



# The Olive Branch

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!  
Psalm 133:1

Volume 7, Issue 4

Winter 2011 – 2012

Olive Street  
Presbyterian Church  
1400 Olive Street  
Coatesville, PA

## Unto Us a Child is Born

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We often hear it said at this time of year, "Let's keep Christ in Christmas." Lapel pins remind us that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." These are worthwhile exhortations, meant (I think) to curb rampant commercialism and to encourage us to focus on the One whose birth we celebrate each December. What better way to do this than to listen to Handel's timeless oratorio "Messiah"? This magnificent work, comprised of the words of Scripture set to music, celebrates not only Jesus' first Advent but His Passion and Resurrection as well, thus encompassing the whole reason for His coming.

Following is a list of local presentations of *Messiah*, as well as other Christmas concerts.

★ **The Mainline Ecumenical Choir** will perform Handel's *Messiah* at the Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan, 212 W. Lancaster Ave., Paoli, PA, on Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 P.M.

★ **Proclamation Presbyterian Church (PCA)** will feature Handel's *Messiah* with presentations by the choir of three sections of that work on three consecutive Sunday evenings in December, each one followed by a message from Pastor Mark Johnston that complements the music for each evening. The service begins at 6:30 pm. The church is located at 278 South Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA. The schedule is as follows:

Sunday, December 4 Christmas section

Sunday, December 11 Passion section  
Sunday, December 18 Easter section and  
Christmas Carol Evensong

After each service, coffee and holiday treats will be served.

★ **Christmas With the National Christian Choir**, Lancaster Mennonite High School, 2176 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA 17602, December 10, at 6:00 P.M.

★ **Christmas Concert**, Grace Church, 111 Lloyd Ave. Downingtown, PA, on Saturday, December 17 at 6:30 P.M. Music includes vocals and instrumental selections. Light refreshments will be served after the concert.

★ Olive Street Church will again have its annual evening of **Lessons and Carols** on Sunday evening, December 18 at 6:00 P.M. followed by refreshments.

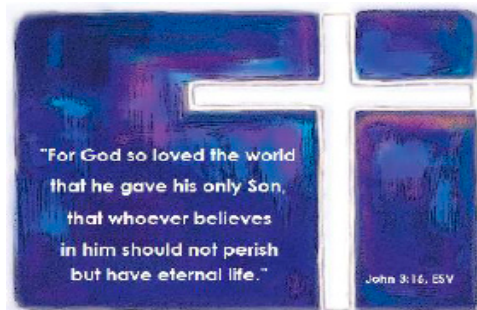
Take in one or more of these musical opportunities and experience the true meaning of this holiday season.



Don't forget to visit our congregation's website!

[olivestreetpres.org](http://olivestreetpres.org) includes a bimonthly calendar, a copy of this newsletter, and links to other websites, including information about our denomination, The Presbyterian Church in America.

"The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid."  
-Martin Luther



# Corner

by Jim Sauer

## A Tale of Two Churches



Over the last few years, I've visited a number of churches. Two churches stand out. They remind me of Charles Dickens famous novel *A Tale of Two Cities*, which begins, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." The same can be said of the congregations I visited. They were the best of churches; they were the worst of churches. I think you will quickly understand what I mean.

### Armor Presbyterian Church

Armor Presbyterian Church is the only PCA church in Western New York. Like all the churches of the PCA, it adheres to the good news. We are sinners, Jesus is our Savior. The website proclaims that it is a church "Where Christ and His Word are preeminent." Its brochure states that it is "Striving to see people passionately loving God and one another who are actively serving in ministry and reaching out to the lost."

Originally a Bible Presbyterian Church, it entered the PCA in the last decade and has a congregation of approximately two hundred people. Reformed, Bible centered, confessional, it declares its "goal is to equip people to handle life, with all its joys and difficulties, using the principles of God's word." It affirms that "We are a church centered in God's Word, offering many opportunities for all to study the Bible, pray, meet together, and to care for each other as the *Body of Christ*." Its ministries include: Men's ministries, women's ministries, youth Groups, children's ministries, worship teams, adult choir, outreach ministries, ushers/hospitality, building caretakers, Senior Saints, missions, puppet ministry, and sound/projection. It hosts an occasional concert.

With the glaring exception of puppet ministry, this church sounds very like our own, and in fact, is much like many PCA, Orthodox Presbyterian, Evangelical Presbyterian, and Reformed Baptist churches. And except for the Westminster standards, it is probably like many Wesleyan, conservative Episcopalian, and

independent evangelical churches. Why is that? Is this a perfect church? Are evangelical churches perfect churches? Hardly. Yet it is one of the best of churches.

Why? Because Christ is evidently present.

### Trinity Episcopal Church

I also visited an Episcopal Church, not for worship, but for a wedding. While I was in the facility, I was able to look at some of the congregation's brochures. Sadly, their church flier had but one mention of Jesus, and that was as our model for "a radically open and inclusive community." Instead, this church was "Living out our Mission as the Unchurch." As they explain: "The *Unchurch* is our attempt to redefine what it means to be seeking God in ways that embrace and uphold, rather

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*Every church, including PCA churches like our own, can be in danger of losing its purpose.*

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than in ways that inspire fear and resentment.

