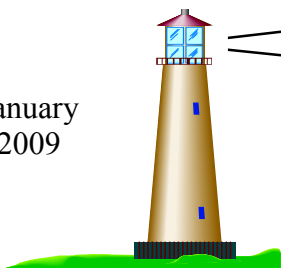


January
2009



Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church

TOWER LIGHT

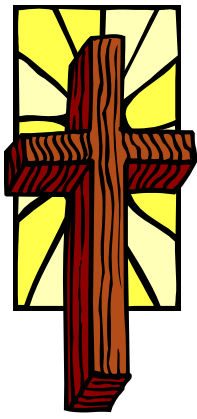
"Cultivating a Nurturing Community which extends Christ's Peace to All."

STEWARDSHIP TO USE OUR RESOURCES

Offering Envelopes and Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Apportionment

One of the five ways we act on our mission statement, "to cultivate a nurturing community which extends Christ's Peace to all," is through "stewardship to use our resources." By now you should have received your box of offering envelopes for 2009 in the mail. There should be a weekly envelope for your regular offerings, along with several envelopes for "special offerings" that are received for designated mission causes of the larger church (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peacemaking Offering, and the Christmas Joy Offering). If you have not received your box, please contact Marilyn in the Church Office, 412-561-2431.

There is also a "Per Capita Apportionment Envelope." Each year we are asked to submit an Apportionment gift to the larger church for the operation costs of the various components of the Presbyterian Church, including the Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Synod of the Trinity, and the National Presbyterian Church U.S.A. For 2009, we are being asked to contribute roughly \$10,000, or \$23.15 per member. This contribution is based on our membership figure of 435 at the end of 2007. These are the "shared costs" of being part of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. denomination, and help us carry out the mission of the larger church. A portion of the funds, \$6.15, helps with the support of the operational costs of the various departments of ministry and mission based in the national office of the P.C.U.S.A., located in Louisville, Kentucky. Another portion of the amount enables representatives of the whole church to come together for celebration and discernment every other year at the General Assembly. Approximately \$2.10 per member supports the operations of the Synod of the Trinity and the Networks of Ministry and Mission established for the communities of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and a small section of the Upper Ohio Valley. These funds support the Synod staff based in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and the Mission Network Teams that are functioning throughout the Synod. The largest portions of the funds, \$14.90, support the operations of Pittsburgh Presbytery. The office is based on the North Side of Pittsburgh, and services all the Presbyterian Churches in Allegheny County. The funds support the staff that works with local congregations, such as Wallace, and coordinates our common mission in the Greater Pittsburgh Region. Please make whatever contribution you can to help us meet this apportionment total, and keep a vibrant year of generosity of resources forthcoming. Any funds collected in excess of the \$23.15 per member will go to offset the operational costs of our own congregation in relationship to the larger church.



A Season of Prayer and Peace

As Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas Season, we move into the next season of "rejoicing in the Lord." Paul wrote to the congregation in Philippi, it is important to always be praising and praying unto God; "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*" (Philippians 4: 4, 6-7) This will be the theme of our congregation's worship during the next 7 weeks. The Leadership Team is calling it a *Season of Prayer and Peace*.

Wintertime is a great time for reflection and contemplation, as the chill of the air and the calm of the falling snow cause us to huddle more in our homes. Even those who have to weather the cold and snow, as they journey to and from work, want to slow down a bit after all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season. I always consider the snow a way for God to slow the pace down a little for all of us, although I know it can cause some agitation in a few souls too. During this season of prayer and peace, I hope you will take time to be in prayer and discover the peace God intends for your life. Solitude is not being alone, but deliberately being with God. How many of you have been reading a chapter of the Bible a day, as we recommended in the Discipleship Toolbox? Did that spiritual exercise get lost in the shuffle of the Christmas Season? Are you using the Birthday Directory as a Prayer Booklet to hold the members of the congregation before the Lord daily? Our solitude and time with God can create better community when we come together to celebrate being the "beloved of God."

