



# PEACE NOTES



## December

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Peace United Church of Christ, 37 East Swartzville Road, Denver, PA 17517

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### PASTOR'S PAGE

By the time you read this Black Friday will be behind us, the stores that had not yet decorated will all be decked out in boughs of holly and the Christmas shopping season will be well under way.

Young children are easy to buy for. Really young children don't quite get the gift giving concept and don't know that they can make a request, so just about anything will make them happy. As they get a little bit older, they know what they want and they can tell you – they will tell you. And then as they get even older the harder it gets, because the harder it is to find the gift that they want and/or one that you can afford.

Buying for adults is equally difficult. What do you buy for the person who already has everything? Or, what do you buy for the person whose tastes or interests far exceed your budget? And do you really want to buy Uncle Mark another shirt, sweater or jacket? Do you really want to buy Aunt Jane another knick-knack to sit on the shelf to collect dust?

The wise men were no help. Gold, frankincense and myrrh set the gift giving bar pretty high!

It is nice to give and to receive but it is also important to remember that there is really only one gift that matters and that is the gift that God has given to us – the gift of God's only Son. That is where we really need to focus. So if we turn our attention to giving a gift, let us give some thought to what we give or offer to God in response to what God has already given to us.

In the last couple of years, we have experienced a decline in church attendance and giving (not just at Peace Church but at many churches in our community) it seems to me that we have given too little thought to what we should do, give, in response to

God's grace and mercy. Therefore we need to refocus our attention of God.

I know that there are a lot of other things to do on Sunday Morning, and even I would like to spend a little extra time in bed on Sunday Morning. But my wife says, "Get up – you're the pastor, you have to go to church." I know that the church is not perfect, the members are not perfect, the pastor is not perfect and if you really want you can find all kinds of reasons – things people have said or done – not said or not done – as excuses not to go. And I know that you can pray at home and "worship" at home, but do we? And is it the same as worshipping with a people, who though not perfect, love the Lord?

Look at your life. It may not be perfect, but it is pretty darn good! And all those things that you call blessings, well they don't just happen out of thin air. Something, someone is behind it all. And for too long that someone has been ignored!!

Somehow we have gone way off course and it is time to set it right. The greatest gift that you can give this season is the gift of yourself in worship and service to your God! All you have to do is show up! And while you are there you just may discover new opportunities to serve your God and give back to your community in joyful thanksgiving for all that God has done for you.

This is the season for gift giving and new life!  
What will you give? See YOU in church!

Pastor Bill

#### ► Check it out!

To e-mail the pastor, use

[pastor@peaceunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@peaceunitedchurch.org)

To e-mail items to the secretary, use

[secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org](mailto:secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org)

# Church Council Officers

2013

John Haldeman, *Council President*  
Bobbi Porter-Kunkel, *Council Vice-President*  
Bev Madara, *Council Secretary*  
Margaret Harting, *Financial Secretary*  
Mike Madara, *Treasurer*  
Jack Bernsel, *Administrator*

## ELDERS

John Haldeman .....484-2510  
Bobbi Porter-Kunkel.....610-678-0543  
Jill Kegerise.....336-2421  
Pat Hall.....484-4658  
Bev Madara.....484-0895  
Vicki Garner-Sweigart.....336-2307

## DEACONS

Jay Burkey.....336-0142  
Fred Romich.....484-4420  
Fran Hollen.....725-0751  
Pat Wolf.....336-2272  
Vaye Freeman.....445-7601  
Janice Kohl.....391-2890  
Nancy Reese.....484-4659  
Vicky Schweitzer.....808-9823

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## HEAD USHER

**Pat Wolf**

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## ALTAR GUILD

**Edie Graff**  
**Dixie Schweitzer**

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## GREETERS

**December 1** Sue and Tiffany Strouse  
**December 8** Bev Fisher  
**December 15** Fred and Randy Stauffer  
**December 22** Fran Hollen  
**December 24** Fred and Sally Romich  
**December 29** Keith and Barb Hoffert

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## ALTAR FLOWERS

**December 1** Art and Karen Pannebecker  
**December 8** Carl and Vicki Sweigart  
**December 15** No flowers—Sunday School Program  
**December 22** Connie Youndt and Family  
**December 29** Ron and Carol Parker

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**The deadline for submitting articles for the January issue of Peace Notes is December 20th.**

Please put your information in the hanging folder labeled “Peace Notes” located on the Secretary’s desk or email it to:

[secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org](mailto:secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org)

Thank you!

