



# CROSS PURPOSES



Langhorne Presbyterian Church  
*Sharing the Life of Jesus*

December 2011, Volume 12

## LPC Couples Weekend

► *Harvey Cedars Bible Conference*

Seven couples from Langhorne Presbyterian Church joined approximately 100 couples from other churches for a Couples Weekend at Harvey Cedars Bible Conference in Long Beach Island, NJ on November 4, 5 and 6. Steve and Annie Chapman were the keynote speakers for the weekend.

The Chapman's provided an amazing program and ministered to the couples through music and stories on topics relevant to marriage and the challenges and joys of parenting. Their sessions were encouraging to all who attended.



Attendees from LPC included: Doug & Beth Jenkins, Walt & Jennifer Nowak, Wayne & Wendy Jamison, Tom & Kay Brown, Rick & Jenn Falkevitz, Bob & Peg Taylor and Chris & Carol Casten.

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## Are We Having Church?

Occasionally winter weather plays havoc with our Sunday schedule. Should you be uncertain about whether to head out to worship some snowy Sunday, please:



- Use your own best judgment. You know the street conditions outside your house and your comfort level with driving in snow and slush. *Don't venture out if you don't feel comfortable doing so.*
- Watch the television or internet for warnings of unsafe conditions. *Don't venture out if the authorities have asked us to stay at home.*
- Check [langhornepres.org](http://langhornepres.org) or call the church office. We will do our best to put an announcement on the homepage and a recording on our phone letting you know if we have any plans to cancel worship.



## From the Pastor

▶ *God's Amazing Gift of Jesus*

A fellow pastor tells the recent story of being asked to talk to the children in the nursery school sponsored by his church. He was telling the students something about the church and mentioned the name of Jesus. One of the little four year olds raised his hand and said, "Jesus? I've never heard of that man." My friend was able to plant the first gospel seeds in the fertile soil of that young life.

Increasingly we live in a time and in a world where too many four-year-olds and their parents have never heard of that man Jesus. One of the greatest joys of the Christian life is introducing friends, neighbors and family members to Jesus, and there's no better time than the Christmas season. If there's one time of year when children and others are asking about that man Jesus, it's Christmas.

Throughout December we will celebrate God's amazing gift of Jesus – the gift of love and life. During the Sundays of Advent we will anticipate his coming and on Christmas Eve we will welcome his birth. Joy to the world, the Lord has come!!

Almost all of us know neighbors, friends and family who would love to join us in worship this Christmas season if only we ask them. We'd like to make it as easy as possible to do so.

Beginning Sunday, December 3, and all the way to Christmas Eve, you will find an ample supply of postcards for your use in inviting folks to enjoy a Christ-centered Christmas event with us. The cards will highlight our December 11 Cantata Sunday and then our three Christmas Eve services. They will be available in the Narthex, the Chapel, the Fellowship Hall and from the Church Office. Take a stake and hand them to your friends, included them in your Christmas cards, mail one to a neighbor. As long as you keep taking them, we'll keep printing them!

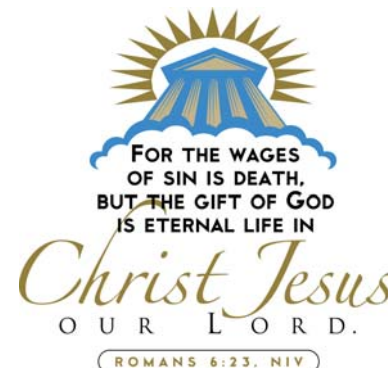
So who do you know who needs to get to know the story of Jesus for the first time or all over again? Who will you invite for Christmas?

Becky and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas – the blessings of a heart that's made Him room.

*Bill*

Don't miss the final Faith Acts of 2011. We will begin with a potluck supper followed by a special program for the adults plus activities and choirs for the children.

This will be a great way to welcome in the Christmas season. Invite a friend and introduce them to your church family and share Jesus with them. It will be the most amazing gift they ever receive.