Beginning on Sunday, January 11, with an exploration of the Lord's Prayer as the model, we will begin a series of worship services focused on the power of prayer and the value of Christ's peace for us all. We will experience the value of keeping our petitions of prayer before the Lord, so that we can be aware of the peace He intends to bestow on His "beloved children." Through song, scripture, acts of prayer, sacrament celebration, reflection, and the exchange of peace, we will build our sense of community around God's gifts of love and grace.

Our community is in a way a mosaic: every person a little piece of a different color, and together all the pieces show us the face of God. Each little piece reflects the great love of God which we need to celebrate. Celebration is a tangible way to "lift up, affirm, confirm, and rejoice" in each person in the Body of Christ. Celebration means affirming the gifts of the Spirit we find in one another. Do you remember the 9 Fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control)? These are how we reflect God's love and grace. I hope you will use this season to discover you're "beloved" by God, celebrate "being beloved" within the community of the congregation, and let it guide you in ministry for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Included in this season is the observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, beginning January 18. What a powerful influence our prayer can make on the whole Body of Christ when we practice the gift that God has given us in prayer. We will also explore the power of intercessory prayer, the strength of confessional prayer, the need for thanksgiving, and the necessity of the prayer of salvation for each soul and the community as a whole. The entire leadership staff will be focused on creating an atmosphere of prayer and peace for this season leading us into the Lenten Season which begins with Ash Wednesday, February 25. The facility, the music, the programming, and the reception of all will be a reflection of how we experience the peace of our Lord as a result of our prayers.

Peace, *Pastor Dennis Molnar*

P.S. Please note that Ellen is preparing a weekly meditation sheet for use in the newly renovated Meditation Room, located just off the chancel area of the Sanctuary (near the pulpit side). We hope you will gather there in solitude or with a small group of friends for reflection or conversation during the course of your week, making the church a destination more than once a week. This is also a time to find a good book to read, and Ellen has a few recommendations for you. (See the Book Review Group Invitation.) I would encourage you to consider *The Shack*, and consider the images of the Trinity it presents for your thought.

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January Worship
A SEASON OF PRAYER AND PEACE



January 4th

Epiphany Sunday

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services
"Come to the Stable"

Choral Anthem:

"Kneeling Before the Lord"

First Lesson:

Luke 2: 25-35

Scripture Lesson:

"Bearing the Gifts of Hope"

Sermon:

January 11th

A Celebration of Prayer and Peace

Guest Preacher:

Tom Davis

Focus:

The Model of the Lord's Prayer

Introduction of the Passing of the Peace: Wil Forrest

Scripture:

Psalm 85: 10, 1 Peter 5: 14

January 18th

**A Celebration of Community /
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Theme:

Bringing Community Together

First Lesson:

"Comfort and Joy"
Philippians 4: 2-9

Scripture Lesson:

"A Petition for Peace"

Sermon:

January 25th

A Celebration of Petition Prayers

Theme:

Prayers of Petition

First Lesson:

"Quilted Prayer"

Scripture Lesson:

Luke 6: 12-26

Sermon:

"Blessings and Woes"

Christian Education/Spiritual Formation

A new year, often a time of reflection—how are we “spending” the time given to us? Are we caught up in all busyness and missing great opportunities that God has for us? As 2009 begins, choose to commit yourself to enriching both your knowledge about God and your connection to God by attending a class for adults on Sunday mornings. Several options are available; choose the one that matches your needs:

- The **ROUND TABLE** is different every single month, new topics, new presenters, always in Fellowship Hall at 9:30. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God* Matt 5:9 is the basis for our January class: **Called to be Peacemakers**. Today we are to seek reconciliation in a world beset by conflict. Challenge yourself to come with an open heart to understand cultural perspectives, then, explore pathways to answer God’s call to be PEACEMAKERS. This promises to be an in-depth, multi-media presentation led by Paul Moessinger that will encourage both critical thinking and Christian response.
- **Sunday Splash!** For families with young children (three & under). Parents bring your youngest along to class with you and join other parents as you learn to identify the Holy Spirit working in your lives. Your babies and toddlers can play around you as the casual discussion unfolds 9:30 in room 104.
- **Bible Focus:** In-depth Bible study of the book of *John* 9:30 room 206.
- **Short Class:** 9:30-10:10 in the Lounge, January will be reflecting on lessons from Seasons of the Spirit with rotating leadership.
- **Faith & Life:** This class has become a spirit filled community weaving together lectionary based discussion, hands-on projects and spiritual practices. 9:30 in the Chapel.

