

Zion's Reformed United Church of Christ Newsletter

January/February/March, 2012

View From The Top

Just when you think it can't get any worse... it seems that our country is stuck in a low spot. Many people are feeling what it is like to live in the nadir of life. And yet, there are glimmers of hope. The stock market is creeping up, and fewer and fewer people are losing their jobs. We are not out of the woods yet, but perhaps we have at least found that we are no longer going deeper into the woods.

Zion's outlook also seems to be brightening. Zion's lost three members to the Church Triumphant: Helen Hess, Robert Showalter and Bette Miller. (Since this report was given, we have also seen the deaths of Janice Henly and Gerry Moyer.) We welcomed two new members: Mark and Susan Olcott. Zion's celebrated the Confirmation of two young people: Shanna Sweigart and Grace Heinsey. We also witnessed the baptism of McCarteny Sceski. We are once again moving in the right direction.

Last year, I spoke about the comments of several people about Leggo's absence. I am happy to report that Leggo has returned. His return is due not to more children being born at Zion's, but the effort of one person in bringing new children to Zion's. How many other children could sit and listen to Leggo if they were brought along to Zion's?

Another bright spot I see at Zion's is the willingness of new members to get involved with Zion's. Two new members have agreed to serve on Church Council. This new venture by new members attests to the life in the pews here on Apple Street. Such vitality can spill over into other areas, if we welcome it.

There are many things in life that impact us. On the personal level, we have experienced weddings, births and funerals. Not all people have experienced all these aspects of life this year. But they have all played a role in the life of our Congrega-

tion. We have all been affected by society. The financial state of our nation and now the world in which we live, continues to have an impact on our daily lives. On some this impact is more pronounced than on others, but none is unaffected. We are impacted by our environment. The seventy plus inches of rain that we have received have impacted and displaced people not in far off places, but our own community.

I saw a wise saying etched into a yard stick, "By the yard, life is hard. By the inch, life's a cinch." If we could adopt that attitude here at Zion's, we would see steady growth in all aspects of our common life. Our Second Sunday Sharing is one example of how a little bit by many hands goes a long way. Join in and do your little bit. It will add up and surprise us all.

Rev. John Miller's Congregational Meeting Message 12/2011

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 22 is Ash Wednesday. This day marks the beginning of Lent, a season of reflection on the sacrificial life of Jesus. We mark this day with a service of Ashes and Communion beginning at 7:00 PM.



Volunteer Schedule

Greeters: Jan. 22 - Sandy & Jerry Butzer
 Jan. 29 - Donna & Bob Rineer
 Feb. 5 - Susan & Mark Olcott
 Feb. 12 - Dawn & Gary Heinsey
 Feb. 19 - Pam & Rich Weeber
 Feb. 26 - Shirl & Mervin Newcomer
 Mar. 4 - Pearl & John Landis
 Mar. 11 - Andrea & Jay Landis
 Mar. 18 - Dawn & Loren Zimmerman
 Mar. 25 - Linda & Robin Sweigart

Lectors: Jan. 22 - Wendy Keeseey
 Jan. 29 - Dawn Heinsey
 Feb. 5 - Unannounced
 Feb. 12 - Joan Good
 Feb. 19 - Jim Keeseey
 Feb. 26 - Russ Shirker
 Mar. 4 - Sandra Butzer
 Mar. 11 - Janice Shirker
 Mar. 18 - Theresa Dohner
 Mar. 25 - Pam Weeber

Altar Care: January - Pauline Binkley
 February - Dawn Heinsey
 March - Jessie Pierce



Deacons:

Team A

Jessie Pierce
 Donna Rineer
 Janice Shirker
 Russ Shirker

Team B

Theresa Dohner
 Roberta Smaltz
 Jay Landis
 Susan Olcott

Jan. 22 - Team B
 Jan. 29 - Team A
 Feb. 5 - Team B
 Feb. 12 - Team A
 Feb. 19 - Team B
 Feb. 26 - Team A
 Mar. 4 - Team B
 Mar. 11 - Team A
 Mar. 18 - Team B
 Mar. 25 - Team A

