

# Word of Hope

MOUNT HOPE  
United Methodist Church



## Pastor McGill Writes...

### *The Gift of Christmas*

At our home, Christmas gifts were a very important part of the love we shared with each other. My brother, sister and I were always anxious to ask what we were getting.

Mother was always careful to teach and stress the true reason for the season and the real meaning of Christmas. We children learned early on that the gifts we gave and received were just reminders of God's greatest gift of all, His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Sadly, in our society today, it seems the focus is on holiday gifts rather than the Gift of Christmas. And if the story of Christ's first coming is even told, many people glance at the baby in the manger and fail to recognize Jesus for Who He really is. How tragic to trade the greatest Gift that could ever be given for commercialism's flash and glitter or the secular emphasis on feasting, partying and sensual celebration.

The Gift of Christmas is not a throwaway present to be swept away with the wrappings and ribbons. It is a for-all-the-year Gift. It is not something to open up and then forget about, but somebody to receive and have forever.

The Gift lasts all our lives through now and into eternity. The Bible says, "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23).

Have you ever stopped to consider that we live in two worlds? One outside our being and the other inside. The outer world is filled with conflict and turmoil, hatred and international tension, struggle and strife. Inside we must deal with hurts and disappointments, discouragements and fear—none of us is free from difficult situations. But if we receive the Gift of Christmas, we have inner peace and strength to overcome negativism and chaos. We have faith and hope for today and the future.

Where so many fall short during the Advent Christmastide season is in forgetting the Gift of Christmas—of either willfully or negligently communicating, "God, I don't need what you have to offer." Watch out! Don't make the mistake of forgetting the "Reason for the Season." There is only one certainty and His name is Jesus. HE is the Gift of God. What He offers is salvation, peace and life—abundant life, eternal life now and forever.

A Sunday school teacher once gave a little boy his choice of two gifts. One was a beautiful box with shiny foil paper and multi-colored ribbons. The other was a plain and simple metal can. The little boy wisely chose the plain container.

The teacher said, "First we will open the package you did not choose, the one that is so beautiful on the outside." When she opened the lid, the box contained only shredded newspaper.

Then she handed the very plain can to the little boy, and he pried off the lid. A big smile spread across his face as he saw that the can was filled with holiday cookies and candies.

What is the lesson? Don't be deceived by the outward appearance—it is what's inside that counts. Jesus came to the world in very humble surroundings and associated with the poor and needy people of the world. But He brought—and is—a Gift beyond description, for which mankind can't take the credit.

That wonderful Gift is offered to you again during this holy season. Oh, yes the

*Continued on page (4)*

December 2008

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### Special points of interest:

- ◆ *Nov. 30: 1st Sunday of Advent, Hanging of the Greens*
- ◆ *7th: Communion*
- ◆ *13th: Living Nativity*
- ◆ *21st: Cantata*
- ◆ *24th: 6:30 Family Service; 8:30 Caroling service; 11:00 Candlelight Communion Service*
- ◆ *25th: Merry Christmas!*



**BAPTISM**

*Presley Ruth Montgomery*, daughter of Warren and Alanna Cini Montgomery  
*Julia Marie Pflieger*, daughter of Thomas and Megan Pflieger  
*Josephine and Dean Simone, Jr.*, children of Dean and Kimberly Simone

**DEATH**

*Virginia E. Ford*, November 12

**NEW MEMBERS**

*Virginia Childs*  
*Tamara Cotter*  
*Debra Culloty*  
*Barbara, Heather and Melissa Fidelibus*  
*Ronald Kiker*  
*Carol Owen*  
*Marvin Steele*

**TRANSFER**

*Marvin Steele*  
*Glenn and Patricia Brownhill* to  
 First UMC of Cape May Court House

*Sundays in Advent*

*November 30th, the First Sunday in Advent*

This first Sunday in advent will be celebrated with a special *Hanging of the Greens* at each of our morning worship times, 8:15, 9:30 contemporary and 11:00 a.m.

We traditionally have two Christmas trees in the Sanctuary. One is the Chrismon Tree, decorated with ornaments that are the traditional religious symbols of Christmas.

The second tree is the *Old-Fashioned Christmas Tree*. The tree will be decorated with pictures of the Church Family as babies. We'll have a great time identifying you! The pictures will be used for a powerpoint presentation too. We hope you've already submitted your pic-

tures to the church office or Sharon Kope. The deadline is November 23rd.

