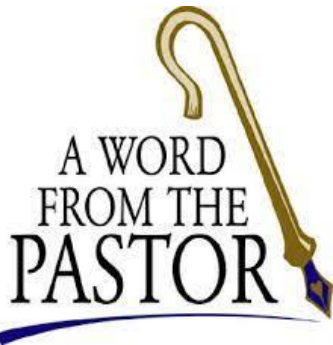




THE BEACON

“Let your light shine before others”



Did you know? Miscellaneous facts about the Bible

- ◆ The Bible is the best-selling book of all time.
- ◆ The Bible is the most shoplifted book
- ◆ Delilah didn't cut Samson's hair. She had a man come and do it. He lost his strength and was taken away by the Philistines, but they let his hair grow back, allowing his strength to return.
- ◆ When God passed by Moses, Moses, wasn't able to see the “faces” of God, says the Hebrew. Interesting image! Then God said that Moses could see his “back parts,” says the Hebrew.
- ◆ Solomon had 700 wives, 300 concubines, and 12,000 horses. Does anyone really need that many horses?
- ◆ The King James Bible mentions unicorns nine times.
- ◆ The thirty pieces of silver that Judas got for betraying Jesus is worth about \$6,000 today.

Is there anything you always wanted to know about the Bible, but were afraid to ask? Is there anything unusual in the Bible that you've always wondered about? Let me know, and I'll look at it in future “From The Pastor” articles!



The Christmas season was once again very special here at St. Peter's, thanks to the efforts and contributions of many.

Christmas culminated with the 9:00 pm Candle light Service. The voices of over 100 people joyously sang beloved Christmas Hymns.

As you read through this Beacon, you will see how the hearts of many helped to make the season extra bright!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



JOLLY QUIZZES

- 1-what is the origin of the term 'minutemen'
 - 2-The only president from Pa is
 - 3-how much dirt is in a 3 ft x 4 ft hole
 - 4-most dust particles in the house are.....
 - 5-what was the presidents name in 1976
 - 6-the last baseball player to hit .400 was.....
 - 7-what country drinks the most alcohol per person
 - 8-finish the next line of the song..
- a-sweet Caroline.....
- b-in the jungle, the mighty jungle.....
- c-start spreading the news, I'm leavin' today.....
- d-in the lilt of Irish laughter.....



Quizzes submitted by Wayne Freese
Answers on Page 5

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, January 26th, immediately after worship, the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held. If you cannot attend, absentee ballots will be sent out soon. The 2025 budget will be presented for review and approval.



Room to Read

RESULTS

Thank you to Wayne Freese and Herman Nieuwenhuizen for coordinating this year's Room to Read program, including the book sale. A total of \$6,000 was raised, and then matched, 3 to 1, for a total of \$18,000!

It currently costs \$365 to send a girl to school for one year, and so St. Peter's will be supporting the hopes and dreams of 49 girls!

Our support of R2R began after Jane Breisch read John Wood's book, Leaving Microsoft to Change the World. After Bob read it, they felt that it was a perfect mission for St. Peter's. With our support of Heifer feeding the stomach, R2R can feed the mind and encourage reading. R2R has invested in countries that are stable, but poor.

St. Peter's raised enough money over two years to build a library in Nepal in 2009. Then the focus became the education of girls, because they discovered that when you educate a girl, you educate a family.

Thank you to all the coordinators, volunteers and donors to Room to Read through the years!

ONLINE giving

We are excited to tell you we have a new online giving platform for St. Peter's Pikeland UCC. Hold your phone's camera over this QR code, press the yellow button that says "myamplify.io" and you can give online, anytime, with your cellphone.



All online giving will still be confirmed in your offering statement. This is a very easy way to give to St. Peter's.

This QR code will be in the Sunday bulletin each week as well.