"The Unchurch is open to all seekers of all traditions. Here you will not be judged, though you will be invited into an encounter with God, and challenged to shrink the space between what we say we value and how we live our lives."

Besides a traditional Book of Common Prayer Service, they also host a blended service with "upbeat, contemporary songs...a variety of worship customs... contemporary and secular poetry and prose...a strong sense of community that is open, inclusive, and challenging." And they relate to the unchurched people "who hold both a deep spiritual yearning and a personal distrust of organized religion." The service "incorporates the sacred texts of the major world religions, the writings of mystics and prophets from those traditions, jazz, and contemporary poetry. All of that is wrapped up in a candle light service that is deeply peaceful." It all sounds like a foreign food restaurant, rather than a center of Christian faith. What shall it be tonight? Indian? Confucian? Fire-broiled Animist?

No doubt there are many nice people in

this church. But from their literature, we can make a judgment—it was the worst of all churches. Not because it didn't have ministries or good concerts, but because Christ and his gospel was clearly not present.

### Rooted and Growing In Christ

Every church, including PCA churches like our own, can be in danger of losing their purpose. As the renewal efforts of Fanning the Flame go on, we must remember that it is not "ministries" that keep a church alive. We are not the "best" of churches because we are highly efficient or doctrinally Reformed. In fact, neither we nor any other Bible believing church is best by any measurable standard. What allows any church to be accounted "best" is not that it is without problems, but that Jesus Christ is proclaimed there as Lord. As long as we are "making, maturing, and mobilizing disciples to serve Jesus Christ," we are on the right track. Ω

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## Dates to Remember



- Brandywine Hall Service – Dec. 4, Jan.1, Feb.5
- Yankee Swap – Dec. 9
- Missions Comm. mtng.– Dec.11
- Fellowship Lunch –Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 8
- Lessons and Carols – Dec. 18
- Ladies Bible Study Dinner – Dec. 20
- Evangelism Comm. mtng. – Dec. 25, Noon
- City Gate Mission – Dec. 25, Jan. 29, Feb. 26 @ 6 P.M.
- Joint Officer's Meeting – Jan. 14, 2012
- PresWIC Prayer Retreat – Jan. 28, 2012
- Pocopson Prison Service – Jan. 29

## Wisdom and Power for Ignorant, Weak Preachers

by Pastor Dale Van Ness

On my way out of the restaurant, I broke the cookie in half, popped it into my mouth and looked at my fortune. What a shock! “You have inexhaustible wisdom and power.” Sometimes, it seems, even Confucius is wrong.

Of course, ever since God’s grace brought me down from the lofty heights of what my father called “Fool’s Hill,” I have known that I’m really ignorant and weak. And God underscored that conviction when He called me preach the Gospel. A tall order, indeed! If the Lord hadn’t also assured me that He Himself will provide me the wisdom and power to carry out that noble work, I would’ve resigned years ago.

The fact is, that all through his Word God assures me that I can do this thing called preaching, and that by it he will both convert

sinners and mature them in their faith. “Sinners,” by the way, includes me; week after week I preach not only to you, but to myself.

One of my favorite examples of God’s encouragement is in Paul’s letter to the Colossians. The apostle urges his congregation, “Pray for us that God may open a door for the word to declare the mystery of Christ, that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak” (Col. 4:3b-4). That’s one of Paul’s ways of saying not only, “I’m depending on God,” but also, “I’m depending on you, too.” Read it carefully with me, and continue praying for your preacher!

First, Paul tells his friends, “Pray...for us.” What Paul wants must be really great, because in God’s way of providing, it depends on other peoples’ prayers. Those prayers, in fact, are the first step toward an open door. “Knock, and it will be opened to you.” What is that door? “Pray,” Paul says, “that God may open to us a door for the word.” The Gospel is always true, but it’s guaranteed to be effective when God

opens a door for it. When we pray for the preaching, God makes people listen.

Well, then, what is this Word that goes through the door? After all, you can preach about a lot of things in the Bible, but only one of those is most important. The Father rebuked Peter, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!” And Paul has the same goal: “to declare the mystery of Christ.”

Now you may wonder, if it’s all mysterious, why talk about it? And that’s a good question. But “mystery” in the Bible isn’t something shady and murky that a detective investigates. The Bible mystery—there’s really only one—is the truth that God reveals to us about salvation through

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*When you pray for the preacher,  
he will preach Jesus clearly and  
correctly, and you will come to  
know Christ...*

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His crucified and risen Son. When you pray for the ignorant, weak preacher, that’s how you know that God has answered: the door opens, and both Christians and some non-Christians listen to what the man says about Jesus. God gives his own inexhaustible wisdom and power to declare Jesus.

Well, then, how does he declare Christ? Paul continues, If you declare God’s revelation about Christ, you’d better be lucid: “...that I may make it clear.” And also, once clear, then correct. Which brings Paul back to the fact that God has called him to do it: “...which is how I ought to speak.”