Mark Your Calendar

Jan. 27 - Emilio Colon Concert 7:00 P.M.
 Feb. 2 - Council Meeting 7:00 P.M.
 Feb. 5 - Car Wash Ticket Sales begin
 Feb. 12 - Second Sunday Sharing - Health Kits 9:30 A.M.
 Unity Service - Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church 5:00 P.M.
 Feb. 19 - "Undecorating" the church following the service
 Feb. 20 - Women's Guild Meeting 7:00 P.M.
 Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 P.M.
 Feb. 29 - Lenten Service 7:00 P.M. Zion's Reformed UCC
 Mar. 1 - Church Council 7:00 P.M.
 Mar. 7 - Lenten Service 7:00 P.M. Zion's Reformed UCC
 Mar. 11 - Second Sunday Sharing - Tools of Hope 9:30 A.M.
 Daylight Savings Time Begins - **remember to change your clocks!! Spring forward!**
 Mar. 14 - Lenten Service 7:00 P.M. Zion's Reformed UCC
 Mar. 19 - Women's Guild 7:00 P.M.
 Mar. 21 - Lenten Service 7:00 P.M. Zion's Reformed UCC
 Mar. 28 - Lenten Service 7:00 P.M. Zion's Reformed UCC
 Mar. 31 - Spring Pot Pie Supper 11:00 A.M. - ?

April/May/June Newsletter Deadline

Please submit all articles, newsworthy information or member news by Sunday, **March 11th**. Please give all articles or information to Rev. John Miller or Pam Weeber or send an e-mail to rpweeber@comcast.net. Please include Zion's name in the subject line of any e-mails.

Zion's Reformed UCC E-mail: jcmocc@ptd.net
 1356 Apple Street Pastor's Cell: (717) 405-0666
 Ephrata, PA 17522 Website:
 (717) 733-4571 www.zionsreformeducc.org

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 A.M.
 Sunday School 10:45 A.M.

Senior Pastor Rev. John C. Miller

Director of Music Pat Miller

Consistory: President	Dawn Heinsey
Vice President	Steve Gold
Secretary	Jessie Pierce
Treasurer	Elmer Pierce

A Match Made in Heaven

Not just another classical music concert. On Friday, January 27th at 7:00 PM, the passion of two hearts will join together at Zion's. International concert artist, Emilio Colón will be joined by his wife and EHS Grad, cellist, Cara Miller. Fate brought them together through their common passion for the instrument of the cello. The music they perform on Friday will transcend the normal concert experience as the fire and passion in their playing of such favorites as the Bach Suites and Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Cellos will ignite the audiences' passion for the instrument as well! Donations are suggested; \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Students. "Meet the Musicians" reception to follow.



Unity Service

The Ephrata/Akron Ministerium will again host a service of Christian Unity. The service will be on Sunday, February 12 beginning at 5:00 P.M. Our Mother of Perpetual Help will again host us for the service and a pot-luck meal following the service. Plan to attend and show your support for the larger Church.

Preparing for Lent

On Sunday, February 19 following the worship service, we will remove the decorations from the Christmas/Epiphany season to prepare for Lent. Plan to remain and help prepare Zion's to move from the season of rejoicing to reflection.

Mid-week Lenten Services

Zion's and Salem will continue the Lenten series, "Cloud Of Witnesses" begun last year, as we look at saints, well known and less known, of the Church. The services will follow the Evangelical and Reformed Church's order for evening prayer, and be held at Zion's beginning at 7:00 P.M. on February 29, March 7, 14, 21, and 28. Come and learn about your Church family members from the past.

Saturday Services Suspended

Zion's And Salem have decided to suspend the Saturday evening services until we can review and plan for how better to utilize them. If you have ideas, please contact the Pastor. Thanks to those who have supported this venture.

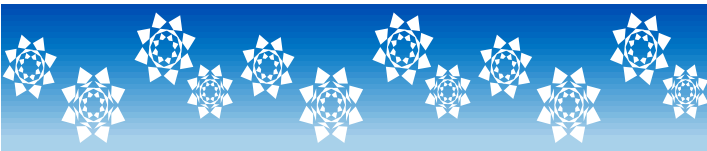


Prayer Concerns



We list the names of these people in the bulletin each week for whom prayers are requested. Some of these names are familiar; some are family members or friends of Zion's. They all are deserving of our attention and God's mercy.