## Milestones among Our Church Family

► *Updated on November 14<sup>th</sup>*

### MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES:

*"Let love and faithfulness  
never leave you" -Proverbs 3:3*

#### **Karl & Margie Buchholz**

Karl & Margie celebrated  
their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Dick & Audrey Ambruster**

Dick & Audrey celebrated  
their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Sometimes our knowledge is a little less than perfect!  
If you know of other milestones that ought to be reported, please call the  
church office at 215-752-3200, Monday-Friday, between 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.*

### BIRTH:

*"Every good and perfect gift comes from above."*

#### **Tristan Thomas Morgan**

Born to Brian & Dorie (Gillette) Morgan  
on October 20, 2011

Tristan is welcomed by proud  
Grandparents Tom & Ann Gillette and  
Great Grandmother Doris Pletcher.

## The Deacons' Corner

► *What Does a Junior Deacon Do?*

Many of you have asked me, "What does the Junior Deacon do?" Well let me tell you. I work on the food cupboard downstairs in the Sunday School wing. Each Thursday night, I stop by the food cupboard on my way to Faith Acts dinner and see what needs refilling. Then, from all the donations we receive, from Shady Brook Farms and our own congregation, I use those items to restock the cupboard.

Our food cupboard is open Monday through Thursday and is there for people who aren't able to afford things at the grocery store. Aside from many basic canned goods, we also stock beverages such as coffee, tea, fruit juice, and hot chocolate, as well as assorted cereals and snacks for children's lunches. The items we seem to run out of most quickly are the juices, canned evaporated milk,

coffee, tea, sweet cereals, and peanut butter – in other words, items that children tend to like the most.

I should probably tell you a little about myself, too. I am a Junior in high school, which keeps me pretty busy as I prepare for college. I am also active in our Senior High Youth Group and am a member of this year's Work Camp team that will be traveling to Gatlinburg, Tennessee. It will my 4<sup>th</sup> year participating in the mission.

Being a deacon has given me the opportunity to grow in my faith and to serve others I've never met. It has been such a pleasure and next year I will miss getting to work with all the people who have crossed my path.

With Love, Samantha Blasch



## Mission Corner

### ► *Mission Focus: Hunting Park Christian Academy*



One of the primary responsibilities of the Mission Committee is to sort through the numerous request for financial assistance received from charitable organizations.



Those that may be of interest are carefully examined against a list of qualifying criteria that has been established. Of the several items on the list, two stand out as critical. The ministry/mission of the group must be centered not only on Christian principles but on the salvation message of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And, there should be various opportunities for members of LPC to actively participate in the ministry/mission.



HPCA fits the criteria and over the past several years has become one of two focus missions of our congregation. As stated in HPCA's mission statement their goal is to:

*"raise up Christian young people who excel in all areas of their lives. Our mission is to provide an affordable, quality, Christian education that celebrates a diverse community and leads children to know and serve the Lord.*

HPCA provides quality, Christian education to at-risk children from low-income families. We maintain a very low tuition with a good scholarship program so that Christian education can be accessible to the poor in our community. And since most of our students are not raised in Christian homes we do all we can to train them up in the ways of the Lord. Many of them have heard the gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time at HPCA and have come to know the Lord. Some students have been influential in bringing their parents to church."

LPC has found many ways to assist HPCA in accomplishing their goals. Each of the last three

years our members have provided well over \$1,000 worth of school supplies for the start of the school year. Hundreds of books have been donated to build up their library. The Mission Committee budget designates \$7,000 for general support. Members have supported the HPCA Scholarship Fund's "Race for Education" by donating more than \$8,000 over the last three years. Over the past two years the Peacemaking Offering has provided almost \$7,000 towards the scholarship fund.

Members have also invested sweat equity by painting classrooms, hallways and stairways; repairing the gym floor, cleaning and repairing the air conditioners, and providing general maintenance. Members also have taught classes and mentored students.

To find out the many ways you can be involved visit the HPCA website at: [www.hpcaphilly.org](http://www.hpcaphilly.org).

To show their appreciation HPCA has sent thank you cards, videos and photo books. The student council initiate a food drive when they found out that the LPC food closet was in need of restocking. The students collected hundreds of items that were delivered to LPC.

Hopefully you were in worship on November 20<sup>th</sup> when the HPCA representative was with us to express their gratitude for our support of their students, their parents and the staff. We heard how each of us might be involved in this wonderful, Christ-honoring mission. If you would like to know more, please talk to one of our Mission Committee members, Lee Thomas, Claire Johnson, Laurie Walls, Bob Ciatto, Chet Marshall or Bill Teague.