*December 7th, the Second Sunday in Advent*

Come to partake of communion this Sunday.

*Sunday, December 14th, the Third Sunday in Advent*

The beautiful poinsettia tree will adorn the Sanctuary. Plan now to attend and enjoy the peace and tranquility of the Sanctuary as you worship the Savior!

*Sunday, December 21st*

The Sanctuary Choir will present the cantata, *"One Solitary Life"* at 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

The contemporary worship service at 9:30 will feature Christmas music, a contemporary cantata.

*December 24th, Christmas Eve Services 6:30 p.m. Family*

... Genesis Youth Bell Choir, the Christmas story, the blessing of the children, the presentation of gifts to each child attending the service and the welcoming of the Savior by glowlight.

*A NEW SERVICE! 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Caroling Service*

Come and enjoy your favorite carols, Christmas message and candle lighting.

*11:00 p.m. Candlelight*

A message of hope, Holy Communion, the singing of favorite carols, individual candle lighting, the Sanctuary Choir and the Bells of Hope are all part of the service.

*Living Nativity*

Saturday night December 13<sup>th</sup> Mount Hope will host a Living Nativity. The story of Christ's birth will be dramatized using actors and a variety of animals. The location is in front of

Habbersett Hall. The times of the performances are 6:30, 7:00 and 7:30. Refreshments will follow in Habbersett Hall. Please plan to attend this special Advent celebration and tell your friends.

Would you bake some extra cookies for the holidays and share them for the Living Nativity? We surely would appreciate your donations!

*Children's Sunday School Pageant*

This year's Mount Hope Sunday School Pageant is entitled "Sing a Song of Christmas". This delightful musical presentation will include the telling of

the Christmas story along with the singing of favorite carols. The pageant will be conducted by Ellen Wilber and Judy Brower and will include members of our Sunday School as

well as our Mount Hope Youth Group and KFC. Please Plan to attend December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the sanctuary, refreshments will follow.

*Changes of Address*

*Stacey Busch*

5200 Hilltop DR #V1  
 Brookhaven PA 19015

*Bryan and Jennifer*

*Levens Kline*  
 4005 Great Star CT  
 Jeannette PA 15644

*Jeffrey Schmitt*

218 Fourth AV  
 Newtown Square PA  
 19073-4515

*Rachel Ward*

720 S 10th ST #3B  
 Philadelphia PA  
 19147-1972

*Carolyn Wilson*

18 Wyncroft DR  
 Media PA 19063-4842

*Jennifer D'Antonio*

24 Scott RD  
 Glen Mills PA  
 19342-1344



## Christmas Cantata: One Solitary Life

Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts, the gift of God to man—His unspeakable gift of His Son; and the gift of man to God, when we present our-

selves to Him as a living sacrifice. Join us as our music ministry family retells the story of His coming, and to praise God for the gift of Jesus. *Sharon Kope*

### *One Solitary Life* by *Denny Dawson*

At the 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. worship services  
Presented by the Sanctuary Choir, the J.O.Y. Singers Youth and Orchestra

## One Solitary Life



## Poinsettias: Order ASAP!

Christmas is upon us and it is time to order your poinsettias. Plants may be given in honor of or in memory of loved ones and will be used to create the beautiful Christmas tree in the front of our sanctuary and

adorn the church for the holiday season. The lovely poinsettias will be in 6 inch pots and will have 4-6 blooms. Cost per plant is \$8.00. Completed order forms with payment may be placed in the collection plate

or dropped in the office. Questions? Call Laura Taylor - 610-497-3504.

Please order immediately as the poinsettia tree will be placed in the sanctuary on December 12th.

## Sanctuary Christmas Tree

The Christmas Tree that we, the Church Family, decorate this year centers around the theme of an "Old Fashioned Christmas." Will you help decorate the Old Fashioned Christmas tree? Here is how you can participate. Look up a pic-

ture of yourself as a baby or young child to be put on the Christmas tree. Make sure you identify it with your name and phone number on the back. Get the pictures into the office ASAP, but no later than November 23rd. We will be making a power-

point presentation of the pictures to be shown throughout Advent. The pictures will be put on the tree the first Sunday in December in our Hanging of the Greens service.

