

We are His Witnesses

*This is the year when we Fully Rely on God and have a life that is more than abundant.
It's a promise God made to us in John 10:10*

DECEMBER 2011

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 4



Dates to Remember

- Dec. 4th - Holy Communion, Reception of New Members, Honoring 50-year Member
- Dec. 5th - 9:30 a.m. Worship & Music
- Dec. 6th - 6:00 p.m. Bible Study; 7:00 p.m. Deacons
- Dec. 7th - 6:30 p.m. Building & Grounds
- Dec. 11th - 11:00 a.m. Sunday School program during worship (rehearsal at 9:30 a.m.)
- Dec. 12th - 7:00 p.m. Session
- Dec. 13th - 12:00 noon Delanco Sr. Cit. Luncheon
- Dec. 14th - 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee
- Dec. 15th - 3:00 p.m. Hoagie order deadline
- Dec. 17th - 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Attic & Basement Sale; 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon Hoagie pick-up
- Dec. 24th - 5:00 p.m. Family Worship; 7:00 p.m. Communion, both with candle-lighting
- Dec. 25th - 11:00 a.m. Informal Worship (No Sunday School)

December Birthdays

- Dec 1st - Carol Esposito
- Dec 3rd - Kendall Taylor
- Dec 4th - Lisa Lawson
- Dec 6th - Jeanne Mehling
- Dec 7th - Nicole Broskey
- Dec 10 - Susan Stillwaggon
- Dec 12 - Thomas Sickler
- Dec 13 - Anna Sevey
- Dec 13 - Barbara Van Tassel
- Dec 18 - Donna Thurman
- Dec 19 - Edward Stanton
- Dec 21 - Norma Stanton
- Dec 22 - Grace McLaughlin
- Dec. 22 - Jeanne Buffarini
- Dec 25 - Frank Nikolet
- Dec 28 - Terri Yeats



Do we already possess the greatest gift we could ever receive?

This month is when we gear ourselves up for the Big Day. This is our Holiday of Holidays. The Biggest Celebration of the past 365 days. Yes folks it is when we celebrate the birth of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. Bet you thought I was going to say Christmas, didn't you?

The birth of Christ was truly the ultimate day of gift giving. God gave us His only begotten son that we might be saved and have the opportunity to be one of Gods children if we choose to be. This in and of itself is something special. Consider the fact that God knew that to accomplish this gift giving He would have to give up His only son for those who may not choose to accept the gift. That's something to think about the next time you want to get upset when someone may not care for your gift to them. Consider and reflect on the words of Jesus and keep in mind Fully Relying on God

Luke 12:15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided? 21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

22 Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. 23 Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? 25 And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 26 If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28 If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?

29 "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. 30 For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. 31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

Jesus is telling us here "Don't Worry, Be Happy". When we turn to God we should have no worries about what is around the next "corner". God already knows what is there and has the instructions ready for us to conquer, overcome & live a Life that is more abundant, spiritually as well as physically. How do I know this? Jesus told me so in John 10:10.

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly".

The next time you have one of those moments, consider where you born.



those "It's a Wonderful Life" would be if Jesus was never

Pastor's Nook

Advent began November 27th. Advent is a time of preparation. We prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Throughout the Bible, Jesus is given many names such as Lord, Messiah, King, Teacher, and others. In Isaiah 9, the prophet says Christ is named Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. We may also call Him Friend. In Isaiah 60:1 we read, "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." Isaiah tells us Jesus Christ is our light. He says our light has come. This light comes in the form of a tiny baby, born of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Jesus is our light because He shines the love of God on each of us so that we may reflect that same love on others around us. In His Gospel, John describes this light in Chapter 1:4b-5 saying, "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." Christ, as the light, dispels all darkness and gloom and gives light to our lives. Many people of varying ages seem to feel despair and discouragement in their lives. It seems easy to be discouraged. We see suffering all around us and are unsure what to do to make things better.

One thing we can do is to put our trust in God. We anticipate celebrating the birth of His only Son in a short time. Christ brings His light to the world. When we trust and Fully Rely On God, and have faith in Jesus Christ, the light of the world, we then have hope for brighter tomorrow. God works with us and through us to turn our darkness into light and to bring us each into a closer relationship with Him.

While we are busy with the commercial things of the season, we want to remember the spiritual aspects as well. Isaiah 9:2 says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in land of deep darkness – on them light has shined." Isaiah, whose name means "Yahweh is salvation," is an Old Testament prophet who is quoted in the New Testament more than 250 times. Isaiah prophesies the Messiah as the virgin-born child of God who suffers to bring us salvation. A second passage is Isaiah 40:1 – 11, especially verse 3: "A voice cries out, 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God'." In Isaiah 9, Christ's birth is predicted. In Isaiah 40, we are told about John the Baptist who is called by God to prepare the way for the Messiah.

Let us show others the light and love of Christ, encourage them to follow Christ's light to come out of their darkness, and Fully Rely On God. Share the love of God and the Gospel with those around us. In preparing ourselves to receive Christ this Christmas, empower others to prepare to receive Him as well. Invite those you know to learn of Christ, to enjoy God's presence in their lives, and to rejoice in the spiritual good tidings of this holiday season.

I encourage you to invite friends, neighbors, inactive members, and others to worship with us in Advent, especially on December 11th at 11:00 a.m. when worship will be in the fellowship hall and the Sunday School department's play will be the sermon. Also, please join us on Christmas Eve for a family service at 5:00 p.m. and a communion service at 7:00 p.m., both with candle-lighting. Also, plan to join us for an informal worship service on Christmas morning at 11:00 a.m. (no Sunday School).

May we celebrate the birth of the Baby Jesus many years ago as we anticipate His Second Coming in the future, and praise God for all His gifts and blessings. Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus.

Pastor Lynne



Rev. Lynne D. Trout

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER 2011



THE WITNESS

Love God
Help Others
Be Happy

Merry Christmas from the First Presbyterian
Church of Delanco

Those Honored on All Saints Day 2011

Mona Berrovets Hugh (Ned) Green
Marty Sickler Gerrie Wilson
Bill Harran Edna Bailey
Allan Wood

Food, Fun and Elegantly Distressed Items of Value

**Don't forget to order your delicious hoagies by Tuesday December 15th.
You can use the convenient order forms at Church or call 856-255-5152
before 6pm.**

**Then you can pick them up at the fellowship hall between 10:30am—Noon on December
19th. But folks, it gets even better. I know you didn't think it could, remember we Fully Re-
ly on God , so YES it can.**

**Join Gerrie Diehm & her Elegantly Distressed Items of Value
Between 10:30 am & noon for hours of Treasure Hunting and Great Fellowship.**