

CROSS X ROADS

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2011

“Called by Christ to bring others into the nets of God’s love.”

"Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs."

Hebrews 1: 1- 4

When I enter into worship it is a time for me to remember how worthy Jesus is. It is an opportunity for me to once again remind myself of the greatness of his acts of mercy and grace. That God would love me so much that he would send his only Son to purify my sins is an act worthy of my praises and heart. It is my desire that each worship service St. Andrew has is focused on this intimate declaration of our gratitude to the amazing reality that God loves us enough to give everything so that we might enter into his presence. I frequently say that I love church and it is true. It is a wonderful opportunity for me to interact with God’s gracious gift.

It is hard to fathom the infinite, immortal God stepping down into a finite, mortal body. Yet, this theological truth is one of the earliest hymns within Christianity and was recorded in Philippians 2: 6-11. What an amazing gift! To think that God would love us so much that he would come into our experience to set us free from our faults and failures. The author of Hebrews reminds Christians that because of this we have a high priest who knows what it is like to struggle with the human condition so we can approach the throne of grace with boldness (Hebrews 4: 14-16). Let us boldly approach his throne in our times of worship together.

Advent is the season in which we prepare our hearts for the arrival of Christ. It is both remembering that Christ was born into the world and that Christ will come again. It is full of joy and excitement. We have multiple special services to celebrate his impending arrival. I look forward to these special times in which we boldly proclaim that Christ is worthy of our praises. These are times for the whole family to come together to express our gratitude. I hope that each of you will come to experience the divine presence during the Hanging of the Greens service celebrating the start of Advent and our Christmas Eve services celebrating the arrival of the Lord Jesus into our world. I hope that the same divine presence is experienced each Sunday as a powerful reminder to us about the goodness of God’s love and grace that came down the very first Christmas. Have a blessed Christmas season and I look forward to worshipping with all of you.

The Rev. Robb E. Faller

St. Andrew United Methodist Church

611 Swamp Creek Road, P.O. Box 434
New Berlinville, PA 19545
610-367-7043
www.SaintAndrewUMC.org

Sunday Worship Schedule

Celebration Service: 9:00 AM

We offer Crib Nursery, PreK Nursery, and Adult Sunday School Classes (*September through May*): Henry Ziegler in Fellowship Hall, Owen Allen in Library

Traditional Service: 10:30 AM

We offer Crib Nursery, Pre-K Nursery, Sunday School classes for grades K-3rd, 4th-6th, Junior and Senior High, College Age Sunday School (June through August) and Adult Sunday School Class with Jim Good in Library

Church Staff

Pastor.....Rev. Robb Faller (c 484.686.1778)
Pastor Emeritus.....Rev. Kenneth Kline
Director of Youth Ministry.....Adam Deering
Adult Choir Directors.....Rob Cavett & Connie Sithens
Junior Choir Director & Pianist....Peg Hoover & Candy Allen
Administrative AssistantMary L. Cantlin

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Improvement Envelopes</u>	<u>Current Envelopes</u>	<u>Church Plate</u>
October 2	540.00	6,504.20	45.00
October 9	176.00	3,369.20	49.00
October 16	256.00	3,800.20	80.00
October 23	222.00	2,998.20	70.00
October 30	215.00	3,206.20	48.00
Total Received Y-T-D as of 10/31/11	11,066.00	169,455.85	3,723.51
Total Received Y-T-D as of 10/31/10	12,763.50	171,349.75	4,479.52

Year to date expenses paid at 10/31/11 were \$180,880.82.

As a reminder, if you would like any portion of your offering to be used for improvements to the church building, please indicate that amount on the front of your offering envelope

Worship Helpers

GREETERS

Date	Celebration Service at 9:00 am	Traditional Service at 10:30 am
December 4	Susan Welsh Anita Church Linda Drabinsky	Rose Marie Bireley Rose German Lester & Donna Heft
December 11	Gary & Mary Ann Hart Muriel Fisher Cheryl Neiman	Bethany & Jason Miller Betty Graham Joan Herbst & John Heydt
December 18	The Purnell Family Jim & Shari Good Mary Ann Stauffer	Bette Cooper Janice Hull Jean Kemp
December 25	<i>One service today at 10:00 AM</i>	Tracy & Jane Donmoyer Marion Bartman Al & Ruth Fuchs