What a wonderful blessing from heaven—a God-given opportunity to say the right Name clearly and correctly, by men whom God calls to do it. But the blessing doesn’t just fall into his or the congregation’s lap. They must pray!

I close with a story. When a visiting preacher stepped up to the church’s pulpit, he saw on it a brass plate engraved with a famous line: “Some out-of-town visitors came to one of Jesus’ disciples and said, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus’” (John 12:21).

Sometimes when I step up to the Olive

Street pulpit before we begin worshipping and set my Bible on it, I think of that other pulpit. When you pray for the preacher, he will preach Jesus clearly and correctly, and you will come to know Christ and then to know him better as you follow him. So pray that I’ll preach Christ clearly and that you’ll see him clearly. That’s what I’m supposed to do, and that’s what I want to do.



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### What not to take into the new year

- Self-help books. Trust in God first; don’t turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)
- Tape measure. Consider only God’s standards; don’t compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)
- Rearview mirror. Don’t live in the past; you’ll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)
- Gavel. Stop wasting time judging others. Instead, pray for them, help them, and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)
- Life vest. Don’t be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)
- Garage-door opener. We think we’re networked but often isolate ourselves. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25.)
- Handcuffs. Don’t offer excuses about why you can’t help out. God can do amazing things through—and despite—us. Just follow him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44.)

– Gregg McCaslin

## No-Cost Thrift Shop Memories

Lots of nice “stuff,” great food, and many helping hands marked our annual No-Cost Thrift Shop and Free Lunch for the community. We provided chairs outside for early shoppers—some were there two hours before opening time. As time wore on, some kids who had tagged along with their elders offered to help greeters, who were placing informational literature into the plastic bags provided.



Shopping in the Ladies' dept.

...and for kids' clothes



Kelly Odorisio, Julie Gray, and Lauren Odorisio, staffing the household goods department



Enjoying the delicious food



Free books provided at each table



Lunch this year included breakfast items like bacon and egg sandwiches, as well as those famous fresh french fries—always a hit. Below are a few photos from the day.



Yum!



Many thanks to Susan Battaglia for directing this event and doing much of the cooking! Springing from the event came the idea of having free suppers on the four Friday nights following, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, 11, and 18, as a follow-up ministry for people who attended the No-Cost Thrift Shop. This was called “Eat, Learn, Pray, Sing.”

The format was simple: we met for only an hour (6-7 P.M.). Sue Battaglia provided a tasty, simple supper, and after we enjoyed the meal, we sang a song or two, accompanied by Jim Bryan on his guitar. Then Elder Jim Sauer took a few minutes to tell a story from the Gospels, followed by reading from the text, concluding with several crisp lessons that Christ's ministry teaches us.

The first Friday, we “ate.” Jim told us that just as Jesus fed five thousand from a little meal given him in faith by the disciples, He will use His disciples to feed and provide today, as well. It's a great lesson to learn to offer up to Christ what little you have so that he'll use it to multiply the Kingdom and feed you in the bargain.

Subsequent Fridays focused on how Jesus teaches all of us to “learn,” “pray,” and “sing.” Members of the church were encouraged to join our guests and engage them in conversation.

Pray with us that this ministry will bear good fruit for Christ's kingdom.

*The Olive Branch* is a quarterly publication. Its purpose is to keep members and friends of Olive Street Presbyterian Church informed about the church's programs and activities, to report news about OSPC's people, and to provide edifying material for families.

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Some quotes, cartoons, & graphics used with permission from *The NEWSLETTER Newsletter*.

### Church Officers

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Elders: Vincent Kruse; Richard Pyle; James Sauer; Eric Vannoy, Clerk of Session.

Deacons: Mark Lane, Mike Moore, Roland Moore; Paul Rich; Kent Rowe; James Shimp, Chairman

Corporation Officers: Doug Coup, Treasurer; Paul Rich, Secretary; Jim Shimp, President and Moderator; Roland Moore and Kent Rowe, Members at Large.

Church Secretary: Debbie King

E-mail: dking2001@comcast.net



# MISSION REPORT

## John and Sandy\*

“There has been growing angst among Christians. A church was burned by fundamentalist Muslims (Salafis) which has caused a genuine sense of outrage among the Christian community. A demonstration was organized at the main TV station for Christians to protest the burning of the church and other feelings of discrimination.... The demonstration at some point turned violent and was attacked by the police. What really happened to cause the violence is not completely clear.... Without a free press, it is often difficult to arrive at the truth.

“We have not felt threatened at all during this time, for which we are thankful. Please pray, however, for the families of those who lost loved ones and pray for wisdom and strength for the Church to be able to respond with the love of Christ.... As always, we are grateful for your partnership and prayers for the work of Christ here.”

\* Last name and location withheld for security reasons.

