris Smith



We will be collecting cans of sliced pineapples until December 14th. Thank you for your generosity!



Poinsettias

If you'd like to purchase a poinsettia In Memory or In Honor of someone, please contact Paula Remington. They will be placed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 21st at a cost of \$10.50. You can take them home following that service, or leave them til after the Christmas Eve service. Thank you.



Once again this year our church family has adopted a family for Christmas through Interfaith. We have a family of 5, mom dad and three kids. With your help, this family will have presents under the Christmas tree. Chris Smith, Sue Vandermark and myself will be shopping for the family on December 9th. If anyone wants to join us you are more than welcome! We always have a good time!

Mary Hinds

The Spotlight for December Alice Porter

- 1. Where were you born?** In East Dimock on a small farm. My father raised berries, all kinds - so of course I picked berries all summer. Strawberries, raspberries (black and red), and huckleberries.
- 2. Where did you go to high school?** Dimock Vocational School and Scranton Lackawanna Business College.
- 3. Were you involved in any sports or clubs in high school?** softball, basketball, chorus, and girl scouts.
- 4. Did you go to college? If so, where? What degree?** Scranton Lackawanna Business College.
- 5. What was your first job? Other jobs? Unusual jobs?** Susquehanna Farms Hatchery Office, State Agri., Post office in South Montrose.
- 6. When were you married? Children?** August 4, 1951 (Hale). 2 girls (adopted).
- 7. What places have you lived?** Dimock, South Montrose, and Montrose.
- 8. What is your favorite vacation spot? Favorite vacation memory?** Yellowstone National Park, and New England States.
- 9. What do you do in your spare time?** Read and knit.
- 10. How long have you attended SMCC?** Intermittently since 1970's.
- 11. Do you have a favorite Bible verse or story?** Proverbs 3:5. Trust in the Lord---
- 12. What is your favorite room in your house?** Kitchen, I love to cook.

13. How has your faith helped you through a difficult time, or was there a specific time that you could feel God working in your life? When Hale's mind slipped and I lost him to dementia.

14. Tell us something about yourself that most people would not know. We had a little boy baby for 2 days, his Mom wanted him back. Broke my heart.

My brother George and I, John and Margaret Bolles, Liz and Anna Davies --Six Silly Saps Club.

Every spring we built a shack We tore down all but one--that was made of burlap bags. We learned you do not build a fire inside one. THEY BURN!



Christmas Decorations in Sanctuary

The sanctuary looks beautiful for the Christmas season! Many thanks to Sharon Newhart, Gigi Salsman, Pastor Jane, Charmarie Bisel, Janet Small, Mary Hinds and Matthew Hinds (who did a great job picking out the star for the top of the tree). It was fun decorating, and always looks so nice. Great job to Pastor Jane also for cleaning out the closet behind the choir, there was a lot of stuff in there! Thank you also to Susan and Kelly Pratt for getting the pretty tree. You always pick a good one!



We are so happy to have Peggy sitting at the organ again! Praise God for her healing!



Happenings at Sky Lake

Special Needs Winter Retreat January 4-6, 2015

A retreat for persons ages 15-65 with mild to moderate developmental disabilities needing minimal to no assistance with daily living skills. Enjoy outdoor and indoor winter activities like hiking, singing, worship, crafts, jigsaw puzzles, talent show, sledding, making snow angels, and more!

Location: Riley Lodge

Check In Time: 3 pm on Sunday, Jan. 4th

Departure Time: 1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6th

Cost: \$235 per person includes two nights lodging, six meals, snacks and program fee.

Sky Lake Family Winter Weekends January 16-19 and February 13-16, 2015

Whether you enjoy cross country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, sharing in Christian fellowship with others, or just the sight of the winter landscape from inside, you are bound to have a wonderful time at either winter weekend. Created for people of all ages and families of all descriptions, our family weekends are held at Riley Lodge.

Both weekends officially begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday with dinner at Noon. We can offer a \$360 maximum per family. Families who have more than one child have found this to be beneficial. Friday night arrival not included in the \$360.

Cost: Adult/Teen ages 13 + \$130 per person. Child ages 4-12 \$70 per child
Friday Night Option: \$50 per immediate family

**Senior High Winter Retreat
February 6-8, 2015**

If you are a youth in grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 come spend the weekend with friends old and new. Along with serious times and discussions, there will be plenty of time for serious fun, too. Be sure to bring plenty of outdoor clothing for hiking, sledding and other outdoor fun!