## Parent Seminar Series

Ever have questions as a parent if you are disciplining your children biblically? Please plan to attend the Parent Seminar Series – Beginning Janu-

ary 14<sup>th</sup> on Wednesday nights at 6:30. Mount Hope invites all parents and anyone interested to "The Essentials of Discipline" video series by James Dobson.

The seminars will last for 10 weeks and meet in Habbersett hall facilitated by Pastor Phil.

## Angel Food Ministry

Our second month grew to 49 orders! We continue to be grateful to you for your response to this new program.

Many members have signed up for the program, as you just can't beat the value: \$60—70 worth of food for \$30. Check out what you get by visiting Angel Food at <http://www.angelfoodministries.com/> and clicking on "Menu" in the list on the right side of the screen.

Order dates and times are: **Sundays, November 30<sup>th</sup>** and **December 7<sup>th</sup>** - 9 to 9:30 am

and 10:30 to 11 am  
**Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** from 7 pm to 8 pm  
**Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 1 pm to 3 pm  
**Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** from 9:30 am to 11am

Pick up your orders on Saturday, December 13 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in Habbersett Hall.

You get all this for \$30:  
5 lb. Choice Cut Beef Roast; 2 lb. Breaded Chicken Tenders; 2 lb. IQF Chicken Breast; 1.5 lb. Pork Chops (4 x 6 oz.); 1 lb. 80/20 Lean Beef Patties (4 x 4 oz.);

28 oz. Salisbury Steak Entree; 1 lb. All Meat Hot Dogs; 1 lb. Carrots; 1 lb. Green Beans; 1 lb. Rice; 24 oz. Steak-Cut Fries; 32 oz. 2% Reduced Fat Shelf-Stable Milk; 7.5 oz. Mac and Cheese; 14 oz. Chicken Broth; 7 oz. Corn muffin Mix; Dozen Eggs; Dessert

There are other selections available too. Come in and pick up an order form, or log onto [http://www.angelfoodministries.com/menu\\_0812en.asp](http://www.angelfoodministries.com/menu_0812en.asp)

Call AFM/Mount Hope at 610.459.9875 for more information.

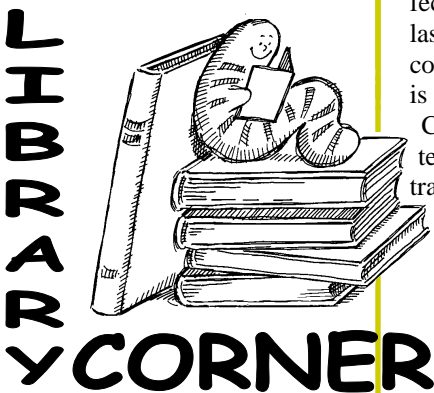


*The depth  
of your hunger  
is the length  
of your reach  
to God.*

*Eph 1: 17-19*

**Holiday Library Hours**

The Library will be closed  
December 24th-26th  
and December 29th -  
January 2<sup>nd</sup>



**Word of Hope**

**Confirmation**

Confirmation Class 2009 – Mount Hope will be conducting confirmation classes beginning January 4<sup>th</sup> 2009. The classes will

take place during the Sunday School hour and graduation is April 19<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00 service. If you are a youth between the ages of 13 and 18 and wish to

follow the Lord in this faith exploration, please contact the office or Pastor Phil soon.

**The Gift of Christmas (from page 1)**

world also offers its counterfeit present, so don't choose the wrong package. Please don't make the mistake of saying through your actions, "God, I don't need

what You have to offer." This Christmas—right now—accept anew the wondrous Gift of Christmas and join in saying, "Oh, come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is

room in my heart for you!"

**Merry Christmas!**  
Pastor McGill

**Children's Center News**

Bible Verse for December:  
"Unto us a Child is born."  
Isaiah 9:6

The anticipation is almost tangible at this special time of year here at the Children's Center. We have been learning about the birth of our Savior, and are looking forward to Reverend McGill reading a special Christmas story to the children, making gifts for our families and ending the year with a special Christmas Show. Our Fruit of the Spirit this month is appropriately "Patience", something

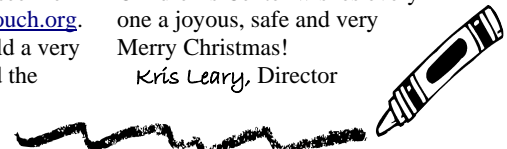
the children are short of shortly after December begins. This year we will be combining Chapel and our Christmas Shows, again. They will take place on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary.