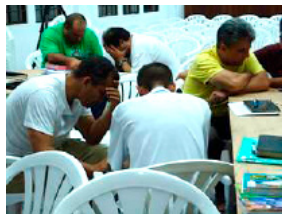
## Richard and Robyn Crane

“Thank you for your prayers for the preparation and delivery of the course, ‘Guiding the Church Through Difficulties,’ which I gave in July of this year. I am always very apprehensive as I enter into Cuba, not knowing what can happen (I almost got sent back the last time I went). Yet this time, as I walked into the lines to find out how to get my temporary religious visa, a lady agent approached me saying, ‘Professor Crane, we are happy that you are back.’ I had never met her before, so you can imagine my surprise as she grabbed my arm and escorted me to the line. After giving me my visa, she proceeded to help me through customs all the way to the sidewalk on the other side! As before, I feel that God sends His angels when I find myself in difficult circumstances.



“There was a spiritual battle... Yet, as we quickly started dealing with our

heart issues and opening discussion concerning church conflicts (Cubans in general are



very extroverted)...the men were showing signs that the Holy Spirit was working in them. They...opened their hearts before God in prayer. I felt very weak, yet at the end of the course a couple of the men shared their gratitude with tears in their eyes. One told me that he thought this was the best course he had ever had with me. What a comfort it is to know that God is the one at work in these men and that he uses us even in our weakness!” Pray for Richard’s future seminars there.

## Jeff and Esther Talley in Slovakia

“I advertised the formation of a group to read Tim Keller’s book *Reason for God* and to meet weekly to discuss it. I advertised on three university campuses in Kosice, and several Christian professors and a few students at each of the universities helped. [Please] pray for me, that I will put all my confidence in the Lord and not in my efforts. We praise God that our daughter Laura delivered a healthy baby girl in October, named Maisie Mirabelle Hope Hopkins.” Laura later experienced complications, but God provided excellent medical care and healing.” Praise God for the Talley’s son’s safety in Southern Sudan where he works for Samaritan’s Purse.

## City Gate Mission

Please remember City Gate in your prayers. This time of year there is a great need for warm clothing, sox, underwear, outer garments, gloves and hats. Director Jim Davis asked that we pray for a wider support group as many of the donors are now elderly or have gone to glory.

## Pnina Lizorkin, Israel

Please remember to pray for Pnina, Lana, Oren, and Moshe. There are many changes in their lives since Ilya left. Pray that God will “give His angels charge over them to guard them in all their ways” (Ps. 91:11). Pray for Pnina’s translation of *The Jesus Story Book Bible* into Hebrew. Pray also for Ilya’s repentance.

## Philip and Joy Kirkland

“How much does it cost to ship a couch to the other side of the world? How many cubic feet of shipping container will it

take to hold our stuff? Which school will the girls attend? Where will we find a good pulmonologist for Abraham’s asthma? How should we go about renting an apartment, and in which neighborhood? These are the questions we are up against these days as the move is getting closer, and we are now approaching 90%! Praise the Lord!

“Our thanks to so many of you for your regular giving and support! We are also now beginning to raise the one-time funds needed to actually move a family of five to the other side of the world. We would really appreciate your prayers that these funds would be raised.... We have begun the visa process and are hoping that the residency permit/visa would be granted with no problems. Others have had issues getting theirs approved, so please pray with us.” Pray also that the Kirklands may be able to sell their house before they leave.

To give online visit [www.mtw.org](http://www.mtw.org) and click “donate now.” One-time gifts payable to MTW with their account number in the memo line (#14022) can be sent to: Mission to the World, P.O. Box 116284, Atlanta, GA 30368-6284.

## African Bible University, Uganda

We have no recent communication from Palmer and Joanna Robertson, our missionaries at the university, but the website below provides general information.

“‘EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE TO CHRIST.’ This Biblical concept summarizes the vision of African Bible University of Uganda [ABU]... which bases all its teachings on the belief that the Scriptures are God’s infallible, inspired Word. At ABU, every student majors in Biblical studies but also has the opportunity to explore God’s truth as it is manifest throughout His wondrous works of creation and redemption.... ABU Uganda offers quality education from a Christian perspective to the surrounding countries of Sudan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia.”

For more information, see: <http://africanbiblecolleges.net/uganda>

## City Gate Mission needs:

December – Canned tuna  
January – Information not available  
February – able at press time.

## Arbmbearer Ministry Update

Note: This is the part of “Fanning the Flame” having to do with prayer. The following is from **Sandy Cleveland**, Prayer Coordinator for that ministry.

On Sunday, October 16, Pastor VanNess spoke to us of prayer in a sermon titled, “Focus for Power!” Pastor called our congregation to kingdom-focused prayer for our leaders. Directing us using the example of Jesus’ intercession for Peter in Luke 22:31-34, Pastor VanNess stressed Satan’s desire for visible church leaders to be “sifted as wheat” in hopes of their destruction.

