



# THE UPWARD CALL

## Ephrata Church of the Brethren

*Living for Jesus so others may know Him.*

### Christmas Services & Events



Volume 16, Issue 10

December 2009



#### Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Thursday, December 24

**7:00 p.m.** – This service will include the Praise Band, music from our children, candle lighting, a message from Pastor Galen and communion.

**10:00 p.m.** – This service will include the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir and various traditional sounds of Christmas, candle lighting, a message from Pastor Galen and communion.

#### Christmas Caroling

Experience the blessing of Christmas Caroling, **Sunday, Dec. 13.** This is a wonderful opportunity to share the Joy of Christ. We will leave the church at 5:30 p.m. and return at approx. 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome; adults, teens, kids, families, discipleship groups and Sunday School classes. Bring your sleigh bells, flashlights and an ornament or small gift to share with a shut-in as we repeat His sounding joy!

#### Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services

ECOB is collecting donations for the items on the SVPS wish list (see the insert in the Sunday bulletins or call the church office for a list), during Advent. As you enter the Sanctuary for Worship each week during Advent, please feel free to place your gifts by the cradle which is on the Altar.

Sunday, December 13 will be a special day of dedicating your donations to SVPS during the Worship services.

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### Community Holiday Service of Remembrance

Join us for a Community Holiday Service of Remembrance for those whose loved ones have died during the past years.

**Sunday, December 6,  
2:00 p.m.** Music and si-

lent reflection, followed by the service. Service is held at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren.

Refreshments will be served. The program is open to the public at no

cost or obligation. Child-care is available.

Sponsored by: Ephrata Community Hospital and Stradling Funeral Homes. For more information, call 738-6458.



*We welcome Pastor Galen & Doris back from Sabbatical and are blessed that he is here with us again!*

## Atlantic Northeast 40<sup>th</sup> District Conference

The 40th ANE District Conference of the Church of the Brethren was held October 9 & 10 at Leffler Chapel at Elizabethtown College. The theme was *Receive, Refresh, Released to Bless*. The conference opened Friday evening with a worship service, which included a conference choir and a message by Stan Dueck. The business session followed after the worship service, under the leadership of John Hostetter, Moderator, at which time the Light of the Gospel from Brooklyn was affirmed as a new fellowship. Four people were recognized for being in the ministry for 50 years: L. Gene Bucher, Ron Lutz,

Ralph Moyer and Jobie Riley. Recognition of graduates from TRIM and ACTS study programs were introduced, as was the new District leadership.

Saturday brought the report from the District Board and staff, which included all the different commissions, as well as reports from Brethren Benefit Trust, On Earth Peace, the financial report and related institutions such as: COBYS, PA Council of Churches, Brethren Retirement Communities, and Juniata and Elizabethtown Colleges. The Officers for 2010 were presented and approved as presented.

Consecrated Robert DiSalvio, from the Amwell congregation was approved as the 2010 Moderator.

The conference is very informative as it enlightens you on the workings of the district and the work that is being done through our district in glorifying God.

The 2010 conference will be held next October 8 & 9 — you may want to consider being a delegate for 2011.

Delegates representing ECOB at the conference were: Linda Fahnestock, Barb Kilhefner, Delores Neuber and Lorraine Walker.

## Help Those in Need!

There are a growing number of people who are finding these difficult days in the economy, forcing them out of their homes. As people are finding themselves homeless, the Ephrata/Akron Ministerium is working hard to do our part to help with this county-wide issue.



The Ministerium is offering an **Ephrata Emergency Homeless Winter Shelter** starting this January, 2010. There is much to do to get this underway by January! Knowing that we have the support of the church body and enough individuals within the church body is vital! We will need financial giving to support this ministry, volunteers to stay overnight with those using the services, people to help with snacks, people to transport the bedding from the host churches to the next host church, as well as various other ways to help serve (including praying for those who are using the services). The overnight housing will be from 7:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, from Jan. 18 through the month of February.