Note: This email address can also be used for information to be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

## December Birthdays

- December 1** Jean DeHart\*\*  
**December 2** Beverly Martin  
Judy High  
**December 5** M. Scott Lausch  
Jason Getz  
Rebecca Moyer  
**December 7** Derek Sipe  
Bruce Palsgrove  
**December 8** Joshua Kurtz  
**December 10** Carol Parker  
**December 12** Nancy Leshner  
**December 15** Arthur Pannebecker  
Timothy Heil  
**December 18** Duane Good  
**December 19** Georgean Bixler  
Megan Schweitzer  
**December 20** Brittany Becker  
**December 24** Robert Martin  
**December 25** Paul Freeman  
**December 26** Ann Kohl  
**December 27** C. Richard Fisher  
**December 28** Dara Stork  
Tabitha Stork  
**December 29** Stephanie Williams  
**December 30** Samuel Leshner  
**December 31** Betty Leisey\*\*

### \*\* Special Care and Concern Member

Please remember these members with a card that can be placed in the birthday box in the Narthex

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## December Anniversaries

- December 3** Wesley and Hazel Sweigart  
**December 14** William and Martha Young  
**December 23** Harold and Ann Kohl

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# Thank You's

To Pastor Bill and the Congregation, Sue and I thank you for all the prayers, both before and after surgery. We were pleasantly surprised by a visit from Pastor Bill and Janis at Hopkins. I am doing well and have been home since November 1. I have a long road to recovery. I take 33 pills a day, do breathing treatments 3-4 times a day, walk 1 ½ miles a day and do pulmonary exercises 3 times a week at Rothsville. We will make 25 more trips to Hopkins over the next 9 months. Because my immune system is very low, it will take 6-9 months to build back up. I will be able to drive in December. I never knew how involved this was. Please pray for continued recovery.

Thanks so much,  
*Terry and Sue Fasnacht*

Thank-you to all who remembered Galen with birthday and get well cards, also for the prayers and the very nice prayer shawl. Thank-you Pastor Bill for your visits which are certainly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
*Galen and Georgean Bixler*

Thank-you so very much for the prayers, beautiful flowers, cards, phone calls, and acts of kindness during my recent surgery and recuperation. All was greatly appreciated.

Blessings to you,  
*Carolyn Wolverton*

Thank-you to everyone who supported the annual Abigail Butz Memorial Blood Drive in October. Thank-you for continuing to give this wonderful gift!

*The Butz Family*

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## PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COUNCIL MEETING

November 12, 2013

Attendees: Pastor Bill Hoch, John Haldeman, Bobbi Porter-Kunkle, Mike Madara, Bev Madara, Fred Romich, Jay Burkey, Pat Wolf, Fran Hollen, Jill Kegerise, Pat Hall, Vaye Freeman, Janice Kohl, and Nancy Reese.

Excused: Vicki Garner-Sweigart, Vickie Schweitzer, Jack Bernstel, and Ben Kegerise.

President John Haldeman brought the council meeting of Peace United Church of Christ to order on Tuesday, November 12, 2013. Pastor Bill started the meeting off with devotions and prayer.

**Review of last month's minutes** – Ben Kegerise was listed as present but should have been listed as excused. Under the Health and Welfare section special care and concern was abbreviated SSC instead of SCC. Fran Hollen made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and Vaye Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – Mike has a meeting with Mike Weinhold and another accountant on November 15<sup>th</sup> to talk about the investment portfolio. Once he gets the information he will present it to the Benevolence committee so they can decide how to invest the money. Jill Kegerise made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Pat Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACCOUNT BALANCES as of 10/31/2013	OCTOBER
FUNDS SUMMARY	ENDING BALANCE
CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$1,357.72
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	(\$2,278.47)
<b>GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT (COMBINED)</b>	<b>(\$920.75)</b>
GENERAL FUND INVESTMENT (12 MONTH CD)	\$5,032.61
MEMORIAL FUND (MMA)	\$3,952.85
YOUTH FUND (MMA)	\$927.25
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (MMA) \$71,050.75	\$1,215.00
PETTY CASH	\$75.00
<b>ACCOUNT BALANCES</b>	<b>\$10,281.96</b>
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CHECKING (LIMITED USE)	\$2,190.44
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LIQUID CD (RESTRICTED USE)	\$15,013.46
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MS MONEY MARKET (LIMITED USE)	\$0
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,203.90</b>
ENDOWMENT CHECKING (RESTRICTED USE)	\$11,333.77
ENDOWMENT LIQUID CD	\$25,033.17

(RESTRICTED USE)	
ENDOWMENT CDS (RESTRICTED)	\$101,788.77
ENDOWMENT MS MONEY MARKET (RESTRICTED USE)	\$130,570.99
ENDOWMENT MS STOCKS (RESTRICTED USE)	\$8,273.65
ENDOWMENT MS MUTUAL FUNDS (RESTRICTED USE)	\$28,130.56
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$305,130.91</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE</b>	<b>\$332,616.77</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND LOAN BALANCE</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>

**Administrator's Report** – No report.

**Pastor's Report** – The Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on November 27<sup>th</sup> at Muddy Creek Lutheran Church at 7 pm.