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Date	Head Usher	Liturgist
December 4	Nathan Babb	Warren Moser
December 11	Robert Moyer	Nancy Renninger
December 18	Bill Evens	Harry Mohr
December 25	Amy Babb	Owen Allen

NURSERY CARE

Date	Celebration Service	Traditional Service
December 4	Lori DiMaio	Becca Riefenstahl
December 11	Linda Clancy	Diane Yusko
December 18	Linda Drabinsky & Stacy Gerhart	Bonne Riefenstahl & Michelle Crawford
December 25	<i>One Service at 10:00 AM</i>	Beth Rosenberger & Mary Ann Stauffer

SOUND BOARD & VIDEO

Date	Celebration Service		Traditional Service	
	Sound Board	Video	Sound Board	Video
December 4	Tim Clancy	Tracy Donmoyer	<i>Open</i>	Gary Hart
December 11	Mark Egbert	<i>Open</i>	Mario Leone	Jen Ewing
December 18	Rob Rosenberger	Tracy Donmoyer	Sonne Shorley	Gary Hart
December 25	<i>10:00 AM Service</i>	<i>10:00 AM Service</i>	Jim McClure	Linda McClure

ALTAR FLOWERS

Date	Name
December 4	Presented by Rose Marie Bireley in Memory of Loved Ones
December 11	Presented by Pete and Ginny Korszniak in Honor of their Grandchildren
December 18	Presented by Bill and Delores Evens
December 25	Presented by Tim and Linda Clancy in Honor of their parents, Dot and Cal Cross and in Memory of Donna and Charles Clancy

Let's Celebrate!



<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
December 2	Peggy Baer Valorie Konnick
December 4	Jennifer Wilde
December 5	Derek Dierolf
December 7	Linda Clancy Bonne Riefenstahl
December 8	Morgan Clancy
December 10	Adam Deering Randy Gresh
December 11	Shawn Dugan
December 12	Kari Kindig
December 13	Pastor Robb Faller

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
December 17	Gail Weston
December 19	Jeffery Bartman Ryan Fox Betty Graham Daniel Purnell
December 20	Bruce Bartman
December 23	Stephen Weisel
December 24	Zachary Cantlin
December 26	Michael Dziura
December 28	Nathan Babb
December 29	Jim Riefenstahl



<u>Date</u>	<u>Couple</u>
December 1	John & Marsha Bartholmew
December 10	Michael & Jennifer Wilde
December 13	Pete & Patty Retzlaff
December 20	Dave & Tammy Purnell
December 22	Bill & Delores Evens
December 25	David & Mary Frain
December 29	Mike & Lisa Ditty
December 31	Pastor Robb & Dee Faller

*Please remember the following members who are unable to attend services
in your prayers...*

Pam Hudelson
107 E. Fifth Street
Apartment #208
Red Hill, PA 18076

Ginny McKinstry
P.O. Box 113
New Berlinville, PA 19545

Robert Preudhomme
124 Harry Howard Blvd.
Hudson, NY 12534

June Hoffman
Box 498
Aspen Village
Frederick, PA 19435

Marietta Stahl
2917 E. High Street
Pottstown, PA 19464

Eleanor Bissinger
600 W. Valley Forge Road
Manor Care, Room 324A
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Ken Kline
Oaktree Apartment #220
P.O. Box 548
Frederick, Pa 19435

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER NOTICE

After many years, this will be our last home delivery of our Cross Roads Newsletter. Beginning in January of 2012, the Newsletter will be available in the following ways:

- Sent to your personal Email
Please Email the church at office@saintandrewumc.org if you have not submitted your address and don't forget to submit addresses for our military and college students.
- St. Andrew Website - available now at:
<http://saintandrewumc.org>
- St. Andrew Facebook Page - available now at:
www.facebook.com/saintandrewumc.org
- Printed Version - A few copies will be available in the Welcome Center the last Sunday of the month.

****Homebound members: Newsletters will continue to be sent to you in the mail each month.****

ST. ANDREW TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

We have gone through an office transformation at St. Andrew. The goal was to make the office more efficient for years to come. We have a new web address! It is now saintandrewumc.org The old web address will still work for a while, but the new one is what you should begin using to access the website and to give others looking for information about our church.

We also have new individual email addresses for the staff. Please use the addresses below:

Office: Office@saintandrewumc.org
Pastor Robb: Pastorrobbs@saintandrewumc.org
Adam: Adam@saintandrewumc.org

Thank you for your patience as we underwent our technology transformation at St. Andrew!