God has established a mutual dependence between leaders and their people. Congregations depend on their leaders—to minister the Word, to be a godly example, and to pray for them. On the other hand, leaders depend on their congregation’s kingdom-focused prayer to be the men God has called them to be. To compel us all in this commitment, here are words from C. H. Spurgeon excerpted from *Only a Prayer Meeting*.<sup>1</sup>

“Urgently do we need a revival of personal godliness. This is, indeed, the secret of church prosperity. We deeply want a revival of domestic religion. We have been saddened at the terrible accounts of the impurity of this city; but, doubtless, one cause of this state of things is the neglect of household religion among Christians. Oh Christian men and women, be thorough in what you do, and know, and teach! Hold truth as with an iron grip; let your families be trained in the fear of God, and be yourselves ‘holiness unto the Lord’; so shall you stand like rocks amid the surging waves of error and ungodliness which range around you.

We need saints. We need gracious minds trained to a high form of spiritual life by much converse with God in solitude. These are the standard-bearers of the army; each one is a king’s son. There is an air about them, humble as they are, as of men who breathe a purer atmosphere. Saints acquire nobility from their constant resort to the place where the Lord meets with them. There, also, they acquire that power in prayer which we so greatly need. Oh, that we had more men like John Knox, whose prayers were more terrible to Queen Mary than ten thousand men! Oh, that we had more Elijahs, by whose

faith the windows of heaven should be shut or opened! This power comes not by a sudden effort, it is the outcome of a life devoted to the God of Israel. If our life is all in public, it will be a frothy, vapoury, ineffectual existence; but if we hold high converse with God in secret, we shall be mighty for good. When saints live unto God, sinners are converted to God.

“We have longed to see great numbers of God’s people coming up to pray... How could we expect a blessing if we were too idle to ask for it? How could we look for a Pentecost if we never met with one accord, in one place to wait upon the Lord? Brethren, we shall never see much change for the better in our churches in general till the prayer meeting occupies a higher place in the esteem of Christians. But now that we have come together, how shall we pray? Let us not degenerate into formality, or we shall be dead while we think we live. Let us not waver through unbelief, or we shall pray in vain. The Lord saith to his church, ‘Open they mouth wide, and I will fill it.’ Oh, for great faith with which to offer great prayers! May true revival spread through all our households, and then run from church to church till the whole of Christendom shall be ablaze with the heaven-descended fire! Let us pray.”

“The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth” (Psalm 145:18). Ω

<sup>1</sup>C. H. Spurgeon, *Only a Prayer Meeting* (Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 2010), p. 7-14.



### Church Prayer & Praise Requests

- Praise God for our new members and for the visitors who have blessed us with their presence during these last few months.
- Thank God for a successful No-Cost Thrift Shop and subsequent “Eat, Learn, Pray, Sing” free Friday night suppers for those who came to the Thrift Shop.
- Pray that our church officers—elders and deacons—and the Fanning the Flame Task Force may have wisdom from God as they seek to lead us “in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”
- Pray for our aging members and the physical ailments that accompany that

condition.

- Pray that Bertha Bandel may find comfort in the fact that her sister Estella is now with the Lord and free from her suffering.
- Pray that those who are looking for jobs may find suitable employment.
- Pray for friends and neighbors who need the Lord.
- Pray that the prodigals from our church, in our families, and among our friends may return to the “narrow way that leads to life.”
- Give thanks for Fred Mitchell’s recovery from a stroke. Pray that he and Ruth may be safe in their home until they find a suitable place to move to.

### Prison Prayer Requests

Seven women and six men attended the service held on October 30, at the Chester County Prison Work Release Center. The economic situation is making it hard for work release candidates to find and keep employment. Many of them have requested prayer about this. Space does not allow listing the individual requests this time, but they include:

- Prayer for family members, including aging parents, other relatives, and children who are being cared for by others;
- Help in keeping free from substance abuse;
- For jobs when they are released;
- That they may stay close to God after they get out and for help with issues such as anger;
- Relationships, especially with spouses;
- Pray especially for V. who has lost everything and is in debt for \$150K, as well as being addicted to crack and alcohol;
- T.H. would like to get early parole in January so he can start college. He requests prayer that he “not lose faith at the first sign of adversity.”

In addition to the special problems that stem from having been incarcerated, these folks have the same kinds of problems we all have. May God give us the grace to remember them, as many are our brothers and sisters in Christ.



What is WIC?

WIC stands for Women in the Church, a ministry of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), by women, for women. Every female member of the PCA is a member of WIC