There is a free Thanksgiving dinner at the Ephrata business center and they are looking for volunteers to help serve it.

Pastor Bill has been working with Courtney Hall on designing the contemporary service. We still need a few items for the contemporary service. A small platform needs to be built, and we will need a projector and screen.

The 2 desk chairs, at the sound board and in the secretary's office, need to be fixed or replaced.

Some of the church's neighbors have reported suspicious activity in our pavilion after dark. A cooler and drug paraphernalia were found and the police were called. The police will be patrolling the area more closely.

Pastor Bill would like to take off December 29<sup>th</sup> and January 26<sup>th</sup>. He will get a supply pastor to cover those Sundays.

**Children and Youth Ministry Report** – Children and Youth will be ordering new curriculum to cover the rest of the year. They are working on the Christmas program with Pastor Bill.

**Spiritual Council Report** – No report.

**There were no reports from: Budget and Finance, Benevolence, Outreach or Stewardship Committees.**

**Adult Ministry Report** – Adult Ministry will be serving food at the craft show on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hanging of the Greens will be December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Health and Welfare Report** – Health and Welfare went to Wernersville and hosted Bingo for 31 consumers. They will be filling Thanksgiving boxes on November 17<sup>th</sup> and they will be distributing the fruit baskets for our special care and concern members.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> they will be making Christmas gifts for the SCC members. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> they will be wrapping gifts for the Colonial Lodge Christmas party.

Ann Englert will be painting pictures on wood for SCC members' birthday gifts. Cookies are needed on December 2<sup>nd</sup> for the SCC members' Christmas gifts.

**Altar Guild Report** – Altar Guild will be selling poinsettias and they will cost \$7 each.

**Youth Report** – Youth Sunday will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup> and they will be talking about their mission trip. The youth will be selling subs and chili for Super Bowl Sunday which is February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Old Business** – None.

**New Business** – We will be electing officers at the December meeting. Council discussed ways to bring in new members and reach out to inactive members.

Pastor Bill, Bev Madara, Jill Kegerise, Fran Hollen and the Stewardship committee will meet in January to further discuss these issues.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, December 10, 2013.

Being no further business, Jill Kegerise motioned to adjourn and Pat Hall seconded. Motion carried.

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**ADVENT HAPPENINGS**

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> – First Sunday of Advent – Communion served during worship

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – Hanging of the Greens – come help us decorate the church for the Christmas Season! After decorating the church we will continue our fellowship with a pot luck meal.

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – Our young members will share a simple program to bring a message that will highlight the gift of God in the Christ Child.

Christmas Caroling to some of our SCC members and local Nursing Homes. Plan to leave the church by 3:00 pm

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Christmas Sunday

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service – join us for an evening of beautiful music and worship that will draw us nearer to our God on this night that our Savior was born.

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**You're invited...**

to the 6<sup>th</sup> annual spaghetti dinner in memory of Abigail Kristine Butz, on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, from 4:30 to 6:30, at the Peace UCC fellowship hall. The dinner is "free" for the entire community. We welcome dessert donations! We will also be accepting donations for the Histioc Society which organizes research for rare blood diseases like HLH, AI duPont Hospital for Children, and the Ronald McDonald House of DE. You may write a check directly to the organization for your 2014 tax deduction.

Sincerely,  
Abigail's Family  
Michael, Allyson, Matthew, Kristine, and Timothy

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**Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild will be taking orders for red Christmas poinsettias before and after worship on Sunday December 1, 8 and 15. The cost is \$7.00 for a 5 bloom plant. The poinsettias will be in the church sanctuary on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and for

the Christmas Eve Service on December 24<sup>th</sup>. The poinsettias should be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service

The Altar Guild will be placing the poinsettias in the church sanctuary on Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am.

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### Health and Welfare

On Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> after worship, in the fellowship hall, the Health and Welfare committee will be wrapping items for their Colonial Lodge visit and Christmas Party on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and putting them into Santa's bag. Bring your scissors and join the fun.

On Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 at 9:00 am the Health and Welfare Committee will meet at the church to make the SCC member's Christmas gift. Bring glue, pom-poms, sequences and green and red buttons if you have some available at home.

On Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 at 6:30 pm the Health and Welfare committee, and anyone else who would like to join us, will be going to Colonial Lodge for a Christmas party. Christmas carols will be sung accompanied by rhythm instruments, a craft will be made, refreshments served and Santa will be handing out gifts. If you would like to join in on the fun stop by Colonial Lodge at 6:30 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.

Each year Peace Church remembers their Special Care and Concern Members with a Christmas and birthday care package.

At Christmas we always include a bag of home-made cookies with their Christmas cards. Christmas cards for each SCC Member can be placed in the Christmas box in the Narthex. We also invite you to bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies to Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> to share with our SCC members when the Health and Welfare Committee packs their Christmas bags.

We also remember our SCC Members on their birthdays. We ask you to sign a card for each of them, rubber band your cards and place them in the

birthday card box in the Narthex so that their sponsor may deliver the cards in time for their birthdays. Again, no postage or stamp is needed, place your cards in the box and the Health and Welfare Committee will separate and pack them.

The Health and Welfare Committee will be meeting Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 after church.

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### Holiday Craft Show a Success

A special thanks goes out to everyone who helped in any way to make the craft show a fundraising success. A total of \$1,430 was raised for the Capital Campaign Fund.

Much appreciation goes to the crafters who offered their handiwork for sale, and to Pat Acebo for her help in planning and advertising. Thanks to the members of the Adult Ministry Committee and all others who worked in the kitchen and ran the baked goods stand. Thanks to those who provided baked goods and to the many volunteers who worked in any way to make the event run smoothly. Thanks to Ralph Good for donating chips, and to all the shoppers who supported the crafters, as well as the food and baked goods stand. It was a great day of fellowship for all involved, and an excellent opportunity to show the community an important facet of Peace Church.



Donna Reinhart & Barb Hoffert

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# December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship  <b>Gretchen Hall</b>	<b>2</b> 9 am Health & Welfare gift wrap 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  <b>Jon &amp; Selina Hamilton</b>	<b>3</b> 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm Christmas at Colonial Lodge  <b>Barry &amp; Patricia Harting</b>	<b>4</b> 7 pm Choir Rehearsal  <b>Emily Harting</b>	<b>5</b>   <b>Robert Harting</b>	<b>6</b>   <b>William &amp; Margaret Harting</b>	<b>7</b>   <b>Erla Hartranft</b>
<b>8</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Hanging of the Greens/Potluck  <b>Lori Hartranft</b>	<b>9</b> 6 pm Benevolence Committee  <b>Allan Hassler</b>	<b>10</b> 1 pm Bible Study 6:30p Spiritual Council 7p Church Council  <b>Craig Hassler</b>	<b>11</b> 7 pm Choir Rehearsal  <b>Joanne Hassler</b>	<b>12</b>   <b>Adam &amp; Kristen Heaps</b>	<b>13</b>   <b>Deborah Hedrick</b>	<b>14</b>   <b>Timothy &amp; Valerie Heil</b>
<b>15</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship/Children's Program 3 pm Christmas Caroling  <b>Gary &amp; Diane Hertzog</b>	<b>16</b> 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  <b>Dennis &amp; Connie High</b>	<b>17</b> 1 pm Bible Study  <b>Joshua High</b>	<b>18</b> 7 pm Choir Rehearsal  <b>Judy High</b>	<b>19</b>   <b>Kayla High</b>	<b>20</b>   <b>Megan High</b>	<b>21</b> 9 am Poinsettia delivery  <b>William &amp; Janis Hoch</b>
<b>22</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship  <b>Keith &amp; Barbara Hoffert</b>	<b>23</b>   <b>Micheal Hoffert</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30 Christmas Eve Service  <b>Frances Hollen</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Merry Christmas!!</b>  <b>Kenneth &amp; Anna Hopkins</b>	<b>26</b>   <b>Micheal Hornberger</b>	<b>27</b>   <b>Gene &amp; Mary Ellen Huston</b>	<b>28</b>   <b>Rosemary Johnston</b>
<b>29</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship  <b>Jon &amp; Jill Kegerise</b>	<b>30</b>   <b>Benjamin Kegerise</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve  <b>Jon R. Kegerise</b>				

PEACE NOTES

Peace United Church of Christ  
37 East Swartzville Road  
Denver, PA 17517

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 370  
Ephrata, PA 17522

**December Events**

December 8<sup>th</sup> – Hanging of the Greens - 11:30 am  
December 15<sup>th</sup> – Children’s Christmas Program – 10:30 am  
December 15<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Caroling – 3 pm.  
December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:30 pm

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[pastor@peaceunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@peaceunitedchurch.org)  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Rev. William E. Hoch, Pastor  
(717-335-0387)

Beverly Madara, Editor  
[secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org](mailto:secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org)  
(717-484-0895)

**December 2013**