Our "Mother's Prayer Group", whose goal is to see every school in the world covered with prayer, currently meets on Wednesday morning at about 9:00 AM. For more info see me or go to [www.MomsInTouch.org](http://www.MomsInTouch.org).

In November we held a very successful food drive and the

children filled fifteen boxes to contribute to "Operation Christmas Child". We will have our annual hat and mitten tree the children decorate and we donate the warm items to the Women's Shelter in WaWa. By choosing warm hats and mittens for children less fortunate than themselves, they learn an important lesson in giving and sharing, the true meaning of Christmas. The Children's Center wishes everyone a joyous, safe and very Merry Christmas!

Kris Leary, Director



**What's New In the Library**

The library has four new novels to help us gear up for Christmas. *One Perfect Day*, by Lauraine Snelling, has Nora planning the perfect holiday for her twins' last year at home before college. Meanwhile, Jenna is anticipating her last Christmas with her daughter who is awaiting a heart transplant. Their prayers are answered, but some miracles aren't easy to accept.

*White Christmas Pie*, by Wanda E., Brunstetter, features Will Henderson, who was abandoned by

his father 16 years ago and left in the care of an Amish couple. He is about to marry, but starts to wonder if he will eventually destroy his family as his father did. Will he be able to forgive his father, and marry the woman he loves? What part does an old pie recipe play in his decisions?

*Midnight Clear*, by Jerry B. Jenkins and Dallas Jenkins, is the story of five lonely strangers who find Christmas Eve the hardest day of the year. This modern-day parable reveals how seemingly insignificant acts

of kindness can bathe the grittiness of life in amazing grace.

Christmas 1958 is the setting for *O Little Town*, by Don Reid. Three families in a tiny town share troubling connections -- an angry teen, a dying man, a lonely wife, and a daughter in trouble. This touching story reminds us that people make mistakes and still forgive. It's advertised as perfect for Jan Karon fans.

All of us at the library wish you countless Christmas Blessings!

Lynn Ward, Librarian



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for catching the vision and soaring with us on the wings of hope by your participation in Tithing Month during November. It is all about lifting up each other in service to our Lord. Your giving to the Lord through the ministries of Mount Hope Church is one of the easiest and most helpful things you can do to celebrate life's blessings and share in the planning of God's work through your church.

Sometimes we may hesitate in our giving to the Lord because, after all, what if something happens. I may need those extra funds to pay a bill. Yet this is true of any intention, even saying to a friend, "I'll see you tomorrow." We seldom add, "unless something happens." It doesn't need to be said, it's understood.

Now that we have completed Tithing Month, some of you will continue to give to the Lord the tithe; however, there are others who need to take a step of faith in moving toward the tithe. If this is you, will you accept a challenge from the Lord of setting a foundation for giving?

A foundation for giving is beginning to give at the 3% level and consider that gift as a foundation to build on as you grow in the grace of giving through 2009. We have enclosed a handy chart to help you find your income and take a forward step of faith for the coming year.

Now that you have set a foundation to build on for giving, you can know you have taken a forward step of faith in your giving to the Lord. In laying a foundation for giving, it is my prayer that you will experience God's faithfulness as He has promised, "to supply all your needs through His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4: 19).

### *Youth at CityTeam Ministry*

On December 20<sup>th</sup> our Mount Hope Youth Group will be helping City Team distribute Christmas food and presents to needy families in the Chester area. If you have a van or would like to join us for a morning of blessing, please plan to attend Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30. We will meet in the church parking lot. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Phil.

# Yuletide

## GAMES

Enjoy the Christmas season with these games, centered around the theme of Jesus, our greatest gift.

### JESUS' BIRTH FROM A-Z

What you need:

- Paper
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (optional)



What you do:

Instruct players to think of as many Christmas-related words as they can that start with each letter of the alphabet. Start with A and give everyone a minute to brainstorm words for each letter. For example, M words include manger, Mary and miracle. If you get stuck, look at the Nativity accounts in Matthew 1 and 2, and also Luke 2. Players get a point for each word not repeated by others.