If you have any interest in being involved in some way, or just want to find out more information, please contact Kim Ream at 717-733-3375 or; [kream@ephratabrethren.org](mailto:kream@ephratabrethren.org)

## Love In Action

### Who is my neighbor?



As you may know, the Love in Action team has

been encouraging you to pray and ask the Lord to tell you “who is my neighbor?” The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) is where we find Jesus teaching his followers about recognizing a “neighbor”, one who we might otherwise pass by with little to no notice. This neighbor does not need to be someone living in your

neighborhood, although it may be, but it is someone who God reveals to you as you pray and seek Him. As Christmas is approaching, we ask that you continue to pray and reach out to your “neighbors”.

Here are a few ideas to help you start the connection with your “neighbor”:

- say “hello” whenever you see them outside;
- go out when they are out; invite the family for a cookout;
- drop off homemade cookies;
- sweep their sidewalk, rake your leaves THEN rake theirs;
- return their garbage cans from the streets as you return yours;
- drop off a seasonal plant or wreath;
- give the gift of a fruit basket;
- give them a card to tell them you are praying for them.
- watch for signs, for when you can tell them that God loves them or invite them to church.

Let God lead your interactions and how you reach out. Begin the relationship building and allow God to build upon that.

### God’s Sweet Love (In Action)!

Do you ever ask, "Lord, why do I know this?" Well, I (Kim Ream) have asked myself this question ever since I had a leisurely conversation with Sarah Johnson this summer. Sarah is a 10-year-old from within our own Ephrata COB. She is the daughter of Scott & Kirsten Johnson who, when on a family vacation this past summer, came face to face with homelessness, and her heart melted when she saw them. Sarah saw people, real people, behind the eyes and she knew that something had to be

done. So, what does any 10 year old do? She develops a plan to help them!



Sarah has come up with the idea to create chocolates and hold a Chocolate Silent Auction, where people can donate/bid on the various chocolates to raise money for a non-profit organization that helps fight and work to eventually end homelessness! Sarah wants to give to Water Street Ministries and/or

The Salvation Army. This outreach focus is one you will not want to miss! Sarah is thinking big — Real Big! This outreach will accept bids through December 6. Please watch and listen for more information.

Follow Sarah’s work on her blog: [sarahschocolateproject.wordpress.com](http://sarahschocolateproject.wordpress.com)

## Thoughts for Senior Citizens *by Charlie Bieber*



Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. I John 4:7, 8

Meeting his disciples after the resurrection, Jesus said, "As the father sent me, so I send you." John 20:21. I have found that the most difficult characteristic of Jesus to imitate is his love. No matter how hard I try, I can't fathom a love that was so completely self-giving that it took

him to a cross. I know Jesus told me to take up a cross and follow; perhaps for me the cross would be to truly love even people I don't like! I cannot conceive of there being any person that the cross-bearing Jesus did not like. It is clear that he liked many people who were not very likeable. Jesus walked the road with a woman who was living in adultery. He took a meal with a hated collector of taxes. He called a disciple who was opposed to paying taxes. He loved children, who were treated almost as possessions. He accepted the discipleship of women, even

though the attitude toward women was low. He drew to himself and loved the most worthless among the sick, the lepers, the demon possessed, and the despairing. His love was so tender that he called sinners, and so tough that it called the Pharisees to repentance.

As I look toward the cross, where the movement of Jesus' love is summed up, I wonder when the day will come that my love will even approach that love. I know it can be only when Jesus truly lives within me.

## Senior Adult Fellowship News

### Christmas Lunch & Holiday Cheer – December 10

A Spectacular Christmas Party is planned for you. A delicious meal, with a touch of the Christmas spirit. Be prepared to sing your favorite Christmas Carols as we lift our voices in song and celebrate

the birth of Jesus. Join your friends and celebrate the Christmas season with an abundance of Christmas cheer!

Deadline for registration is December 6. Call the church office, 733-1229 to register.