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH GROUP

The youth program would like to thank everyone for supporting their recycling program. By recycling your old cell phones and ink cartridges with us, we raised \$154.75 in 2011 for youth missions.

Please continue to support the youth and help clean up the environment by recycling your used ink cartridges and old cell phones at St. Andrew UMC. Look for the boxes in the Welcome Center. All money raised will go to benefit Youth Missions. Thank you for supporting our youth!

CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE

Once again we will be holding a Christmas Card Exchange between our fellow church members! Beginning November 27, you can bring any cards you would like to give someone at St. Andrew. There will be boxes labeled A-L and M-Z in the Welcome Center. Place your cards in the boxes and volunteers will organize them by family. Cards may be dropped off from November 27th through December 11th only. Cards will be ready for pick up from December 18th through December 25th. What a fun way to send a Christmas greeting and save a stamp!

WANTED: CLEANING STEWARDS

As we look ahead to 2012, it is time to ask for new volunteers to clean our church. We have been blessed with many faithful stewards in the past and it is time to offer them a much needed break. It is our goal to have enough volunteers (roughly 36) so that each volunteer would serve on a quarterly or six month basis instead of committing to a one year term. By taking care of our own property and not paying someone, the church is saving a minimum of \$10,000 per year. The money saved will be used for various ministries throughout our church. What a much more effective way to use our offering!

The church is broken down into areas. We are seeking volunteers for:

- . Welcome Center and Upstairs Hallways
- . Library
- . Upstairs Preschool and Infant Nursery
- . Upstairs Bathrooms
- . Sanctuary and Back Stairwell
- . Fellowship Hall and Hallway
- . Downstairs Bathrooms
- . Downstairs Sunday School Rooms
- . Substitutes

Please be in prayer about this and listen carefully to see if the Lord is leading you to serve in this important ministry. If you are willing to serve as a cleaning steward in 2012, please call the church office at 610-367-0743 or email at office@saintandrewumc.org.

"Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood." Acts 20:28

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS 2011

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS – DECEMBER 11th, 2011 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Three St. Andrew families have graciously opened their homes for a time of fellowship, snacks and holiday cheer. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for the list of host families and directions.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING SUNDAY DECEMBER 18th – Immediately following the Youth Christmas Party. Meet at the church at 2:30 PM to leave by 2:45 PM and return by 5:00 PM. We hope to have enough Carolers to split into three groups. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 7PM – MIDNIGHT

Ring in the New Year with your St. Andrew friends! Drop in anytime after 7:00 PM. Stay for a little while, or stay until Midnight! Bring your favorite games to play and a snack to share. This annual St. Andrew event is SAFE and FUN for the entire family!

UPCOMING 2012 FELLOWSHIP EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FORTHESE ACTIVITIES!

Chili Cook-Off & Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 5th beginning at 5:00 PM

“Everybody’s Birthday”

Saturday, March 10th from 7:00 – 9:00 PM (Snow Date Sunday, March 11th 7:00 – 9:00 PM)

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, June 10th from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM (Immediately following the 10:30 AM Service)

Rally Day Picnic and Ministry Fair

Sunday, September 9th – Immediately following the 10:30 AM Traditional Service

Blessing of the Animals – Sunday, October 6th – time to be determined

Trunk or Treat – Saturday, October 27th from 6:00 – 7:30 PM (5:00 – 6:00 PM Set up)

Christmas Greetings 2012 – Sunday, December 9th from 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Christmas Caroling 2012 – Sunday, December 16th – time to be determined

New Year’s Eve Party – December 31st from 7:00 PM – 12:30 AM

YARN SPINNERS

We wish you all a Merry Christmas. There will be no meeting in December. See you on January 18th for our next get-together.

SCRIPTURE SCRAPBOOKERS

Scripture Scrapbookers will not be meeting during the month of December. Thank you for your commitment throughout the year. Our next meeting will be January 18, 2012 at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall, weather permitting.

ST. ANDREW MEN

The St. Andrew Men will hold their monthly breakfast on Sunday, December 4th at the Woodside Villa beginning at 7:30 AM. All men of the church are invited to attend.

ST. ANDREW WOMEN

ST. ANDREW WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER & PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 14th

Dinner - 6:15 PM in Fellowship Hall

Program - Robert Gerhart will be doing a Chalk Art Program at 7:30 PM

The entire church family is invited to attend this program.

