



**Pleasant Hill
Church of the Brethren**

Brethren Visitor

December 2010

A Baby

A tiny baby in a manger full of hay, swaddled in strips of cloth—who are you tiny baby? Tiny baby so small and so helpless; do you know that the soft voice of your mother Mary will one day give way to the jeers of your enemies? Does anyone know who you are or why you came into our world? Do the rulers and the great ones of this world know you have come to save and rule?

The world is divided today over the answer to the question—who are you tiny baby? Christians worship this baby as the one who came to redeem us from our sins. This baby is to bring peace to this world yet this world seems to be following another pathway. Still he calls us to peace and love. We see him as a baby and then we see him upon a cross and then we see him coming in the clouds to bring an end to all that causes war and evil. Tiny baby, does anyone know who you are or why you came into our world?

Pastor Phil

Christmas as a Child

When I think of Christmas as a child and my faith, I think of participating in the living Christmas tree. I remember when we would practice, I didn't always know all the words, but I still sang. It was exciting to be part of that pageant with all the other kids. After the children's Christmas program, I always looked forward to the fun I'd have at the party afterwards. But perhaps the Christmas that stands out in my mind is the one when my brother, Marty, had his tonsils and adenoids removed. My brother, Keith, and I were downstairs early Christmas morning looking to see what was under the tree. Marty came downstairs a little later carrying his blood-soaked pillow. He was hemorrhaging. We'd had a deep snowfall with high drifts, and Dad and Mom weren't sure they could get down the lane. My uncle happened to come up to the farm to get some flash bulbs and broke through the drifts with his International Scout. Mom and Dad delivered Marty to the waiting ambulance that took him to the hospital, and everything turned out alright. I've always thought of this experience as God's Christmas miracle for our family.

Randy Rager

Sundays in December

Dec. 5 Second of Advent

Matthew 3:1-12

Dec. 12 Third of Advent

Matthew 11:2-11

Dec. 19 Fourth of Advent

Matthew 1:18-25

6:00 PM Children's Christmas Program

Candlelight Service

Dec. 24

6:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Dec. 26

Psalm 148

Communion

Dec. 31, 7:00 PM

OUR SHUT-INS

AT HOME: June Berg, Pauline Caton, Marian "Toots" Covalt, Bob & Anna Craft, Judy King, Elsie Matula, Janet Roberts, Mabel Rose, Jean Snyder, Norma McDowell

AUTUMNS VIEW: Mildred Rager

COB HOME: Gladys Kovach

HARMONY HOUSE: Agnes Mae Harrison

LAUREL VIEW: Margie Cameron, Virginia Rummel

LAUREL WOOD: Sara Oaks

MASONIC HOME: Lee Moore

HOSPITALIZED SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER:

Viona Blue, Brenda Ciner, Jennifer Teeter, Nancy Cernic, Deloris Lewis, Cadence Murray, Baylie Moschgat, Joe Metzgar, Bobby Thomas, Julia Locher

NEXT COMMISSION & BOARD MEETING(S):

Monday, December 13, 2010

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, January 31

NEXT DEACON MEETING: Saturday, December 4

DEACON(S) FOR THE WEEK

December 05: Rick and Lori Rhodes

December 12: Charles and Marsha Smith

December 19: Pete and Donna Smith

December 26: Greg and Patty Blue

8:00 AM NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

December 05: Jessie Rager

December 12: Taylor and Garrett Harrison

December 19: Sharon Allison and Tessa

December 26:

SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

December 05:

December 12: Janet Wallace

December 19: Jessie Rager

December 26:

10:30 AM NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

December 05: Lori Denhard

December 12:

December 19: Tammi Brown

December 26: Jessica Gardner

8:00 AM FRONT DOOR GREETERS

December 05: Renee, Chuck, Zack and Kalee Bell

December 12: Ed and Kris Kozuch

December 19: Roger and Marcia Metzgar

December 26: Jerry and Doris Bassett

10:30 AM FRONT DOOR GREETERS

December 05: John, Missy, and Kristin MacEwan

December 12: Tom and Mary Lou Thomas

December 19: Jim and Shirley Cameron

December 26: Kevin, Maria, Kraig & Kody Reighard

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

December 05: Hannah Davis & Shiloh Peruso

December 12: Chad Cameron & Jordan Schroll

December 19: Cassie Cummings & Avery Cummings

December 26: Chase Davis & Austin Pudliner

The Acolytes begin serving their church when they are willing and able. This is a very special way to represent Jesus, The Light of the World! If you are unable to make your scheduled day, please call April Mackell at 536-1589, so the change can be made in the bulletin.