### Happy Birthday to... 80 years and over

Miriam Kachel	December 1 (age 103)
Anna Mary Hurst	December 6
Virginia Matthews	December 7
Lew Bowman	December 8
Ken Fassnacht	December 9
Dot Warfel	December 12
Lorraine Zwally	December 16
Arthur Crouse	December 21
Betty Gross	December 27

### In Loving Memory of...

- Betty Earhart, who passed away on October 23.*
- Elizabeth Adams, who passed away on October 24.*
- Donald Warfel, who passed away on November 1.*
- Dolly Miley, who passed away on November 14.*

*Christian Sympathy is extended to the families.*

## Thank you from...

—Rob Eshelman; to all the individuals, Sunday school classes and small groups who have donated funds to the Youth Club Meal fund.

—Rob Eshelman; to the Ministry and Evangelism Commission and the entire church family for all the beautiful cards, which contained supportive and kind words through the month of October. Thank you for the special gifts and treats through Pastor Appreciation month as well. You guys are an awesome bunch!

—Rob Eshelman; a special thank you to the youth and adults who participated in Jr. High Sunday on November 8. The core group was: Olivia Fassnacht, Katelyn Young, Cassandra Roth, Jesse Eshelman, Peggy Sowers and Lynda Jensen. Thanks also to all the youth who pitched in to be greeters, ushers and added the support to this time of worship.

—Rob Eshelman; to the Hoedown crew for a great time on the hay ride, cut jack-o-lanterns, and donut bobbing on October 25. They are: Lynda Jensen, Dean Sensenig, Candace Walker and Peggy Sowers. Thanks also to Bev and Bruce Leisey for their generous donation of many pumpkins for our carving enjoyment. You did a fantastic job for this awesome middle school activity that was great fun!

—Charlie & Joyce Lindberg; thank you to Brian & Marty Nissly and the Sr. High youth who came to visit us on Nov. 15. We had a great time and it was very much appreciated!

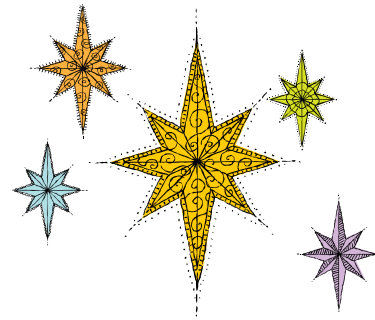
—Wendy Graham & family; Thank you to everybody for your prayers during my back surgery and recovery. They were felt so much and I am truly blessed to have each of you in my life. Thanks to Carol for delivering my prayer shawl before my surgery, it was so comforting to have and to know prayers were prayed upon it. Thank you to Tammy Frey for organizing the many wonderful meals that were brought to me and my family. They were so much appreciated. Love to you all!

—Dorothy Warfel and family; thank you for the many expressions of sympathy during our loss.

—Katarina Eller; Muchas gracias for the birthday wishes, messages and prayers everyone! It is so reassuring to know that as I'm studying in Mexico, I have a church family who cares about me and supports me even when I'm so far from home! It really means a lot!

—To the ECOB family: The church staff thanks you for the beautiful door decorations and words of encouragement that were shown to us this month. We were so surprised and blessed when we came in Monday morning and saw our doors. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. We want you to know that each one of you is truly a blessing to us!

—Missions & Service Commission; Thank you to everyone who packed a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. You made a child very happy this Christmas!



—Coats for Kids: Thank you so much for your generous support of the Love in Action focus called "Coats for Kids". We received or could purchase 200 coats to distribute to those within our community. The people poured into the school, quite excited about getting a nice warm coat for our community children. This was a real blessing and we thank each of you who generously gave. If you go past or do business with Modern Cleaners, please extend thanks to them on behalf of our congregation for their generous service to clean all the coats at no charge. The School District was also very willing to work with us and the area churches to do this outreach together. Thank you for sharing God's warm love with those who needed to feel it!

—Thank-you to Blood Bank donors for the past several months. Karen Good, Carolsue Hosler, Paul Hosler, Gary Kulp, Janice Miller, Todd Ream, Sandy Sensenig, Nancy Shrom, Patricia Smythe, Randy Walker, Nancy Weist. Thank you to all of you for giving your time and gift of life!

## Health Ministry News—*Tricia Schlegel, Congregational Nurse*

### Trust in the Lord...H1N1

*For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.* Isaiah 41:13

For many people, questions surrounding the H1N1 virus may turn into fear. Fear of what this virus may mean has some of us worrying. The health article is meant to give us information, as answers to questions often calms fears. If our trust remains solid in God, then we know that he helps us as we lay all our worries on him.