### PIN THE STAR ON THE MANGER

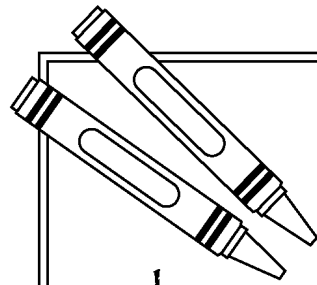
What you need:

- Butcher paper, poster board or plain wrapping paper
- Markers, paint or crayons
- Construction paper stars
- Tape
- Blindfold



What you do:

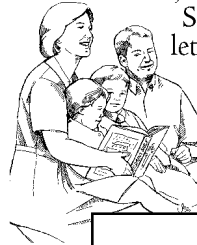
On large paper, draw a picture of a stable. Give each player a star cutout. Put a small + above the manger where the star led the shepherds and wise men to baby Jesus. Like in Pin the Tail on the Donkey, the blindfolded person who puts his or her star closest to the + wins.



# Just for KIDS

## The Story of Jesus' Birth

Jesus' birth is recorded in three New Testament chapters: Matthew 1 and 2, and Luke 2. Follow some important words about our Savior's birth by starting at a word beginning with the letter A and finishing with a word starting with the letter Z.



	angels	Bethlehem	car	dance	easel
cat	bear	child	donkey	egg	fast
holy	glory	flocks	Earth	feathers	gap
inn	jacket	grapes	peace	quiet	hat
Joseph	king	Lord	only	righteous	shepherds
kelp	loop	Mary	night	unique	tidings
last	maze	paper	wise men	virgin	water
open	nest	word	excitement	young	zillions saved by this baby called Jesus




Answer: angels, Bethlehem, child, donkey, Earth, flocks, glory, inn, Joseph, king, Lord, Mary, night, only, peace, quiet, righteous, shepherds, tidings, unique, virgin, wise men, excitement, young, zillions (saved by this baby called Jesus)