Sewing Circle News

On Wednesday, December 11th, the Sewing Circle held their Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall. Barb McCabe and Micki Menkins were our hostesses. They decorated our tables and ordered the food from Foresta's. All we had to do is come enjoy our time together. Thank you both for getting us in the holiday spirit. Pastor Doug had some fun games for us and his lovely wife, Susan came for the first time. Hopefully, it will become a tradition. We, as a group, take 20 names from Pocopson Home located in West Chester. Christmas presents are purchased from the residents wishlist. We are part of a large group of Santa's helpers ensuring that everyone has a gift to open Christmas morning. Instead of buying each other gifts we decided to buy warm winter hats for the children in Pottstown. They were given out at Mission First and by one of the crossing guards.



PACS FOOD DRIVE

For the months of January and February we will be collecting non perishable food items, toiletries, cleaning supplies, baby products and pet food. The demand for support is on the rise...This is your opportunity to bring joy to a family's life. Every month 400 families are looking to receive food appointments. That is a 39% increase from fiscal year '22-23 to '23-24!! Items can be dropped off in the crates located in the front and back of the church or on the table in Fellowship Hall.



Copy the link to see PACS "HOT ITEM" LIST www.pacsphx.org/pacs-hot-list
 See below how you have helped PACS make an impact in the community!

January - June 2024			
312 Families	3,350 Guests	387,172 lbs.	30+ Agencies
Receive full grocery orders once a month	Visit our Market monthly to provide for their families.	Of food has been recovered through our Retail Rescue program.	are provided support through our organization.

Weeks leading up to Christmas

Thank you to the Sewing Circle for giving Christmas gifts to the Pocopson Home.



Thank you to Kathy Krasley, who organized the poinsettias orders this season.

Thank you to Tom and Scott Racihle, for once again, helping to put up the flower rack along the chancel.

Thank you to Diane Campbell for delivering the gifts to Bethany Children's Home.

Thank you to the Menkins', the Shermans, the Nieuwenhuizens and the Wachsmuths, our Advent Wreath candle lighters.



Thank you to Kat Bowman and all the musicians who gifted us with music through Advent and Christmas.



Hanging of the Greens

Page 4



A big thank you to Cindy Warner, who organized our Hanging of the Greens Service. Thank you to everyone who donated greens, and volunteered to help throughout the service in order to prepare our sanctuary and hearts for the birth of Jesus.

Un-Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday, January 5th, after worship, we will be putting away all of the Christmas decorations that adorned the sanctuary so beautifully through out Advent. We are asking that any willing and abled bodies stay afterwards to help put Christmas away. Many hands make for light work!



Caroling

Thank you to the carolers who set out on the night of December 13th to spread love and Christmas cheer to Deb Wetty as well as the residents of Spring Mill Senior Living. Annamae Moore and George Smith were happy to share their St. Peter's family with their fellow residents!



January Birthdays



Jeannie Leaman	1/1
Sean Harlow	1/6
Declan McCarthy	1/6
Ed Benjamin	1/7
Eileen Biddle	1/7
Cheryl Nicholson	1/7
Marielle Stewart	1/8
Diane Campbell	1/9
Kathleen Wachsmuth	1/9
Lucas Cheney	1/10
Amelia Cook	1/12
Aidan Stewart	1/14
Rob Cottone	1/16
Carolyn Wilson	1/18
Chip Griffiths	1/20
Don Giordano	1/22
Mary Jo Pandjak	1/22
LeeAnn Michener	1/24
Laura Yeakle	1/24
Christine Merryman	1/24
Bob Frederick	1/27
Michelle Case	1/27
Richard Mest	1/27
Matthew Bierer	1/28
Gus Orr	1/28
Jan Orr	1/28
Brian Neiman	1/29
Luke Wilson	1/29
Sonja Wheelan	1/30
William Miller	1/31



John and Barbara Borzillo
 Bob and Jane Breisch
 Ian and Sally Mansmann
 Reid and Kirstin Smith

TASTE OF PHOENIXVILLE

The Taste is back for its 23rd year! Gather your friends and be sure to bring your appetite for one of Phoenixville's most popular social events of the year to show your support for Good Samaritan Services! Proceeds benefit those experiencing homelessness and poverty in our community being served by Good Sam.