Tickets - \$5.00 per person

All women are invited to the dinner. Please see Mary Frain, Cathy Webb, or visit the church office for tickets. We will be collecting money for the Multi-Service fuel program that evening. Come join us for an enjoyable evening.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to all who supported the Operation Christmas Child Program. We collected 64 boxes and many, many filler items. Cathy Webb will be traveling to Boone, NC on November 26th to help with the final packaging of cartons before they are shipped to the chosen countries.

JUNIOR CHOIR

There is a Junior Choir at St. Andrew UMC! Anyone who has a child in Kindergarten through 6th grade who is interested in being part of the choir should attend practice on Sundays immediately following the Traditional 10:30 AM service in the sanctuary. Peg Hoover will be directing. Please contact Peg with any questions at 610-960-0020.

MISSION MOMENTS

A mission meeting will be held Thursday, December 8th at 7:00 PM. Join us in planning our mission programs for the coming year, especially our upcoming February trip to Puerto Rico.

On December 9th we will be serving lunch at the Salvation Army from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Join us in providing this service to our community.

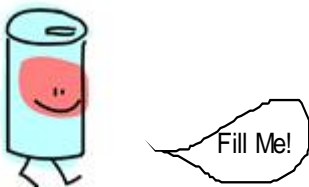
Salvation Army Angel Tree

As you count your blessings this Christmas season, please consider sharing the joy of Christmas with a local child. You may do this by participating in the Salvation Army Angel Tree project. The angel tree will be placed in the Welcome Center. To participate, choose an "angel" from the tree. Each angel tells you what the child would like for Christmas. You do not need to get every item on this list. You may spend up to \$50.00 per child. Please give the unwrapped gifts (with wrapping paper included) to Delores Evens or Jane Donmoyer by December 7th. Thank you for providing a Merry Christmas for a child in need.

Christmas Poinsettias

Help support our mission projects by purchasing a poinsettia to decorate our church sanctuary during the Christmas season. Order forms are available in the Welcome Center. Orders are due by December 4th. Forms may be placed in the offering plate or given to Marilyn or Becky Rhoads.

Save your change in support of our mission trip to Puerto Rico



Just pick up a soda can in the welcome center and enjoy a nice drink (or use one of your own). Then fill up the can with loose change. Every little bit makes a difference. Return your filled soda can to John Stauffer or Cathy Webb any time from now until February. All money collected will support our mission trip to Puerto Rico.

Dimes, pennies, nickels, quarters! That's right, save them all! They can make a great difference in Puerto Rico! Maybe you can't go on the trip, but you can serve others by helping to make this trip possible.

"HANGING OF THE GREENS"



**Did you
ever wonder...**

about the spiritual significance
of *Christmas trees*? Have you ever
questioned how the custom of *gift-giving* began
at Christmas, or why *poinsettias* are thought of as a
Christmas flower, or what in the world an *Advent wreath* is?

The Hanging of the Greens Celebration on Dec. 3rd, here at St. Andrew will answer these questions
and many more in one of the most beautiful services of the year. During this inspiring service, readings that
explain the meanings behind the symbols of Christmas are interspersed with an abundance of beautiful
Christmas music. During the readings and music, the Christmas tree is decorated, poinsettias are placed,
candles are lit, wreaths are hung, and evergreens are added to adorn the sanctuary – all to celebrate the birth
of Jesus!

This is an excellent service to invite family, friends, neighbors,
and co-workers to attend with you.

There are few better ways to start off the Christmas
season than to attend and focus your heart on the eternal
and life-altering meaning of Christmas –
God with us, Emmanuel.

Saturday, December 3, 2011

Soup and Sandwich Supper at 6:15pm

Hanging of the Greens Celebration at 7:00pm

FROM YOUR WORSHIP TEAM

[Isaiah 57:14](#)

*It will be said: "Build a road! Build a road! **Prepare** the way! Remove every obstacle in the way of my people!"*

As we remember Thanksgiving, looking forward to Christmas – may we be encouraged to burn this
scripture in our hearts. With so many distractions...office parties, travel plans, school specials, Christmas cards,
who's been naughty, who's been nice, malls and the like...it is easy to have our focus moved from the true
owner of this special time of the year.

[Matthew 16: 15-16 says](#)

¹⁵He asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!"