The LPC Mission Committee

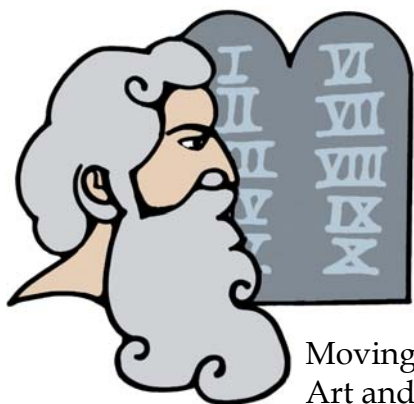
*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel which means, "God with Us." -Matthew 1:23*



# Children's Ministries

## ► *The Great Escape, Exodus and the Ten Commandments*

Now that the adults in our congregation have learned all about the ten commandments this fall, it is time for the children to have the opportunity. Our Sunday School rotation for November 13<sup>th</sup> through December 11<sup>th</sup> is called "The Great Escape". Our children in Sunday School will learn the story of Moses and God's people, from when they leave Egypt and cross the Red Sea until they reach the Promised Land. They will learn how God led the people with steadfast love through many trials and how God provided the Ten



Commandments for them to follow. Children will learn that God leads us today as well with steadfast love, and calls us to obediently follow.

Moving through classes on Art and Music, Storytelling, Computers, Bible Quest and Games, the children

will learn both the story of the Exodus and the content of the Ten Commandments. If you can, please help your child practice with the Bible memory verse, Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways remember Him. Then He will make your paths smooth and straight".

Special thanks to Ken Chester, Brenda Skeels, Claire Johnson and Suzette Liptrot for helping to teach this rotation.

Did you ever wonder how the Sunday School offerings are used? Our children know that their offerings go toward support of the Promised Land Ministries mission. With these weekly offerings the Children's Ministries Committee is able to support three children in the Promised Land school. Add this to the fourteen children supported by Vacation Bible School offerings, and the kids can feel very much a part of this vital LPC mission.

Mark Heuckroth

# Christmas Joy Offering

## ► *December 24<sup>th</sup>*



The annual Christmas Joy Offering will be taken at all three Christmas Eve services. Please use the envelope provided with your regular offering envelopes or one of the special Christmas Joy envelopes found in the church pews.

The money collected will go to support Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and retired servants of the church (through supplemental pensions, health care, and homes).

# Pledge Cards

## ► *Help with the 2012 Budget*



Your faithful giving makes a difference. If you have not yet returned your pledge card indicating your level of prayerful and joyful support

for our 2012 budget, please do so at your earliest convenience. When you are willing to share your plans, we are better able to make our plans for serving Christ at LPC and in the world during the New Year.

If you need a new card, feel free to pick one up at the church, or we will be glad to mail you one. Just request one by calling the church office at 215-752-3200.

# The Angel Tree Is Here!

► *Bethanna's Christmas Gift Wish List*



LPC is again participating in Bethanna's Christmas Gift Wish List Campaign for children under their care. Beginning Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup>, an "Angel Tree" with children's names and gift suggestions will be available in the Chapel and Narthex following worship services. You may choose to purchase a gift for a specific child or you may purchase gift cards (\$10 cards are suggested) from Wal-Mart or Target to address the unmet needs of foster care children at Christmas. Please stop by the Angel Tree and help us to show our love for these children at Christmas. All gifts need to be returned to LPC no later than Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## True Christmas Joy

The holiday pace of life, the seasonal expectations, the relational challenges and financial, physical and time stress can make us feel like helpless victims. Our complicated lives can collide with the beauty and simplicity of Christmas. Ironically, the gift of Christmas arrived as a baby in a humble shelter, the Son of God sent to love and save the lost. Where is our joy for this indescribable gift? Our kids, our families, our nation and world are watching.



I propose that our joy this Christmas can be found in what we give of ourselves, gifts that cannot be bought, given without expecting something in return. Take a moment and think about the rich blessings you have recently encountered and respond with the gift of yourself.

With love,  
Barb Chase, Youth and Young Adult Director

Future opportunities to give of yourself:

- **Souper Bowl Sunday**- February 5, 2012 - give a gift of cash and a can of soup
- **30 Hour Famine**- February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>- give the gift of your presence
- **Youth for Christ Impact Retreat**- March 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>- invest in your spiritual growth at a youth retreat weekend.