### Symptoms

The symptoms of H1N1 are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, diarrhea and vomiting.

### How is it spread?

Spread of H1N1 is through coughing or sneezing. Also it can be spread from touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching your mouth or nose. At the current time, the CDC believes that people with this virus may be contagious from one day before they develop symptoms to up to 7 days after they get sick.

### Protection

The CDC has recommended that certain groups of the population receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine. These target groups include pregnant women, people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, healthcare and emergency medical services personnel, persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old, and people 25 through 64 years of age who are at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

Things to help include:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. (throw the tissue away)
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you are sick for 7 days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from infecting others and spreading the virus further.



**If you become ill and experience any of the following warning signs, seek emergency medical care.** In children: fast breathing or trouble breathing, bluish or gray skin color, not drinking enough fluids, severe or persistent vomiting, not waking up or not interacting, being so irritable that the child does not want to be held, flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough. In adults: difficulty breathing, pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, sudden dizziness, confusion, severe or persistent vomiting, flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough.

Source: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu)



**The 2010 Altar Flower Calendar** is now available. If you would like to purchase flowers, sign up on the bulletin board by the church office. Cost is \$30 & they are ordered through the church office from Roxanne's. Checks should be made to ECOB, marked "altar flowers", put in a separate envelope & placed in the offering or church office.

## More Than Numbers — *Brad Murphy, treasurer*

We've all paid "stupid tax" making costly decisions with zeros on the end. And a lot of those decisions happen when we're caught up in the emotion of the Christmas season and procrastinate a little too long.

Make this year different than before!

Here are the top 10 Christmas shopping mistakes and how you can act differently:

1. Not prioritizing. Instead of getting stressed out with all the parties, baking and shopping in addition to your normal daily life, set some priorities before you're bombarded with a million requests.

Think about what things are "must do" and which are "would be nice to do." It's all right to say no to keep yourself sane. Shopping for gifts is more fun when you're not completely stressed out.

2. Not having a budget written down. Before you make a gift list and head to the mall, set aside a reasonable amount of money for gifts. Make a commitment that you won't add \$20 to the fund every week just because you saw something cute that your niece would love. (budgeting forms are available from the Dave Ramsey website).

3. Using credit cards. Once you have your budgeted amount of

money, stay away from credit cards! You will still spend 12-18% more if you use plastic and you'll be paying it off come 2010! Doesn't paying with cash and going on about your day sound more relaxing than having a credit card balance looming over your head through the holidays? You betcha.

4. Buying for everyone. Do you really need to buy gifts for every family member and friend you have? That can get overwhelming and expensive for everyone. Talk with them about this and work toward an agreement to draw names for gifts or donate money to a common cause.

5. Not listening. Listen to the hints your loved ones drop about what they need or want this year. Maybe your aunt Sally mentioned in July that she would love someone to help her in the garden or cousin Bob keeps losing guitar picks. A thoughtful gift like this will mean a lot to the person.

6. Not having a thought-out list on paper. If you think you can spend time in "Christmas retail world" and not get distracted by all the shiny toys, you're in for a big surprise! You'll be more likely to buy impulsively if you do it that way. Write down what each person you're buying for would like and stick to the list. Stay focused!

7. Not shopping around. "Shopping around" doesn't mean you have to spend 24 extra hours running from

store to store to save 10 cents. Take a look at your gift list and do some comparative price-checking online before you head out into the retail and traffic madness. This will save you money, time, and stress!

8. Waiting until the last minute. Giving the gift of procrastination is not the most appealing gift out there. Don't find yourself stressed out on Christmas Eve just because you didn't invest a little bit of time to plan.

9. Forgetting to plan for next year. Be on the lookout for outrageous sales on things your loved ones will need throughout the next year. If you time the sales just right and clip some coupons, you could land a major discount on something you were going to buy in a few months for a birthday or wedding gift. Remember to have a list and budget for this, too.