We say who Jesus is by our thoughts, words, and actions. So as challenging as it is to balance life throughout
the rest of the year, Christmas really puts the "rubber to the road" for believers. As we move thru the days
ahead, by the power of the Holy Spirit, may we be a witness
to the world around us that we truly believe –

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

Come to Church! Study His Word! Serve His People!

ST. ANDREW SHUTTLE

Do you or anyone you know need a ride to worship service for either just one day or an on-going basis? If so, call the church office at 610-367-7043 and we will arrange it for you. We have drivers ready to provide transportation!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Attention Parents: Do you have a long holiday to-do list: baking, shopping, decorating...or need just a few hours to yourself to relax?



Then we can help!

We can give you an afternoon off while your children enjoy our annual:

Kids' Christmas Party!

We have a ton of fun activities planned: games, making a Christmas craft, making gingerbread men, and decorating a gingerbread house!

Who: All children ages 3-12 are welcome

When: December 10, 2011

1:00-4:00 pm (Feel free to come and go as your schedule allows!)

Where: Fellowship Hall

We promise that while you are enjoying a child-free afternoon your kids will be having a blast at church!

COLLEGE STUDENTS CHRISTMAS PARTY!

St. Andrew college ministry would like to welcome the college students home for break with a Christmas party at the church on Monday, December 19th from 6:00-9:00 PM. We will also be running a College Sunday School class from December 18th - January 15th during the 10:30 AM Traditional Service. The class will be held downstairs in the room across from the kitchen. If you have any ideas for the Christmas Party or for the Sunday School class, please contact Adam [610-715-9343](tel:610-715-9343).

*****THANK YOU*****THANK YOU*****THANK YOU*****

I wish to express my appreciation to the two young gentlemen who rescued me when I fell in church. I did not hurt myself except for my ego.

I also would like to thank everyone for the beautiful birthday cards.

St. Andrew's family is really a caring family.

God's Blessings to All,
Rose German

We would like to send a giant thank you to everyone for all the prayers, cards, gifts, meals and support we have received for our daughter Mallory. The amount of love we felt from the congregation during this time was incredible. It is so nice to know that we have a church family that cares for us.

Thanks from the bottom of our hearts,
Adam, Amanda, and Mallory Deering

You Did It!

The Holiday Bazaar has come and gone. Upon reflection of the event, I have realized how many people were involved in the preparation and orchestration of the Bazaar.

Whether you were a planner, a worker, attended, or stayed at home and thought and prayed about us, we thank you.

The realization is this - - - *it takes a Whole Church* - - - and *You* made it happen.

Again, thank you.

Mary Fox
Holiday Bazaar Chair

Thank you to everyone for your cards, meals, visits at the hospital and at home, phone calls checking on me, and most of all your prayers during my recent surgery. Thanks to Pastor Robb for his daily visits when I was in the hospital. Also, a big thank you to Cathy Webb and Candy Allen and all the helpers who stepped in to make the White Elephant room a success for the Bazaar. Thanks to Mary Ann Hart and Marilyn Rhoads who did the snacks for me.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,
Delores Evens

from our Youth Director

¹² *This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.* ¹³ *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

John 15:12-13 (NLT)

In mid-October we started a series with our youth called "Live Love." In the first lesson we touched on how Jesus issues a command to love others as he loved us. As you can see in the verse above, this is immediately followed by the words, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." Until preparing for this series I had always glanced over this verse and taken it to mean we must be willing to die for our friends like Jesus died for us. Since it was not likely that I was ever going to face a situation where I would have to die for my friends I found the verse not applicable to me. What I came to realize was this verse should be one of the cornerstones of any Christian's faith. This verse is actually calling us to do something harder than make a onetime decision to die for our friends. It is calling us to choose to daily give up our desires in order to focus on the desires and needs of those in our life. Interestingly enough, the week after I taught on these verses my wife gave birth to our first child Mallory. During the days that followed, this verse kept popping up in my mind. What person would in their right mind want to put their body through morning sickness, restricting their diet, and months of being uncomfortable? Only then to put their body through the pain of delivery and finally endure what essentially equates to sleep deprivation torture during the first few weeks of the infant's life. This is true love; putting aside your wants and your desires to do what is better for someone else. If you look at the interaction of Jesus with his disciples and those he encountered, he was always doing what was best for them. He never looked down on them for their lack of faith, but instead encouraged them to have greater faith. He never used phrases like "I don't feel like it" or "I'm not in the mood" or "maybe next week." He would put aside his own human desires to do what was best for the other person's physical and spiritual well being. These verses should serve as a challenge to all of us to examine how we interact with others. Are we acting in love by putting what's best for others (physically and spiritually) above our own feelings and desires regardless of the situation or are we only willing to love them until it infringes upon our own feelings and desires?