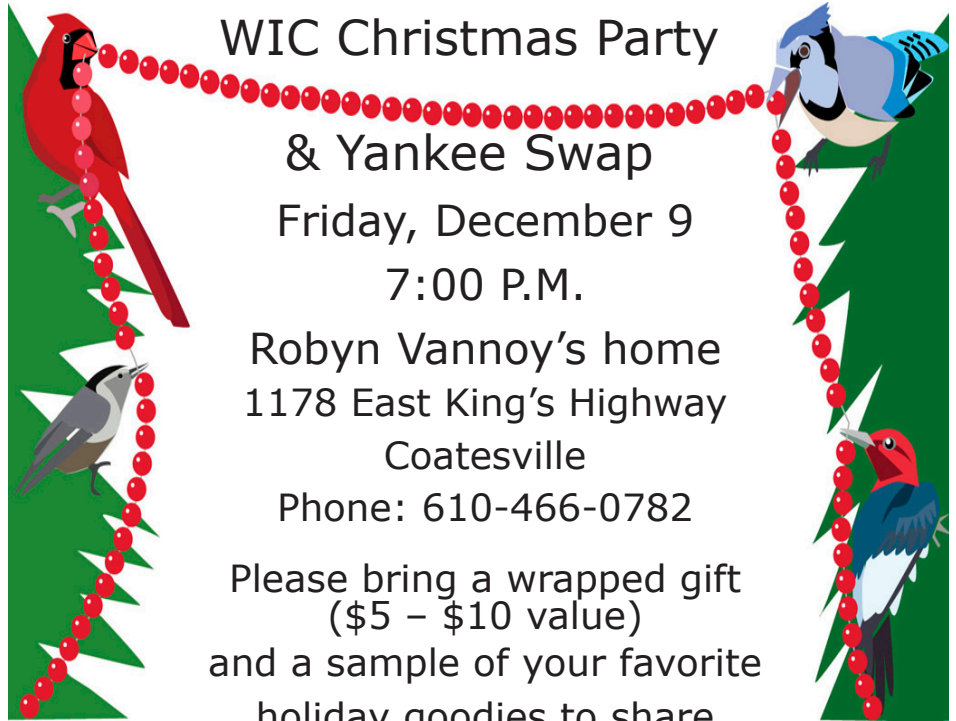
OSPC WIC Committee Members

- Susan Carlson
- Sandy Cleveland
- Stella Kruse

Thursday evening studies  
7 P.M. – 9 P.M.:  
December – 8 & 22  
January – 12 & 26  
February – 9 & 23

Tuesday morning studies  
10:00 - 11:30 A.M.:  
December – 13 & 27  
January – 10 & 24  
February – 14 & 28

Website for national WIC:  
[www.pcacep.org/Wic](http://www.pcacep.org/Wic)



WIC Christmas Party  
& Yankee Swap

Friday, December 9  
7:00 P.M.

Robyn Vannoy's home  
1178 East King's Highway  
Coatesville

Phone: 610-466-0782

Please bring a wrapped gift  
(\$5 – \$10 value)  
and a sample of your favorite  
holiday goodies to share  
for refreshment time.

Invite friends and neighbors.

Girls age 10 and over are invited, but must bring  
an age appropriate gift.

They will join the adults after they have their own swap.  
Mothers should remind their daughters beforehand that it  
is a privilege for them to attend this event.

By popular demand, here is the recipe for the soup Sue Battaglia served at  
the church's Thanksgiving feast on November 20.

Creamy Butternut Squash Soup

Serves 20-24

- 12 lbs. butternut squash
- 6 T. Butter
- 4 T. oil
- 3 large Spanish Onions, minced

- 2 T. dried Thyme leaves
- 1/3 c. fresh thyme, minced
- 3 Qts. Chicken stock
- 1 cup heavy cream

- Preheat oven 400°
- Place squash halves (scooped of seeds) cut side up on baking sheet; salt and pepper.
- Roast til soft – 50-60 min.
- Scoop squash out of shells when cool. Process in food processor.
- In large stockpot, sauté onion in butter and oil till soft. Add salt and pepper and thyme, stir in squash and stock and simmer for 15 minutes.
- Stir in cream and reheat.
- Garnish with fresh thyme and crème fraiche, if desired.



## DECEMBER

- 7–Sophia Fernandez (age 3 in '12)
- 9–Ben Mitchell

- 11–Doug Coup
- 13–Robyn Vannoy
- 14–Susan Carlson
- 16–Mariandi Bonthuys
- 18–Fareda Zaka, missionary
- 20–Rose Botes
- 22–Gail Justi
- 22–Carol Hudson, missionary

## JANUARY

- 12–Elliot Robertson, missionary (age 11 in '12)
- 15–Peter Van Ness (age 17 in '12)
- 16–Mike Moore
- 16–Fran Tempany
- 19–Pnina Lizorkin, missionary
- 23–Mary Brocato
- 23–Nancy Shimp
- 23–John S., missionary\*
- 26–Donald Darnaby (age 4 in '12)
- 27–Tony D'elia
- 31–Buddy Cleveland

## FEBRUARY

- 7–Pat Bagnall
- 12–Rob Brocato
- 17–Jesse Edwards
- 19–Linda O'Keefe
- 22–Daniel S., missionary (age 13 in '12)\*
- 23–Lyn Fernandez
- 24–Dinah Darnaby (age 7 in '12)
- 25–Abigail S., missionary (age 11 in '12)\*
- 26–Liz Odoriosio
- 26–Adam Sauer
- 28–Mark Odoriosio, Jr.