STEWARDSHIP STATISTICS

Date	8:00 AM	Sunday School	10:30 AM	Offering
10-31	99	98	131	\$4,185
11-7	136	126	162	\$8,729
11-14	108	123	137	\$6,313
11-21	96	115	145	\$6,001
11-28	102	113	155	\$4,852

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

The Spiritual Renewal Team is suggesting the following Scripture verse for your special consideration during the Christmas season. We encourage you to commit the verse to memory if you have not already done so.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

THANK YOU

The Middle Taylor Township Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren for the use of the fellowship hall. Thanks also to the many people that served the supper and those who donated cakes. Thank you for your continued support.

I want to thank everyone for the beautiful cards and notes to celebrate my 93rd birthday. God bless you all.
Mabel Rose

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the care package. It was a great surprise to find in my mailbox and really cheered up my day. School is going very well, but I'm looking forward to coming home for Thanksgiving Break. Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers.

Annie Cekada

We thank the Pleasant Hill Church and especially the Stewards for the wheel chair lift placed in our garage. It is much easier now for Judy to get in and out of the house and it is protected in bad weather.

Phil & Judy

I want to thank everyone for the cards and prayers. I really appreciate everything.

Forrest Rhodes

Thank you to my church family for all of your calls, cards, and prayers after my recent surgery.

Pete Smith

Thank you to Pastor Phil, Judy, and Pastor Russ for their visits, and thanks to everyone for the cards I received while I was sick.

Toots Covalt

Dear Christian Friends, Thank you for sending me the Sunday bulletins. I use the prayer list each day.

Sister in Christ, Gwen Swick

Thank you for all the cards and prayers. We are so grateful. I seem to be pain free now; Praise the Lord!

Jim and Betty Browning

Thank you, Pastor Phil, for the hospital visit and the anointing. Also, thank you to Carol and Jack for the visit and thanks to all for the prayers, cards, and phone calls.

Nancy Cernic

SYMPATHY

Pleasant Hill Church offers its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of DONALD G. LONSINGER, who went to be with his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, November 23.

CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT

Please send us your Christmas greeting along with the money that you would have used to buy Christmas cards. This money will be divided evenly between Camp Harmony and New Day. We need your greetings by Sunday, December 5, so that they can be sent with the Pastor's Christmas letter to everyone on the church mailing list.

NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES

The new offering envelopes are ready to be picked up, and will be in the vestibule beginning Sunday, December 5. As always, if you would like to start receiving the envelopes, please contact Donna Smith.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE MISSION

In celebration of 80 years of ministry, The Cambria City Mission is holding an open house on Sunday, December 5 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at their facility at 906 Broad Street. Entertainment and light refreshments will be provided.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

A support group will meet on Mon., Dec. 6, at 6 PM at the Conemaugh CoB. The group will focus on holiday grief issues and is free to all. If you wish to attend, contact the Conemaugh CoB at 539-2619 or conemaughcob@floodcity.net, or to register.

JOY CLUB

The JOY Club will be going to the Community Arts Center on Tuesday, December 7. We will leave the church at 10:30 AM. We will be eating lunch somewhere in Westmont. Please let Shirley or Jane know by Friday, December 3 if you are planning to go.

GIFT WRAPPING FOR NEW DAY

Gift wrapping at the Galleria to benefit New Day is scheduled for Saturday, December 11, from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. It's a great way to have fun, visit with people you might not otherwise get to see, and help a great organization all at the same time! The sign-up sheet for volunteers is in the vestibule.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ladies, mark your calendars for December 14th for the Women's Fellowship Christmas Party. Bring something for the White Elephant Auction. Enjoy a night of fun and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there at 7PM.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

You are all invited to a covered dish and movie viewing in the fellowship hall on Friday, December 17, at 6:00 PM. The movie will be Christmas-themed, and will be appropriate for children (and family members) of any age. If you have any questions, or would like to give us an idea of what food item you will be bringing, please call the church office.

DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Children 4-years-old through 5th grade are invited to Camp Harmony on December 18. There will be games and a craft, a Bible lesson and lunch and a Christmas surprise! Please pre-register by calling Camp at 888-745-2267; the cost is \$10 for the first child, \$8 for second sibling, and \$6 for the third. This is the last Saturday before Christmas and Camp is only 15 minutes from the Mall. Give your children a fun day while you finish your Christmas shopping.

YOUTH COOKIE TRAY PICK-UP

If you have ordered cookie trays from the youth, you may pick them up on Sunday, December 19, between 8:00 AM and 2:00 PM. If you need your cookies delivered, please let someone in the youth group know.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The annual Children's Christmas Program and party will take place at 6:00 PM on Sunday, December 19. Please come out and support the children of our church. Be sure to bring items for the sock and mitten tree.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

A Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held here at Pleasant Hill at 6:00 PM and again at 8:00 PM. "The Candles of Christmas" is the theme and the service will call attention to the Christmas words of: Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. The Choir and the Living Christmas Tree will perform at the 6:00 PM service and the Bell Choir will perform at both services.

APPRECIATION BANQUET AT CAMP

Anyone who has ever served at Camp Harmony as staff or as a volunteer or anyone who has ever supported Camp in any way is due a great big "Thank You." Camp will present an appreciation banquet to all of you on Thurs., Dec. 30, at 6 PM in the dining hall. There will be group singing of your favorite Christmas carols.

NEW YEARS EVE COMMUNION

Come to church for communion service at 7:00 PM on Friday, December 31. A simple bread and cup service will be part of the evening worship. The Men's Quartet will sing "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross" and Pastor Phil will bring a message with the same title.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

- Our students will soon finish their lesson on the story of Joseph. They are learning more about God's love for all of us. Even though we may be upset because bad things happen to us, ultimately God has a plan to use those circumstances to eventually allow good things to happen to us and our loved ones.
- The Pleasant Hill Children have been working extremely hard to prepare plays that will highlight the meaning of the Christmas season. I encourage everybody to attend their performances on Sunday, December 19, at 6 PM.
- The Rotation Model will start a new unit on January 2, 2011. This unit comes from the New Testament and will focus on the Lord Jesus Christ's teachings on how to pray. Our students will learn more about the Lord's Prayer and the components of prayer that they can use every day.

REVISION COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED

Our Constitution and Bylaws are in need of some updates and editorial corrections. Amendments, passed in the last few years, need to be added. Ed Jones has agreed to chair this committee. Our Congregational Business meeting called for this task to be completed soon and we are seeking volunteers. Please contact Ed Jones or Pastor Phil.

EAT-N-PARK COUPONS

The Auxiliary of the Brethren Home is selling \$10 Eat-n-Park coupons. The Home will make \$1 profit on each one sold. We appreciate your support. See April Mackell (536-1589) or Jean Rager (322-1158).

2 CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION

2 Cents a Meal collection is Sunday, December 5. The next day to give will be January 2. Collections take place the first Sunday of each month.

The 2 Cents a Meal program is designed to help with the ongoing problem of world hunger. Families are encouraged to take a sticker and put it on a soup can, and then keep it in a handy place. As you sit down to eat each meal, please have each member of your family put 2 cents into the can, and also pray for people who don't have enough to eat around the world. The big bucket is put in the back of the church on the first Sunday of each month for you to bring the contents of your can in to deposit. The money collected is sent in by the church treasurer to help provide food for families world wide.