Experience delicious cuisine and beverages from over 20 local vendors, bid on exceptional silent auction packages, enjoy live music, and show off your best moves on the dance floor! Mark your calendars! Your tastebuds will thank you!

Thursday, January 16

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM (VIP Reception 5:00 PM)

Franklin Commons – 400 Franklin Ave, Phoenixville, PA

Get more details and buy your tickets at TasteofPhoenixville.com.

Santa Fred

Thank you to Santa Fred and congratulations to Andrew Wookey for the promotion from Elf status to Santa Andrew. Thank you to everyone who so generously gave each week to help benefit St. Mary's Shelter.



Answers to the Jolly Quiz:

- 1-The Mass.legislature in 1773 created a militia that could respond in a minute
- 2-Buchanan
- 3-none—it's a hole
- 4-dead skin
- 5- Biden—even in 1976
- 6-Ted Williams
- 7-Belarus
- 8 a-good times never seemed so good
 b-the Lion sleeps tonight
 c-I want to be part of it-NY NY
 d-you can hear the angels sing

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Feb. 9th: Souper Bowl service
 (wear something of favorite team)

Feb. 23rd: Mission Sunday

Our Prayer List

Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:



Church Staff

Rev. Douglas Hanson,
Pastor

Kat Bowman,
Director of Music and Organist

Jill Cook,
Church Secretary

Deborah Wetty,
Nursery Attendant

Debbie Wolk,
Bookkeeper

Wayne Freese
Cemetery Manager

Church Officers 2024

President of Congregation –
Mark Myers

Secretary of Congregation –
Kathleen Wachsmuth

President of Consistory –
Pete Warner

Secretary of Consistory –
Kathleen Wachsmuth

Elders

Kathleen Wachsmuth-Chair
Deb Wetty, Peter Wilson

Deacons

Herman Nieuwenhuizen,
Sarah Hackman
Pete Warner

Trustees

Fred Wookey III- Chair
Bob McClimon, Dave Wise Jr.

Andrea Lafleur

Angie Schlessm

Ann Kieffer, cousin of Eric Johnson

Barbara Broyles, friend of the Wachsmuths

Barbara Shivers

Bette Miller

Bill Cochran, friend of Fred and Maureen Wookey

Carol Meyer

Cole Davenport

Connie Hershey, friend of Micki and Alyssa Menkins

Charlie Fishman, Pete Warner's Nephew and Godson

Debbie Rittenhouse, mother-in-law of Mitchell Warner

Diane, friend of Dee McClimon

Dr. Michael J. Ward

Ernie Gross, cousin of Fred Wookey

Friends and family of Evelyn Hall

Gail Grealey, cousin of the Wise family

Gwen Davidson

Grady Dendunnen, grandson of Ted and Helen Morgan

Heather Murphy, cousin of Steve Krasley

Heidi Kieffer, daughter of Eric Johnson's cousin

Hugh Lawson

Jamie Glennon, friend of Eric Hanson

Jeff Johnson, Co-worker of Eric Johnson

Jennifer Osborne

Jessica G., friend of Grace Merryman

Jim Smith, Denise Harlow's brother

John Pandjak

John Pittock, friend of Grace Merryman

Laura Dick

Laura S., friend of Grace Merryman

Lisa, cousin of Eric Johnson

Mary Andersen, friend of the McCarthys

Melinda Greenwood, cousin of Joe Thomson

Mike Brown

Pattie and Charlie Freeman, friends of the Bowman's

Patrick, friend of Dee McClimon

Richard, friend of Dee McClimon

Sally Kramer, Cherri Romano's sister

Sandy Pereni, Joyce Rosen's sister

Sharon Basile, Jennifer Basile's mother-in-law

Sylvia Houff, Kathleen Wachsmuth's sister

Tara Cantello, friend of Denise Harlow

Tina Frick, friend of Sarah Hackman