Adam



Christmas Greetings

December 11, 2011

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Three St. Andrew families have graciously opened their homes for a time of fellowship, snacks and holiday cheer. Please visit these homes and enjoy a delightful afternoon!

**Bill & Delores Evens
38 Mulberry Lane
Bechtelsville, PA 19505**

Directions:

Exit from front of St. Andrew. Turn Right onto Swamp Creek Road. Turn Right onto Mulberry Lane. Proceed to 4th house on the right.

**Mark & Lori Egbert
2108 Weisstown Road
Boyertown, PA 19512**

Directions:

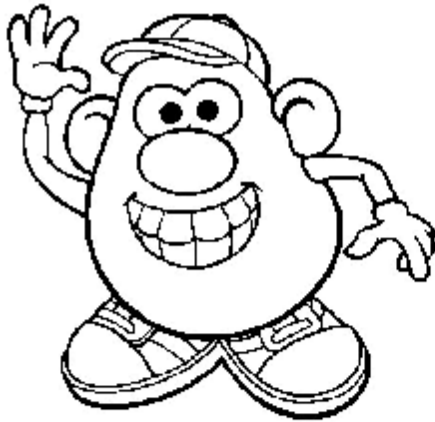
From church: Rte 100 N to Township Line Rd. Left onto Township Line Rd then immediate Right onto Old Rte 100(Main Street). Continue approximately 1 mile and make a Left at Bechtelsville post office onto Race Street. Go to stop sign and Make a Left (this turns into Weisstown Rd). Home is 0.4 miles on the left. White vinyl and stone rancher. Sign with 2108 at bottom of driveway.

**Jim & Shari Good
152 Pinehurst Way
Gilbertsville PA 19525**

Directions:

From Rte 100, take the Rte 73 exit (Phila Ave) and go east toward Gilbertsville. Follow to the light at Congo road; turn Left. Turn Left onto Middle Creek Road, then make first Left onto Pinehurst Way. Continue straight on Pinehurst Way, then continue around loop to #152 on right.





SPUD LUNCHEON

Date: January 15, 2012

Given by the Mission Committee

Time: After 10:30 AM church service

Take out available after 9:00 AM service

Cost: By Donation

Donations will be used for our mission trip to

PUERTO RICO.

News from Guatemala



The above picture is of one of our students, Orfa, who we have supported for several years. She is 14 years old, and this year she finished elementary school. Orfa is excited about starting middle school and also a little nervous. Her favorite class is math. She likes to jump rope and play soccer. Orfa and her family are very grateful for our support and always remember to keep all of us in their prayers. They send many hugs to everyone, and Orfa promises to keep doing her best in school.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the education of the children we support in Coatepeque, Guatemala. Thanks to your support the children were able to finish the 2011 school year!!!

The children are looking forward to the new school year which will begin in January.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANT ORDER FORM

Our Missions Team will be selling poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve worship services. Please use this form to order your Christmas Poinsettia plant(s). Place the completed form, along with payment in an envelope marked "Poinsettia." Place the envelope in the collection plate or hand it to Marilyn Rhoads, Delores Evens, or Becky Rhoads.

You may pick up your plants after the late (10:00 PM) service on December 24th.

The poinsettias are available in red, marble (shades of pink), and white. Please circle your choice at a cost of \$10.00 each.

PURCHASER'S NAME: _____ **PHONE :** _____

Plant #1 Given by: (if different from purchaser):

_____ red pink white

In Memory of:

In Honor of: _____

Plant #2 Given by: (if different from purchaser):

_____ red pink white

In Memory of:

In Honor of: _____

Plant #3 Given by (if different from purchaser):

_____ red pink white

In Memory of:

In Honor of: _____

Plant #4 Given by: (if different from purchaser):

_____ red pink white

In Memory of:

In Honor of: _____

Number of Plants: _____ x \$10.00 = Total due \$ _____

All orders must be received by December 4, 2011

c/o NSI, Box 8975, EPC 1813,
Kathmandu, Nepal.