***10. Forgetting why we celebrate. If this season becomes all about shopping and gifts, you've missed the whole point. People, not things matter. The miraculous birth of a baby who changed the world is what matters.***

DaveRamsey.com

**Dave Ramsey, Financial Peace University**



Evergreen trees, which keep their green leaves year-round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God's everlasting love. In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the "cedars of Lebanon," suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos 2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith.

## Children's Ministry News

### ***Simply: One and Only One Source***

Glenn McDonald in his book, *The Disciple Making Church*, reminds us that *agape* love describes a love that has no condition or boundaries. He says, "According to the Bible, *agape* comes from one and only one source in the universe. That source is God. If our hearts are filled with *agape*, it is only because God has placed it there. We regularly need refilling. *Agape* needs to be replenished every day." Sometimes I think I need to be replenished every hour or every few minutes. As we approach this designated season to celebrate and proclaim the birth of Jesus, God's one and only Son, I believe I need some refocusing.

My cry to God is this: fill me with your *agape* love so your servant can seek the highest good of other people. I don't know what that looks like. Sounds impossible but I know with God all things are possible. As we seek to be

God's servants this Christ Celebration Season (yes, every day is a Christ Celebration day) do we need to simplify and refocus our thinking and our actions? What is my first step, my first action to be able to focus on the filling of *agape* love? God's Spirit says spend time with your Father God. Acknowledge and address Him for who He is. Confess my sinful and selfish thoughts and behaviors to God. Thank Him for Jesus and God's riches at Christ's expense. Read and meditate and listen and seek and listen some more for God's word and power. Then go and love and make disciples. Enter into relationship with those that God puts in your path. Seek out those that God is placing on your mind.

Where do we go with our outward actions during this time of Lent and Christmas so it is filled with *agape* love? How do we simplify and focus? Do I eliminate spending money for things for people who have no real need for more things? Will I

seek out, recognize, and love those in need. Am I willing to love in relationship, time, and sharing of material things? How will I as a parent include my family in *agape* love for others? Will I demonstrate and teach my family to be content with the material things we have? 1 Timothy 6:6-8 states, "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." Let us find contentment in the word of God and the presence of His Holy Spirit within. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

I believe God is calling us, His people, to think, act, and be different than the culture of this world. Let us seek and find and do at least one new action of *agape* love this Christ celebration season. May we join together in this Kingdom responsibility.

Director of Children's Ministries: Paul Hosler; 733-1229; phosler@ephratabrethren.org



**Sonshine Club** for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders is held every Wed., 5-6:30 p.m. in the fell. hall. A meal is provided at 5:30 p.m. There is no cost for this program. Contact: Karen Good, to register or for more information.

**Promiseland Children's Ministry** is held each Sunday 9:40-10:45 a.m. in the fell. hall. Children in grades K-5 are encouraged to attend this exciting ministry.

**Children's Church** is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month during the 10:45 service. Children are instructed when to leave the sanctuary after opening worship. Contact: Jared & Amy Hess for more information.

## Middle School Youth News

Director of Middle School Youth Ministries: *Rob Eshelman, 733-1229, reshelman@ephratabrethren.org*

### The Nativity at the Ephrata Cloister December 7 & 8

Have you ever dreamed of being Mary, Joseph, an angel, or one of the three shepherds? Well, this is a dream that can come true for you

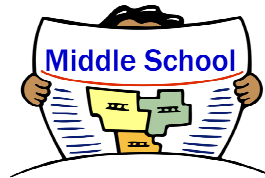


at the Ephrata Cloister, Dec. 7 & 8. Our youth group will be the live

Nativity players for the three Christmas services that are held both evenings.

Dress warm and plan on having a great time, and hearing interesting comments as people walk by and marvel at the Nativity. A sign up sheet is posted in your Sunday school classroom and the Middle School Activity Board near the kitchen. Contact Rob for more information.

*We need you to bring baby Jesus to life at the Live Nativity at the Ephrata Cloister!*



### Youth News

### Middle School Lock-In at ECOB December 30

It's that time of the year for the Middle School lock-in and it should be another awesome night!