# Word of Hope December 2008 Calendar of Events Page 7



This Update Printed: Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Library Open <b>7:00 PM Angel Food Order</b> 7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley) 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study	<b>2</b> 9:00 AM Library Open <b>11:00 AM Prayer (L)</b> <b>7:00 PM Baptism Sem (L)</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Library Open 9:15 AM MHCC Moms' Prayer group (213) 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) <b>1:00 PM Angel Food order (HH)</b> <b>6:30 PM Devotionals (HH)</b> 7:00 PM 9:30 Reh (S) <b>7:00 PM Trustees (L)</b> 7:30 PM Bells of Hope (104)	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM Library Open	<b>6</b> 4:00 PM Co-Wed Party (HH)
<b>Every Sunday:</b> 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship						
<b>7</b> <b>Advent 2nd Sunday</b> <b>Communion</b> Blood Pressure Screening (HH) <b>9:00 AM &amp; 10:30 Angel Food orders (HH)</b> 9:15 AM - 10:15 am. Library open 5:30 PM Hop eChimes & Bo omwackers (104) 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF SrHi (2,6)	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Library Open <b>9:30 AM Angel Food order (HH)</b> 4:00 PM WOH Dndline (Ofe) 7:00 PM Men's Felwshp (L)	<b>9</b> 9:00 AM Library Open 11:00 AM Prayer (L) <b>12:15 PM Busy Beavers Xmas Luncheon (HH)</b> <b>7:00 PM Ad Bd (HH)</b> 7:00 PM Cantata Instru Reh (S) 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (home) 7:30 PM Fuzzy Slippers Club 8:30 PM Muddy Boots BS (2)	<b>10</b> 9:00 AM Library Open 9:15 AM MHCC Moms' Prayer group (213) 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) <b>6:30 PM Devotionals (HH)</b> <b>6:30 PM Education (L)</b> 7:00 PM 9:30 Reh (S) 7:30 PM Bells of Hope (104) 8:30 PM Muddy Boots BS (2)	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)	<b>12</b> Poinsettia Tree set-up (S) 9:00 AM Library Open	<b>13</b> <b>10:00 AM Angel Food pickup (HH)</b> <b>6:30 PM Living Nativity (HH and parking lot)</b>
	9:00 AM Genealogical Society					
<b>14</b> <b>Advent 3rd Sunday</b> <b>Baptism</b> <b>New Members Join</b> 9:15 AM - 10:15 am. Library open 9:30 AM SS Christmas Party 5:30 PM Hop eChimes & Bo omwackers (104) <b>6:30 PM SS Pageant (S)</b> 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF SrHi (2,6)	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM Library Open 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study	<b>16</b> 9:00 AM Library Open 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 11:00 AM Prayer (L) 7:00 PM Cantata Instru Reh (S) <b>7:00 PM SPR (L)</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00 AM Library Open 9:15 AM MHCC Moms' Prayer group (213) <b>6:30 PM Devotionals (HH)</b> 7:00 PM 9:30 Reh (S) 7:15 PM J.O.Y. Singers Reh (103) 7:30 PM Bells of Hope (104) 8:30 PM Muddy Boots BS (2)	<b>18</b> <b>8:30 AM WOH Morning (HH)</b> 9:00 AM Library Open <b>7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (S)</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM Library Open	<b>20</b> 8:30 AM YF to City Team (Chester) 9:00 AM Sanctuary Choir (S)
<b>21</b> <b>Advent 4th Sunday</b> <b>Cantata</b> 9:15 AM - 10:15 am. Library open 5:30 PM Hop eChimes & Bo omwackers (104) 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF SrHi (2,6)	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Library Open 11:00 AM MHCC Christmas Prgm(S) 7:00 PM Men's Felwshp (L)	<b>23</b> 9:00 AM Library Open 11:00 AM MHCC Christmas Prgm(S) 11:00 AM Prayer (L)	<b>24</b> 9:15 AM MHCC Moms' Prayer group (213) 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) <b>6:30 PM Family Service</b> <b>8:30 PM Christmas Eve Caroling Service (S)</b> <b>11:00 PM Candlelight Communion (S)</b>	<b>25</b>  MHCC Closed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Library Closed
<b>28</b> <b>Baptism</b> 9:15 AM - 10:15 am. Library open	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 11:00 AM Prayer (L)	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b>	<b>Community Events:</b> <b>Sundays</b> - 6:00 p.m. Cub Dens 1 & 5 <b>Mondays</b> - 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Trp 292 <b>Tuesdays</b> - 8:30 pm AA (FH) <b>Wednesdays</b> - 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den (101) <b>Thursdays</b> - 6:00 pm AA (FH) <b>Fridays</b> - Cub Den 2 (101) <b>1st Friday</b> - Pack 77 Parents (FH) <b>3rd Friday</b> - Cub Pack 77 (FH)		
	MHCC Closed					
	Library Closed					



## *'Twas the Night Before Jesus Came*

*'Twas the night before Jesus  
came and all through the house  
Not a creature was praying, not  
one in the house.*

*Their Bibles were lain on the  
shelf without care  
In hopes that Jesus would not  
come there.*

*The children were dressing to  
crawl into bed.  
Not once ever kneeling or bow-  
ing a head.*

*And Mom in her rocker with  
baby on her lap  
Was watching the Late Show  
while I took a nap.*

*When out of the East there arose  
such a clatter.*

*I sprang to my feet to see what  
was the matter.*

*Away to the window I flew like a  
flash,*

*Tore open the shutters and  
threw up the sash!*

*When what to my wondering  
eyes should appear*

*But angels proclaiming that  
Jesus was here.*

*With a light like the sun sending  
forth a bright ray  
I knew in a moment this must be  
THE DAY!*

*The light of His face made me  
cover my head*

*It was Jesus! returning just like  
He had said.*

*And though I possessed worldly  
wisdom and wealth,*

*I cried when I saw Him in spite  
of myself.*

*In the Book of Life which He  
held in His hand*

*Was written the name of every  
saved man.*

*He spoke not a word as He  
searched for my name;*

*When He said "it's not here" my  
head hung in shame.*

*The people whose names had  
been written with love  
He gathered to take to His Fa-  
ther above.*

*With those who were ready He  
rose without a sound.  
While all the rest were left  
standing around.*