18 September 2011

Dear Friends,

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

In remote areas of Nepal, people don't consider an institution to be a real hospital unless it provides emergency operations. They've seen relatives or neighbors die for lack of a timely, sometimes basic, surgical procedure.

For an operation to take place, ideally four components come together around the patient: a surgeon, an anesthetist, a nurse, and equipment. People in many countries can assume that if they need an operation a doctor anesthetist will be there working beside their surgeon. However, in rural Nepal, among Nepal's 65 government district hospitals (each of which serves an average population of 200,000), not even one has an anesthesia doctor on staff. Nepal's anesthesia doctors choose to work in the cities.

For the last five years, the Nick Simons Institute (NSI) has worked closely with the Nepal government to develop an Anesthesia Assistant Training program – this teaches nurses and paramedics to provide basic anesthesia under the supervision of the operating doctor. NSI has taken a leading role on the training steering committee, written a new curriculum, and built up training teams in 4 hospitals. NSI also gave the impetus for development of an appropriate-technology anesthesia machine for less-developed countries.

Four years ago, the Nepal government appointed Dr. Brahma Dev Jha to chair the Anesthesia Assistant Steering Committee. Dr. Jha is a luminary in Nepal medical circles, being one of the first Nepalis to get his full anesthesia specialty training 25 years ago – when there were only a handful of anesthesia specialists in the country. As the professor of a leading government hospital, Dr. Jha played a major role in increasing that number to about 150 Nepali anesthesia doctors today.

Dr. Jha's first name, Brahma Dev, means 'God of gods', but people call him "B.D." Though not tall, he has a certain presence – a straight, trim man with a moustache, who listens long before replying. He comes from the Brahmin caste and is a strict vegetarian. He rides a bicycle to work – something that most senior Nepali doctors would eschew.

Ironically, one major obstacle to developing Anesthesia Assistants for rural Nepal is the anesthesia doctors themselves. Some anesthesiologists see Anesthesia Assistants as being inferior providers or even competition to their practice. I say to them, "But we're talking about rural hospitals, where there *are* no anesthesia doctors." They reply, "Our Nepali people deserve better." In vain, I point out that much anesthesia in a developed country like the U.S. is competently administered by nurses.

Early in his tenure on the Committee, Dr. Jha suggested that Nepal's Anesthesia Assistant course be expanded from 6 to 12 months, which is closer to international norms. We agreed and began making plans to develop a longer course. We arranged an initial meeting with Health Ministry officials and leading Nepali anesthesia doctors. I gave a presentation advocating development of the Anesthesia Assistant cadre and hoped for support from our committee members. At that meeting, though, Dr. Jha spoke with hesitancy, even mentioning a recent complication he'd heard of under the care of an Anesthesia Assistant. Nevertheless, with Health Ministry backing, we undertook development of the new course.

Our Committee met every two months to discuss the development and fine-tuning of the course. Created by professionals from Nepal, England, Australia, and the U.S., it was shaping up to be an outstanding training program. By November 2009, the course was ready to launch, or so we hoped.

Unfortunately, by then a group of anesthesia doctors had solidified their opposition to the training and the National Academy, who would sanction it, was hesitant to stand up to the group. At that stage, Dr. Jha's continued hesitancy would have been fatal to the course. Looking back, he later reflected, "By that time, after listening to all of you talk on and on about Anesthesia Assistants, I began to see things differently. Whereas my hidden agenda for the Committee had been to support doctors' training, I came to realize that Nepal needs a short-term solution and that that could only be the Anesthesia Assistant."

Dr. Jha, who was then President of the Society of Anesthesia of Nepal, bucked members of his profession and wrote a Society letter in favor of the course. Then he used his position as Dean in the National Academy to push the training proposal along. He took a professional risk, uncommon in Nepal, and by the summer of 2010 the scales had tipped in favor of imminent approval. Then tragedy struck.

continued...

That July, Dr. Jha was driving his wife on a weekend vacation to the mountain resort of Nagarkot when the car veered off the road and down a hillside. An ambulance brought them both to the very intensive care unit where Dr. Jha is director. His wife's most serious injury was a pelvic fracture. Dr. Jha, however, had bled into his chest and had a head injury. When we first came to visit him in the hospital, he could only respond with a mumble. A week later, he still had tubes draining blood from both sides of his chest, but was more alert.