Location: Riley Lodge

Check In Time: 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 6th

Departure Time: 5 p.m. on Sunday, February 8th

Cost: \$105 per person

Fellows of the Forest, March 13-15, 2015

This new retreat for men over the age of 18 is sure to be a blast! Enjoy the fellowship of other Christian men as you participate in your choice of A Range of the Contemplative to Super-Active indoor and outdoor activities that will be offered.

We will begin with check in from 5-7 p.m. on Friday and depart Sunday afternoon

Location: Riley Lodge

Cost: Save \$25 when you register by February 20th. \$200 per person

**Rejuvenate: A Spring Ladies
of the Lake Experience
April 10-12, 2015**

You are cordially invited to come away and rest awhile at Sky Lake, free of the distractions of the outside world. Women over the age of 18 will enjoy the company of fellow Christian women as they take advantage of the various "mild and wild" activities that will be offered. We will begin with Check In from 5:30 p.m. till 7 p.m. on Friday and depart Sunday afternoon.

Save \$25 if you register by March 20th

Cost: Riley Lodge: \$200

Cost: Underwood Lodge: \$240

For more information on any of the above, go to www.skylakecenter.org



Woman's Resource Center
Here is WRC most recent Wish List

Cleaning Supplies:

brooms, mops, sponges, dish soap, scubbies, scouring powder, Laundry detergent, 64 oz or smaller, fabric softener sheets, paper towels, toilet paper, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, quart and gallon size disposable plastic baggies.

Personal items:

shampoo, baby supplies, wipes powder, lotion, bath wash

Household:

Sheets, towels, hard covered journals

Gift cards:

Price Chopper \$25.00

Pump & Pantry \$10.00

As I read their "wish list" and think about how many times a day we use each one of these items I can't even put myself in their situation. It really is the simple things in life that we take for granted. Thank you again for your generous donations this past month and let's take the time to pray for these women and children when we say our prayers. Let's pray they gain strength and confidence and wisdom for the future and never find themselves in this kind of an abusive relationship again.

The holidays will soon be here and unfortunately abuse gets worse at this time of year because of the added stress of the holidays so let's continue to do what we can for these women and children.

Thank you, Cathy McCain



Christmas cantata will be performed on Sunday, December 21st during the regular church service and again at Gracious Living Estate @ 3pm that same afternoon.



Dec. 7th - Matthew Dec. 14th – Tanner
Dec. 21st – Korena Dec. 28th – Cole



Nursery

December 7th - Kelly
December 14th – Sue Vandermark
December 21st – Angie Frystak
December 28th – Denise



December 7th – Sharon Newhart
Christmas Eve – Paula Remington
January 4th - Sue Pratt & Elizabeth
February 1st – Diane Myers

In the church: Janet Small, Ryan & MacKenzie, Harry Snell, Aggie Holbert, Grace Harvey, Wink Frystak, Joyce & Don Blaisure, Nic Remington, Theresa Owen, Ben Owen, Craig Estelle, June Bishop, Marian Nye, Alice Porter, Belma Herrala, Doris Sebring, Doris Larnerd, Bob Dalrymple, Gladys Barber, Peggy Wood

In our community Karen Rudolph & family, Jim Ochse, Joyce Lathrop, Patty Bloomer, Mark Bush, Vanessa West, Emergency Service Personnal, Lindsay, Joyce Millard, David Snell, Jack Wegman, Jan Krupinski, Staff at Children & Youth, Terry Cooke, Dottie Henry, Catalina, Pat Whitaker, Mickey Patrick, Justin & Jess, Sandra Lathrop, those struggling with Addictions, our teenagers in Susquehanna County, Sarah & Bill, Robert Atticks, Sr., Randy Ward, Mary Helen Book, Keith Pratt, Helen Crotta, Lisa Steele, Brooke Arnold, Dee Brewer, Terry Franks, Jonathan & Daniel Snell, Katherine, David and Mary Ann Pierce, Les Hawley, teachers and students, those in the military, the unemployed, those in nursing homes, people in prison, our country, our world, our church and each other.

Church Website

<http://southmontrose.umchurches.org>

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