## Men's Winter Retreat

► *January 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>*

The LPC Men's Group will be returning to Harvey Cedars Bible Conference in Long Beach Island, NJ for their annual Men's Retreat. You are invited to come out and hear Pastor Tim Smith from Crossing Community Church in Newtown share his insights from Ed Welch's book, "When People Are Big and God Is Small." This retreat will also include awesome worship, small group discussions, times for personal reflection and lots of time to recharge your batteries with fantastic recreation, games and fellowship.

The weekend will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and wrap up by 12:00 noon on Sunday. Details about accommodations and sign-up are on the registration forms available on the church website.

We have reservations for up to 48 men. Consider inviting a friend or family member. The cost is \$170.00. If you have any questions, contact Rein Clabbers (215) 485-8585 or [rpclabbers@aol.com](mailto:rpclabbers@aol.com) or John Chase (215) 757-8224 or [jmcgivehimglory@gmail.com](mailto:jmcgivehimglory@gmail.com).



# Year-end Charitable Giving

## ► 2011 Tax Guidelines



When preparing the Financial Giving Statements, Langhorne Presbyterian Church must follow the IRS guidelines listed below:

- In order to claim a charitable contribution for 2011, donations must be received by December 31, 2011. The last Sunday in 2011 is Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and the church office is not opened on Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, so we ask that you plan ahead.
- Checks that are placed in the offering plates on the first Sunday in 2012 will not qualify as charitable deductions in 2011, even if the check is postdated to or actually written in 2011.
- Only checks received or postmarked on or before December 31, 2011 can be applied toward your 2011 pledge.
- If you wish to prepay any or all of your 2012 pledge in 2011 for tax purposes, you may do so, subject to guidelines outlined above. Please be sure that your year-end contributions clearly designate your intentions.
- To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church.

# Bucks County Housing Group Community Toy Day

## ► Tuesday and Wednesday, December 13-14

LPC will be hosting Bucks County Housing Group of Penndel's Community Toy Day in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 13 and Wednesday, December 14, 2011.

BCHG/Penndel invites Food Pantry clients to "free shop" for their children from gift items donated by the community. If possible, each child is given a small stocking stuffer gift, and one or two gift items. Over 100 families are expected. The LPC Deacon Board is asking for donations from our church family of new,

older children, especially boys. Some ideas for the older children are:

- Wal-Mart or Target gift cards
- Perfume, Body Wash and lotion sets
- Movie theater gift cards
- Costume jewelry
- Sports equipment (football, basketball etc.)
- Nail polish and makeup sets
- Hats, shirts or sweatshirts with Eagles or Phillies logos in larger sizes (youth L, XL, XXL, adult sm, med, lrg)



unwrapped gift items for boys and girls, newborn to 18 years of age, with an approximate value not to exceed \$25.00.

There is a particular need for gift items for

Please place unwrapped gift items in the BCHG drop off boxes in the Chapel or the Narthex or drop off gifts no later than December 13 in Fellowship Hall between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Hayn at [haynfamily@verizon.net](mailto:haynfamily@verizon.net) or visit [www.bchg.org](http://www.bchg.org) 2011 Winter Holidays.



## Langhorne Presbyterian Church

125 East Gillam Avenue

Langhorne, PA 19047

*Sharing the Life of Jesus*

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage PAID  
Langhorne, PA  
Permit No. 73

**The Rev. William Teague, Pastor**  
**Lewis G. Spencer, Pastoral Assistant**

**December 2011**  
**Volume 12**

### SUNDAY SERVICES

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service - Chapel

9:45 a.m. Traditional Service - Sanctuary  
and Sunday School program

11:30 a.m. Contemporary Service - Sanctuary

Church Office hours: M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 215-752-3200 Fax: 215-752-8932

Website: [www.langhornepres.org](http://www.langhornepres.org)



**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Affix label here

## O Come, Let Us Adore Him!

### Christmas Cantata - "Tapestry of Light"

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - 9:45 a.m., Sanctuary

### Christmas Eve Worship Services

4:00 p.m. – Family Interactive Service  
(Especially for those with younger children)

7:00 p.m. – Candlelight Communion Service  
(Nursery provided)

9:30 p.m. – Special MusicPrelude

10:00 p.m. – Candlelight Communion Service

### Christmas Day and New Year's Day Worship Services

10:00 a.m. – Combined Service