"What's the status of the Anesthesia Assistant course?" he immediately asked.

"Don't worry about that now, B.D."

"No, what's going on with the course?"

"Your deputy has managed to block it."

"Give me another 2 months. I'll be back."

After he left the hospital, I went to see him at home and found his condition alarming. He looked his usual self while sitting, but he could only walk with a walker and that at a snail's pace. This was one of a number of junctures when we asked friends to pray for our long-sought course.

After 4 months away, Dr. Jha did come back, leaning on a cane, as Head of the Department of Anesthesia. Our NSI team continued their forays to government offices pushing the approval papers along. Finally, the agreement was signed and on May 28 of this year we entered the first 10 students of the new one-year training. It was a happy moment after a long team effort – faith bridging many low points of the journey. And it was a landmark for safe surgery in Nepal.

Shanta Maya Khadga is a 21-year old woman who lives in a farm house in the mountains of Gulmi District. After she became pregnant for the first time, her family made plans for her to deliver at home. But when she went a week overdue and began to leak fluid, they carried her down to the road and arranged for a jeep to bring her 3 hours to the district hospital in Tamghas. Someone had said there were good doctors there.

By most measures, the Tamghas Hospital is not fancy. It does have relatively new buildings and basic equipment, but the dusty concrete floors and dimly lit rooms are spartan. On the day Shanta arrived, the 10-bed maternity ward was treating 12 women in various stages of labor – two lying on mattresses on the floor. After a night of minimal progress, the GP Dr. Kashim decided there was a risk to the baby. Shanta needed a Caesarean section, so the simple operating room was made ready.

The metronomic beeping of Shanta's heart monitor was the only sound heard above the murmurs of the medical staff getting down to business. Dr. Kashim leaned over the patient and a junior doctor worked across from him. A nurse moved here and there. The overhead light focused on the open surgical wound – oozing, marbled flesh folded back from the pink dome of the uterus within.

Near to the patient's head stood Ramesh Panti, auxiliary health worker cum Anesthesia Assistant. Ramesh received training in basic anesthesia and some refresher trainings since then. A few minutes after she'd arrived in the operating room, he slid a long needle between Shanta's spinal bones and injected an anesthetic. Her legs began to tingle and soon she had no feeling below her navel. Ramesh has accomplished hundreds of cases like this one.

A drape barrier was erected over Shanta's chest to keep her from seeing the surgery. While on one side of the barrier, the scene was charged with tension –hands stretching the abdominal wall to widen the surgical wound, suctioning blood, groping for the baby inside – on the other, Shanta stared contentedly at the ceiling. Ramesh checked her blood pressure, adjusted the IV drip, gave an injection, looked up at the monitor, and said something to her. Then a lusty cry filled the room and relief showed in the eyes over surgical masks. The child was taken for suctioning his airway, with all signs that he was healthy. When a nurse told Shanta she had a son, her bored expression permitted a flicker of a smile.

For a number of years in Nepal, I worked as a clinical doctor and later combined that with hospital administration. The work in the Nick Simons Institute has led me into a new set of challenges – involving coordinating diverse teams, coaxing reluctant officials, and trying to assure that a quality product eventually improves patient care. The ultimate goal has not changed, and neither has the need for faith and prayer. Many blessings have come my way in this new line of work, including for one, now having B.D. Jha as my ally and friend.

Love,

Mark, Deirdre, Zachary, and Benjamin Zimmerman

DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 Hot Spot 7:15 PM Choir	2	3 6:15 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Hanging of the Greens
4 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Woodside 1:00 PM SPR Meeting 1:30 PM Charge Conference	5 6:30 PM 4-H Meeting	6 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	7	8 7:00 PM Missions Meeting 7:00 Hot Spot 7:15 PM Choir	9	10 1:00-4:00 PM Children's Christmas Party
11 1:00-4:00 PM Christmas Greetings	12 8:00 AM AARP Christmas Luncheon Prep	13 8:00 AM AARP Christmas Luncheon	14	15 7:00 Hot Spot 7:15 PM Choir	16	17
18 11:30 AM Outreach Meeting Noon - Youth Christmas Party 2:30 PM Christmas Caroling	19	20	21 7:00 PM Church Council	22	23	24 Worship Services at 7:00 and 10:00 PM
25 Merry Christmas! One Service at 10:00 AM Fellowship Hall in Use	26 Church Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31 7:00 PM New Year's Eve Party