*I fell to my knees, but it was too  
late;*

*I had waited too long and thus  
sealed my fate.*

*I stood and I cried as they rose  
out of sight;*

*Oh, if only I had been ready  
tonight.*

*In the words of this poem the  
meaning is clear;*

*The coming of Jesus is drawing  
near.*

*There's only one life and when  
comes the last call*

*We'll find that the Bible was true  
after all!*



# Mount Hope Youth

Holiday Issue

December 2008

Jr. Sr. High Leaders

*Cindy Babiak*

*Karl Babiak*

*Janice Crozier*

*Elaine Faulkner*

*Dana Messick*

*Jim Powell*

*Lauren Plummer*

*Michele Thomas*

*Dan Vickers*

*Pastor Phil Ealy*

KFC Leaders

*Robin Powell*

*Chris Bergman*

*Bill Faulkner*

*Dave Saville*

*Judy Brower*

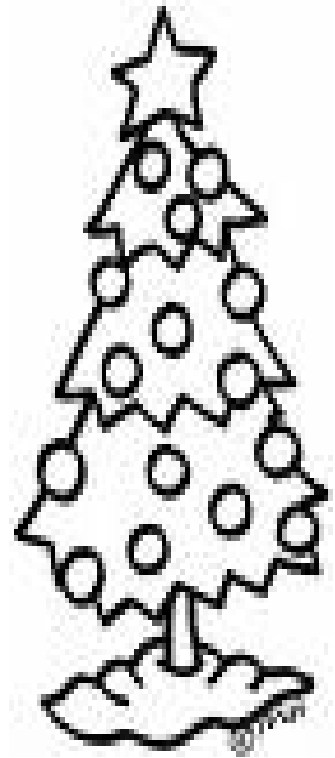
*Sara Kiker*

*Sandra Crockett*

## Youth to Distribute Christmas Blessings

December 20th the Mount Hope Youth Group will be helping City Team in Chester, Pa distribute holiday gifts and food to those in need in the Chester area. Last month our youth were involved in helping City Team with Thanksgiving food deliveries. What a privilege it is to help to share the love of Christ at this time of year. Part of the inspiration for wanting to be involved in the community came from the challenge some of our youth received at the "Dare to Share" youth

conference, November 7-9th in Fairfax VA at our combined retreat. This is an opportunity for our youth to live out their faith. We do not have to go half way around the world to find those who lonely, desperate and in need of the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will meet in the church parking lot on Saturday December 20th at 8:30. The distribution will last till approximately 12:30 in the afternoon. Interested youth and parents are encouraged to be part of this ministry.



## Fuzzy Slippers and Muddy Boots

The "Fuzzy Slippers" girls Bible study continues their lessons in learning to be the teenage girl God wants you to be. On Tuesday **December 9th** our young girls will have their Christmas party.

Our boys Bible study "Muddy Boots" continue to study "The Domino Effect" - Good vs. Evil by Wayfarer Ministries. They will be meeting **December 10th** and the following week **December 17th**.

Get involved in Bible study this month!

# December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 KFC & Youth Group	8	9 Fuzzy Slippers	10 Muddy Boots	11	12	13 Living Nativity
14 KFC & Youth Group	15	16	17 Muddy Boots	18	19	20 City Team
21 KFC & Youth Group	22	23 No Fuzzy Slippers	24 Christmas Eve Services	25 Christmas	26	27
28 No KFC or Youth Group	29	30	31			

## *Schedule of Events*

- 12/9 - Fuzzy Slippers Christmas Party 7:30<sub>pm</sub>
- 12/10 & 17 - Muddy Boots 8:30<sub>pm</sub>
- 12/13 Living Nativity 6:30<sub>pm</sub>
- 12/14 Sunday School Pageant 6:30<sub>pm</sub>
- 12/20 City Team food/presents distribution 8:30<sub>am</sub> till 12:30<sub>pm</sub>
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve  
6:30 Family Service  
8:30 Carol Sing  
11:00 Traditional

## What's Happening in the future?

\*Youth Group and KFC will resume in January with our annual "Winter Kick-off" on January 11th. Plan to join us for a night of games and skits as we begin our winter semester!

\*Spring Confirmation classes will begin on Sunday January 4th for those 13 years of age or older. They will take place during the Sunday School hour. Graduation is set for April 19th 2009. If interested, please call Pastor Phil.

\*The Youth Group will be planning a 30-hour famine in the spring. A time of focus and prayer for those in the world who live day to day without enough to eat.