Jenna Larson; Elmer Pierce; Lucas Malmer; Ruth Ann Luciani; John Smaltz; Aiden Davis; Brian McCreary; Mike Amico; Dillon Sampson; Viola Hess; Dr. Susan Calusic; Jeff Phillips; Barb Wolf; Elmira Good; Chris Kwalik; Roberta Smaltz



Welcome to Zion's

If you have visited us recently or you have received our newsletter, please know that you are welcome to join any of the activities that you see. If you have any questions, regarding times or locations, please call us at (717) 405-0666.

2012 Council Members

The new and returning church council members are:

TRUSTEES

Robert Fisher
Bob Rineer

ELDERS

Dawn Heinsey
Rich Weeber
Steve Gold
Jim Keeseey

DEACONS

Team A:
Jessie Pierce
Donna Rineer
Janice Shirker
Russ Shirker

Team B:
Theresa Dohner
Roberta Smaltz
Jay Landis
Susan Olcott

2012 Communion Schedule

Sunday, January 8 – The Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday, January 22
Wednesday, February 22 – Ash Wednesday
Sunday, February 26 – First Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 25 – The Annunciation
Thursday, April 5 – Maundy Thursday
Sunday, April 8 – The Festival of The Resurrection
Sunday, April 29
Sunday, May 27 – Pentecost
Sunday, June 24 – St John the Baptist
Sunday, July 22
Sunday, August 12
Sunday, August 26
Sunday, September 23
Sunday, October 7 – Worldwide Communion
Sunday, November 4 – All Saints Sunday
Sunday, December 1 – First Sunday of Advent
Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Second Sunday Sharing

The offering for January will go to Ephrata Area Social Service's heating fund. Through this local agency many people are served through out the year with many forms of assistance. Our focus this month will be helping people to keep warm. Social Services pays area fuel companies for delivery of oil, gas and in some cases electric so that people will not have to choose between heating and eating. This offering will be collected throughout the month of January.

Our February offering will be health kits distributed through Church World Services. The following items are needed for the health kits:

1 hand towel
1 washcloth
1 comb
1 metal nail file and clipper
1 bar of soap, bath size
1 toothbrush
1 tube toothpaste 4.7 oz. or larger size
6 band aids



Please bring your items and place them on the table in the Sanctuary on February 12th. Our Second Sunday Sharing helps those close to home and far away by sharing what God has given us.

For March, we turn our attention to another project of Church World Services: Tools of HOPE. This project uses your dollars to purchase tools and seeds to allow people to grow food and sustain their lives. More than just a one-time donation of food, the crops raised help feed a family for months. Please help to feed the hungry by making a donation on Sunday, March 11th.



February Car Wash Ticket Sale

Zion's Church will be holding a car wash ticket sale during February. Half of all ticket sale proceeds will be paid to us by Cloister Car Wash. Consistory has voted to use the proceeds to benefit Ephrata Area Social Services heating fund. Please see Jessie Pierce for your tickets. (The cost is only \$8.00 per ticket.)



Spring Pot Pie Supper

On Saturday, March 31, we will hold our Spring Pot Pie Supper. We will be meeting in the weeks before that to roll the dough and complete the preparations necessary for this amazing meal. As the time draws closer, keep an eye on the grocery store fliers. When there is a buy one, get one sale on chuck roast, please make a purchase and bring the roasts to Church. We have been very successful in cutting down our costs by having members donate the necessary meat. When the grocery stores offer the meat as a BOGO, it doubles your contribution. Plan to keep this date open so you can help with the sale and spreading the word about Zion's Church!



O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree

For many years, Zion's Christmas tree has come, like the Magi, from afar. Thanks to the Seiberts, our tree comes from New England, where the cool spring and cold winters make the best Christmas trees. Thanks, Kevin and Deb, for another great tree!



Thank You to All!