Food, games, music videos, movies, and a



whole lot more await you at the end of the year ECOB Middle School Lock-In. The night starts rocking on Friday night at 11:00 p.m. and keeps on rolling until 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Since it is Christmas break for you, we figured we would have it during the week. Bring in the New Year with a Lock-In. Don't miss out—sign up today! Pickup a registration form for you and a friend!

**A request for parents:** If you could spare an hour or two to lend a hand for the Lock-In, please let me know ASAP. I will be posting a schedule on the middle school bulletin board next to the kitchen, and if you could help out during the early morning hours it would be greatly appreciated. A breakfast crew would be great as well! Thanks!

Registration forms for activities listed are available in the Sunday School classrooms, at Youth Club or you may register online at [www.ephratabrethren.org](http://www.ephratabrethren.org). Return the forms to Rob or place in his church office mailbox. Registration fees should accompany the registration form. Make checks out to "ECOB".

### Harrisburg Quake January 22-24, 2010

We'll be at our elegant location at the Harrisburg Hilton. This Christ centered weekend retreat is one of the best I have ever attended. Meet some old friends from previous Quake outings like Jen Miller and the wood carver guy. Plus, the Captive Free Band and a mystery comedian! Pick up a registration form today! Contact Rob Eshelman if you need more information on this awesome weekend retreat! Time is running out!

Absolute registration deadline is December 17.

**Middle School Information Board**  
near the kitchen, next to the water fountain.

## Youth Club 2009/2010

Burrrrr! We're in winter mode!

Christmas is just around the corner and Youth Club is gearing up for the holidays. If you have yet to join your friends at Youth Club, now's the time! We will be doing all the usual cool stuff, and adding a **Christmas Party on December 16**. The kitchen crew has a delicious holiday meal planned as they always do, and the entire month is filled with the Christmas spirit. Come join us at Youth Club and Sonshine Club and experience the love of Jesus in a whole new way!

**When** – every Wednesday right after school complete with snacks!

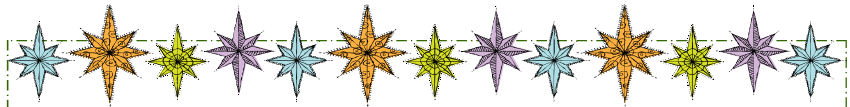
**Where** – right here in the church fellowship hall for starters!

**Time** – 2:30 until 6:15 (includes supper)

Come and join your friends in **Reindeer Games, Christmas Crafts and a few surprises as well!** For more information contact Rob.

**Director of Middle School Youth Ministries: Rob Eshelman,**

733-1229;  
reshelman@ephratabrethren.org.



### **Breakfast Social Sunday, January 3, 9:30 a.m.**

All young adults in college or working are invited to a Breakfast Social on Sunday, January 3, at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to invite a friend. We hope you can attend this time of food and fellowship with friends from church. Please RSVP to Sharon Myers, ksmyers@ptd.net or Carol Bowman, cbowman@ephratabrethren.org.

## Sr. High Youth News

Director of Sr. High Youth: *Brian Nissly, 733-1229; bnissly@ephratabrethren.org*



### **December events:**

**Sunday, Dec. 6:** It's our annual "Dress them up and go out for dinner" event. This is a no jeans event. After church, we will travel to a fun restaurant for a nice dinner together. You will need \$15.00. Please register online.

**Sunday, Dec. 13, 5:30 p.m.:** Christmas Caroling. We will travel to shut-ins around the area and bring them

some cheer. Even if you are not a singer come along and join the fun. Bring a flashlight, perhaps a small Christmas item to give out. This is a church family event so bring your family.

**Saturday, Dec. 19:** Youth Christmas Party 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the home of Greg and Lisa Schmuck; 419 Countryside Dr., Ephrata. Please bring a gender friendly wrapped gift of a \$10 value. Games & food! It is always a great time.

**Sunday, Dec. 20 and 27:** no youth group

### **Looking ahead:**

Register online if you are planning to attend Work Camp and National Youth Conference.

**Jan. 3:** Bowling; leaving church at 6 p.m.

**Jan. 22-24:** District Retreat at Camp Swatara. Cost \$50. Register online by Dec. 19.

### Card Shower

When we share in one another's joys and burdens we become living members of our risen Lord, who teaches us to love one another as He loves us.