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DECEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Volunteers to CoB Home 9:00 AM Quilters 6-8 PM Youth Small Group 7:00 PM Choir Practice	2 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry	3	4 6 PM Deacon Christmas Party at Camp Harmony
5 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 4-6 PM Jr. High C.B.Y.F. 6:00 PM Study/Discussion 7PM Hymn Sing at St. Francis	6	7 Volunteers to Camp Harmony 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	8 9:00 AM Quilters 6-8 PM Youth Small Group 7:00 PM Choir Practice	9 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry	10	11 9AM-9PM New Day Gift Wrapping at Galleria
12 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 4-6 PM Jr. High C.B.Y.F. 6 PM Children's Christmas Program	13 6:30 PM Commission Meetings 7:00 PM Board Meeting	14 Volunteers to Camp Harmony 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	15 Volunteers to CoB Home 9:00 AM Quilters 6-8 PM Youth Small Group 7:00 PM Choir Practice	16 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry	17 6:00 PM Family Movie Night and Covered Dish	18 10AM-3PM District Children's Christmas Party at Camp Harmony
19 4th Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 8AM-2PM Youth Cookie Trays available for pick-up 4-6 PM Jr. High C.B.Y.F. 7-9 PM Sr. High C.B.Y.F.	20	21 Volunteers to Camp Harmony 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	22 9:00 AM Quilters 6-8 PM Youth Small Group 7:00 PM Choir Practice	23 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry	24 Christmas Eve 6:00 Candlelight Service 8:00 Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas!
26 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 4-6 PM Jr. High C.B.Y.F. 7-9 PM Sr. High C.B.Y.F.	27	28 Volunteers to Camp Harmony 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	29 9:00 AM Quilters 6-8 PM Youth Small Group 7:00 PM Choir Practice	30 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry 6:00 PM Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Camp Harmony	31 New Year's Eve 7:00 PM Communion	

December Birthdays

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|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Alan Williams | 12 Charles Graham | 24 Debby Rager |
| 1 Alexander Babal | 12 Clyde Harrison | 24 Donna Swick |
| 2 Rick Berg | 12 Brett Harrison | 24 Wendy Swick |
| 2 Briancé Betts | 13 Max Schroeder | 25 Jeff Day |
| 2 Jared Pavic | 14 Beth Bintrim | 25 Megan Lewis |
| 2 Jeff Rager | 14 Janet Wallace | 25 Matthew Lewis |
| 2 Amy Ergas | 14 Jeremy Lewis | 25 Devin Miller |
| 2 Daniel Miller | 14 Nicole Berg | 25 Tammie Potvin |
| 2 Brooke Thomas | 15 Andrew Rhodes | 25 Morgan Gossard |
| 3 Milton Hunt | 15 Margaret Weinzierl | 25 Ernie Johns |
| 3 Roger Swick | 17 Linda Oaks | 26 Shelly Craft |
| 4 Sharon Fisher | 18 Ella Louise King | 26 Tim Swick |
| 6 Marianne Roberts | 18 Jack Gray Moschgat | 26 Patty Toth |
| 6 Marsha Smith | 18 Daniel Ryan | 28 Bob Lonsinger, Sr. |
| 7 Sandy Tiffany | 19 Hailey Berg | 29 Justin Coleman |
| 7 Kathaleen Williams | 20 Jim Allison | 29 Stacy Speicher |
| 8 John MacEwan | 20 Brian Rager | 29 Tyler Tomechak |
| 9 Melvin Rummel | 20 Les Brillhart, Sr. | 30 Virgil Rummel |
| 9 Zoey-mae Chamberlain | 21 Ross Rager | 30 Aaron Miller |
| 10 Norma McDowell | 21 Shelley Yurkovich | 30 Gloria Page |
| 10 Adam Miller | 22 Lydia Berg | 31 Tom Pavic |
| 11 Paige Kinder | 22 Jill Robbins | 31 Tammy Rager |
| 11 Dallen Spaugy | 22 Eryn McKendree | |
| 11 Ethel Williams | 23 Connie Bush | |
| 12 Courtney Shaulis | 24 Lee Carney | |

Happy Anniversary!

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| 9 Gary and Joyce Selders | 23 Daniel and Patricia Rhodes |
| 10 Nick and Betty Fabina | 27 Jim and Betty Browning |
| 13 Edward and Nancy Cernic | 28 Tom and Debbie Burkey |
| 15 David and Amy Yingling | 30 Adam and Carrie Miller |
| 17 Cecil and Judy Hess | 31 Chris and Shelley Yurkovich |
| 17 Albert and Connie Malek | |