**Congratulations to all of the above!**

### Addresses for missionaries:

**Hudson**–203 Seacrest Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33444; e-mail: 74152.326@compuserve.com

**Lizorkin**–Pnina's e-mail: pearlegirl23@hotmail.com

**John & Sandy**–Mission to the World, P.O. Box 116284, Atlanta, GA 30368-6284 \*

**Robertson**–African Bible College, P.O. Box 71242, Kampala, UGANDA; e-mail: opalmerrobertson@gmail.com; Telephone/Fax: 256-(0) 414-201-037

**Zaka**–1334 Grovania Ave., Abington, PA 19001; e-mail: Cww.biis@juno.com

\* We cannot publish last names or addresses for these missionaries. Please contact Pastor Van Ness for more information.

## Welcome, New Members

It's always a joy to welcome new members into our church family, and so we are happy to introduce to you the Fulcher and Darnaby families. Both families come by transfer from other PCA churches.



**Robert and Kim Fulcher**, with their children, **Robinson** (15), **Ella** (13), **Anna Claire** (11), and **John Andrew** (9), come to us from Christ the King Presbyterian in Conshohocken. Robert is a writer and marketing strategist for Lincoln Financial in Radnor while Kim homeschools the children.

Robert grew up in a Christian home and was saved as a young child. Kim was saved in college, primarily through Campus Crusade. RUF (Reformed University Fellowship) played a pivotal role in the growth of both of them.

Robert enjoys biking, kayaking, camping, reading, playing guitar, and Boy Scouts, while Kim likes reading, home projects, travel, family, kayaking, and hiking. Kim is involved in Young Lives, the branch of Young Life that works with teenage mothers, as a baby sitter and the liaison to area churches. In addition, she serves Alpha Pregnancy Services (a Philadelphia prolife agency) as a hotline volunteer. Robert is involved with a Boy Scout troop that he and a friend founded to be an expressly Christian troop.

Kim has enjoyed working in the children's ministry and mercy ministry at previous churches. Robert has enjoyed

teaching adult and children's Sunday School, Christian education ministry, music, and ministering with other guys through service projects (helping others move, work on their homes, etc.). They've also helped organize retreats and church camping/outdoor trips. Robert states, "We're excited to be able to use our gifts here."

**Joey and Leah Darnaby** come with their children,

**Dinah** (6), **Donald** (4 in Jan.), and **Dominick** (1), from Stillwater Reformed Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma. (Leah is the daughter of Rob and Mary Brocato, with whom they are living.)



Joey and Leah met through gaming (video games) when Leah was 17 and were married not long afterward. She came to the Lord at an early age; Joey as an adult.

An Iraq war veteran, Joey drove fuel trucks for the Army; he now drives for FedEx. Leah homeschools Dinah and Donald. They both enjoy reading and playing video and board games.

When asked how they might use their gifts at OSPC, Leah replied, "Joey and I want to help wherever we can. Joey used to be a prison guard, so he is interested in the prison ministry. We enjoyed helping with the No-Cost Thrift shop, especially since we have been in need. I want to help some with Pioneer Club and maybe we will eventually help with the nursery."

We're delighted to have both of these families as part of our fellowship and look forward to serving together at Olive Street in the months and years to come!



From a worship bulletin in Baltimore, Maryland:

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM THE STAFF  
Peace on earth, goodwill toward all.  
Blessings in the New Year!

Wishing everyone a peachy, peace-filled Christmas!