The life of a Pastor and family is rather strange. It is difficult to take off time during the week, first because the children are in school, and then because your spouse works. It is also difficult to take off on the weekends, because that's when Sunday is! Thus although the life is not "normal" in terms of other people's lives, it becomes part of the life of the clergy family. For most of our life as a clergy family, we have spent it here at Zion's. It has been a wonderful place to raise a family and "settle in". It has become not just a place to work, but home. Every year presents its own challenges. Being in a small Church has its own challenges. Yet, being in a small Church also has its advantages. Each year, the Congregation has presented us with a gift. When times were good, there was a gift; when times were bad, there was a gift. It was a way that Zion's was saying "thank you" to us. Each year, we have returned our thanks to the Congregation. This year is no different. It has been an especially challenging year for us, not only in terms of the economic climate, but also because of family issues. No matter what happened, Zion's was there. We hope and pray that Zion's will be there for many years and that we can be part of Zion's. It means and has meant so much to us. Someone recently asked, "Don't you want to go somewhere else?" I replied, "Where else would we go?" Hopefully that will be your answer if someone puts the same question to you. Thank you for remembering us this Christmas, and being Zion's!

The Millers

Anniversary Celebrations

Celebrating anniversaries in
January, February and March are:

Bob & Marie Fisher - Jan. 13
Jerry & Sandra Butzer - Feb. 8
Russ & Janice Shirker - March 12
Elmer & Shirley Pierce - March 14



Did You Notice?

Did you notice that the garden beds around Zion's have been kept beautiful all summer? Our thanks go to Mark and Susan Olcott for their tireless work in making sure that Zion's always puts its best (garden) face forward!

Zion's Family Album

Perhaps we grow tired of hearing that Zion's is like a family, but it is true. We work and worship together like a family. Thanks to Mark Olcott's fabulous photography, we have pictures of Zion's family. Our family album will be on display in the 2012 Zion's calendar and on the weekly bulletins. Thanks to Mark, for helping us remember many moments in Zion's family life.

Birthday Celebrations

January

11 - Kevin Seibert
12 - Cameron Kwalik
14 - John C. Landis
17 - Alicia Brackbill
27 - Roberta Smaltz
28 - Wendy Kwalik
29 - Sandra Butzer
30 - Theresa Dohner
30 - Mark Olcott

February

4 - Tim Seibert
7 - Amy Orner
7 - Thomas Pierce
26 - Shanna Sweigart

March

4 - Melissa Krug
4 - Dennis Landis
7 - Terry Pierce
17 - Mallory Buehl
27 - Laura Callihan
28 - Loren Zimmerman
30 - Jon Wolf

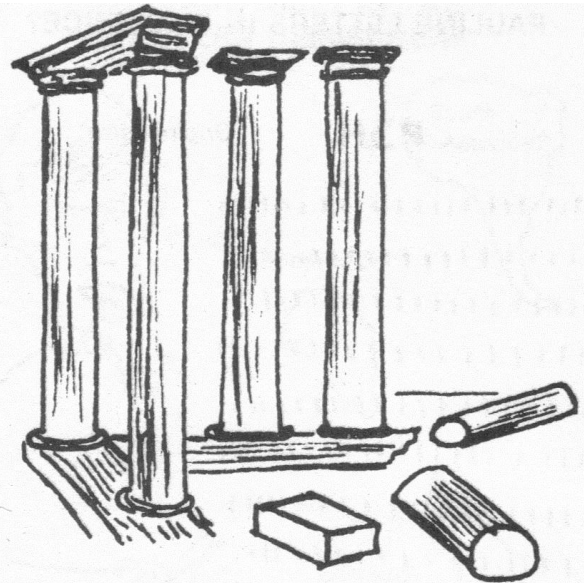


Leggo's Corner

Hey Kids!

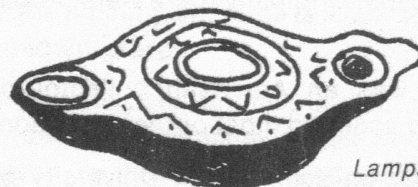
Pastor Miller's son, Christopher, was here over Christmas. He teaches in Germany at a university. Do you know what he teaches? He teaches archaeology. Archaeology is very important, but did you ever wonder...

Leggo



Archaeology is the study of things made and used by mankind.

NEW TESTAMENT archaeology is the study of those things which were made and used during New Testament times.



*Lamps from
New Testament
period.*