This month we remember:

- Joe Buohl, (thinking of you/get well)
- Verna Fassnacht, (thinking of you) Ephrata Manor, room #119
- Stacy Land, (thinking of you)
- Joyce Lindberg, (thinking of you)

Refer to your church directory for addresses or call the church office, 733-1229.



### Christmas Card Cheer Bags

The Truthseeker's Sunday School Class will again provide Christmas card cheer bags. The bags will be in the hallway by the kitchen until December 20. That morning they will be picked up for delivery so that they can be delivered before Christmas. If you would like to deliver one of these bags, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board above the table displaying the bags. See the Sunday bulletin for a list of names or call the church office, 733-1229.



Did you miss a week of worship and wish to hear the message? Listen to the weekly messages online at: [ephratabrethren.org](http://ephratabrethren.org). Click on the "listen to the latest sermon" link or the "worship" link. Many of the messages from the past few years are still available online.

—Has your address, phone number or email address changed? Please notify the church office with your new information 733-1229.

—Newsletter information for the January/February issue of the *Upward Call* is due by December 5. Please email information if possible to Carol Bowman: [cbowman@ephratabrethren.org](mailto:cbowman@ephratabrethren.org).



### Congratulations to:

- Jeremy & Sandy Jones, on the birth of a daughter, **Amaya Soleil**, born on October 30.
- Rebekah Rissler & Eugene Tiggett, on the birth of a son, **Maurice Aaron**, born on November 13.
- David & Alicia Berkey, on the birth of a daughter, **Karaline May**, born on November 29.



### Calendar

#### December

- 4—Scrapbooking Club, 7:00 p.m., Fell. Hall
- 6—Prayer Time in the Parlor—9:30 a.m.
- 6—Service of Remembrance, 2:00 p.m.
- 13—Christmas Caroling, 5:30 p.m.
- 20—Blood Pressure Screenings, Room #402
- 24—Christmas Eve, Services: 7:00 & 10:00 p.m.
- 25—Christmas Day—We Celebrate the birth of Jesus!
- 31—New Year's Eve

#### Weekly

##### Sunday

Parenting Elective, 9:30 a.m., (last class, Dec. 6)

##### Monday

Prayer Group, 7:00 p.m., parlor; all are welcome.

##### Tuesday

DivorceCare, GriefShare, 6:30 p.m.

(last session, Dec. 1)

FPU, 6:30 p.m.; (last session, Dec. 8)

##### Wednesday

Youth Club, 2:30 p.m.

Sonshine Club, 5:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir practice, 7:00 p.m. (no mtg. 30th)

Men's Basketball, 7:00 p.m.

Chancel Bell practice, 8:30 p.m. (no mtg. 30th)

##### Thursday

Band practice, 7:30 p.m.



EPHRATA CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*Living for Jesus so others may know Him.*

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## **The Upward Call**

**DECEMBER 2009**

Volume 16, Issue 10

### **Ephrata Church of the Brethren**

#### Sunday Morning Services

Traditional Worship - 8:30 a.m.  
Promiseland Children's Ministry - 9:40 a.m.  
(for grades K - 5)  
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.  
Contemporary Worship - 10:45 a.m.

#### **Ministry Staff:**

Pastor: Galen Hackman  
Pastor of Congregational Care: Rob Eshelman  
Director of Worship and Music: Dean Sensenig  
Congregational Administrator: Carol Bowman  
Director of Children's Ministries: Paul Hosler  
Director of Middle School Youth Ministries: Rob Eshelman  
Director of Sr. High Youth Ministries: Brian Nissly

#### **Support Staff:**

Church Secretary: Donna Stauffer  
Church Custodian: J. Henry Wolf  
Treasurer: Brad Murphy

#### **Volunteer Staff:**

Pastor of Community Connection: Kim Ream  
Congregational Nurse: Tricia Schlegel  
Moderator: Steph Fassnacht  
Pastor Emeritus: Charles Bieber

**CHRIST**  
**THE SAVIOR**  
**is BORN!**

So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. *-John 1:14*