# SAVIOR ORNAMENT

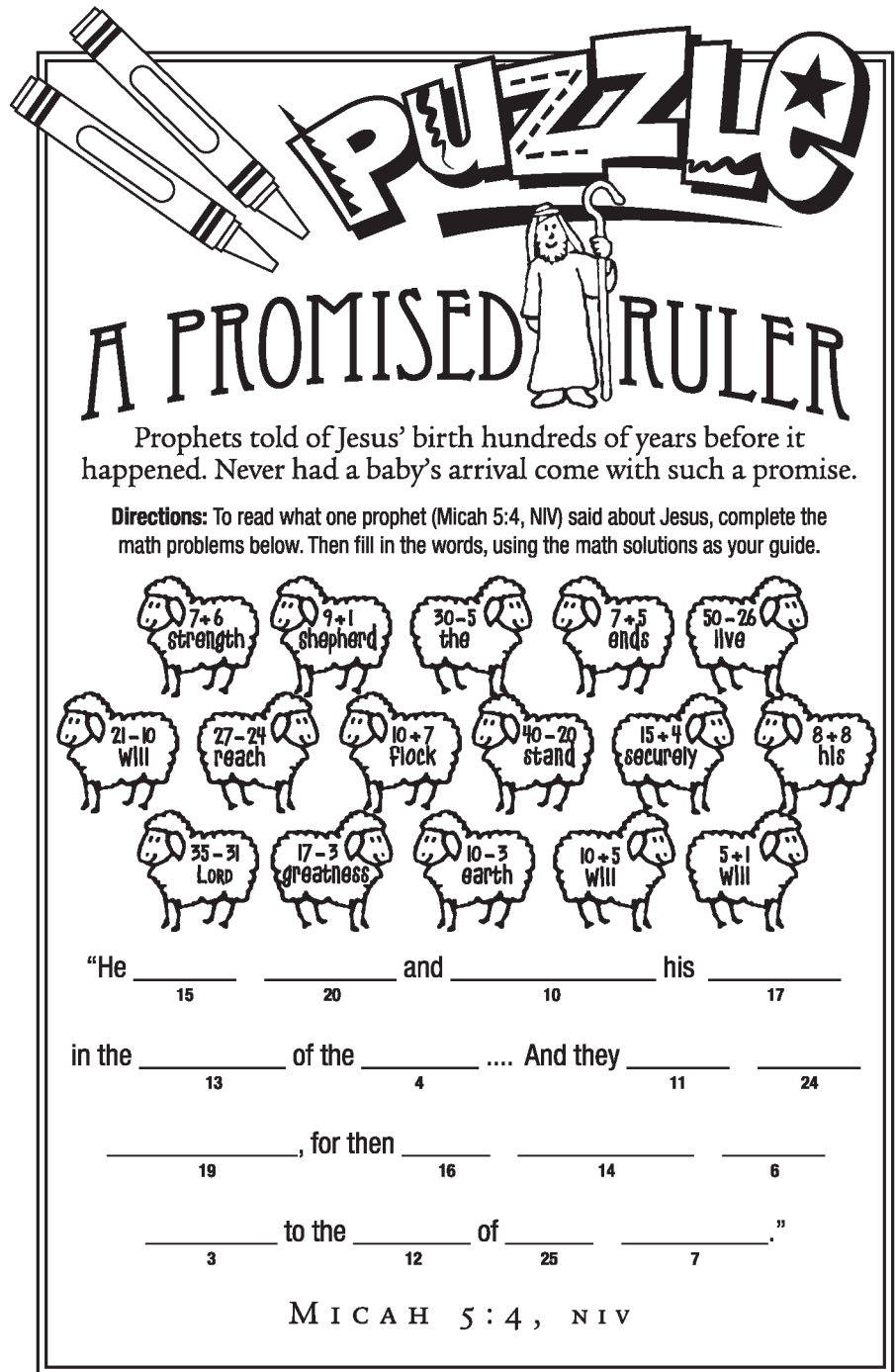
This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

### What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

### What you do:

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.




# PUZZLE


## A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.


**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.




$7+6$   
strength




$9+1$   
shepherd




$30-5$   
the




$7+5$   
ends




$50-26$   
live




$21-10$   
will



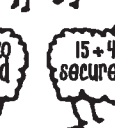
$27-24$   
reach




$10+7$   
flock




$40-20$   
stand




$15+4$   
securely




$8+8$   
his



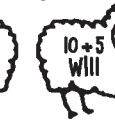
$35-31$   
LORD




$17-3$   
greatness



$10-3$   
earth



$10+5$   
will



$5+1$   
will

"He \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_  

15
20
10
17

in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ .... And they \_\_\_\_\_  

13
4
11
24

\_\_\_\_\_, for then \_\_\_\_\_  

19
16
14
6

\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."  

3
12
25
7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord .... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

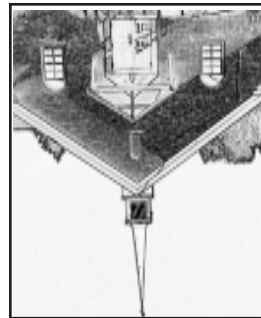
Kids, do you have art work, a puzzle, or riddle you would like to see published on this page? If so, please submit it to Joan Brauning. You can e-mail it to: [joanbee3@yahoo.com](mailto:joanbee3@yahoo.com), or you can give it to me at church.

**Prison Service** every 5th Sunday – 1:30 P.M.  
 month – 2:00 P.M.  
**Nursing Home Service** 1st Sunday of each  
**Prayer Meeting** every Wednesday – 7:00 P.M.  
 10:00 A.M.  
 Men's study, 4th Saturday each month – 8:30-  
 – 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.  
 10:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M. and 2 Thursdays per month  
 –  
 Women's studies, 2 Tuesdays per month

**Bible Studies:**

Communion 2nd Sunday of each month  
 Sunday School 11:10 A.M.  
 Sunday Worship 9:30 A.M.

**Schedule of Meetings:**



Olive Street Presbyterian  
 Church  
 1400 Olive Street  
 Coatesville, PA 19320

**Olive Street Presbyterian  
 Church**

**Purpose Statement**

The purpose of Olive Street Presbyterian Church is to glorify the triune God as He is revealed in Holy Scripture.

**Mission Statement Summary**

Our mission is to establish a church based on Reformation theology, in central Chester County, for the purpose of glorifying God through the following:

- Traditional worship;
- Providing resources for Christian education;
- Engaging in evangelism and communication ministries;
- Acting as a beacon for pro-family and pro-life witness;
- Celebrating Reformation doctrine and encouraging its development in other churches and ministries;
- Channeling efforts into national and international reformed missions;
- Fostering Christian holiness, mercy ministry, Bible study, and prayer.



**ARISE,  
 SHINE;**  
 for your light has come,  
 and the glory of the LORD  
 has risen upon you.

Isaiah 60:1, NRSV