Commit to making Sunday morning a time for family: worship together at 8:30 or 11:00 and at 9:30 make it a priority for both adults and children to be in a class. Our **Youth Class** (7th-12th grade) is growing this year, with pertinent discussions led by Dawn Hicken and Betsy Martinelli on Sunday mornings and our new Youth Director, Wil Forrest, creating community and promoting discipleship with programming later in the day. The **3rd-4th-5th & 6th grades** join together in the “happy room,” 208, for music, memory work, mission, prayer and understanding reformed worship from 9:30-9:50, then, divide into their classes which will be studying Epiphany, Jesus’ baptism and the calling of the disciples. These are the same topics that our younger children (**PreK-2nd grade**) will be studying after the Cherub Choir sings from 9:30-9:50.

January 25 will be the **Family Worship Breakfast**; as usual, it is for families of children PreK-6th grade, with a simple breakfast and stations for families to help learn about worship together.

6 Great Dates will run January through June. The concept is simple: 1) **the third Thursday a month at 7 PM** (Jan-May) come to Wallace and join with other couples 2) watch a short video on the topic for the night 3) leave your kids at church and go on a **DOUBLE DATE** 4) don’t forget to return to pick up the kids! The date can be for dinner or coffee and there will be discount coupons for several restaurants in the area. The four of you discuss the topic for the evening with some starter questions provided. It is sharing how you, as a couple, have handled some hurdles that all couples face. There is a simple, on-line evaluation due after each date. You will be paired with the same couple for each date so that deep bonding can occur. Each couple will receive a copy of the book *Ten Great Dates* and each couple who does each of the dates will receive an Entertainment Book. The final date (June) will be a celebration here at Wallace. Contact me (Ellen: 412.561.2431 Tuesdays or Wednesdays; home 412.269.1854; or eheriger@wallacememorial.org) More information is available from me or couples are invited to an informational meeting Thursday, January 8 at 7 PM. This is an offering from **TWOgether Pittsburgh**. You are welcome to recruit your co-couple and sign up together.

January launches a theme of “Prayer and Peace.” For a personal way to integrate each pathway of prayer introduced by Pastor Molnar during worship, I will generate a self-guided spiritual practice. This will be available each week in the Meditation Room starting January 11. Stop by and spend some time in quiet contemplation.

Thursday, January 8, will be the next meeting of the **R & R Book Club**, meeting in the Lounge 7-8:15 PM (on the 2nd Thursday of each month). Read *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen and join our lively discussions.

We are looking for some **leadership for the planning of our next Women’s Retreat**. This event has resonated with many of us and cannot occur without some volunteers. If this is a ministry that appeals to you, please contact Ellen.

Meetings:

- The **Christian Education/Spiritual Formation Committee** will meet Monday, January 12, at 7 PM in room 208.
- The **TWOgether Pittsburgh Team** will meet in room 206 Tuesday, Jan 13, from 7-8:15 PM.
- The **Scripture & the Arts Team** will meet Monday, January 26, at 7 PM in room 206.

Looking towards February:

- **Round Table Class:** February 1, 8, 15 & 22 “**Framing our Faith: a Portrait of Belonging**” Rebecca M. Cartus will use the *Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA) to provide a picture of what it means to belong to God and the impact on your lives.
- **6 Great Dates #2** February 19 7-9 PM.



The Wallace Youth Group Rocks!



The Youth Group's December focus was on anticipating something great. We began the month by rocking the church! We played Guitar Hero and talked about rock music and our faith lives. We showed our Christmas spirit by caroling through our neighborhood, and by celebrating the birth of Christ at our Christmas Party. In January, we will start over with new resolutions, new plans, a new renovated space, and much more.

Some alterations to the schedule are noted below. Of note for all skilled and unskilled laborers – we need your help! We are beginning the renovations to the Youth Zone on Saturday, January 10 from 9:00 a.m. to about 2:00 p.m. During this first work session, we will prime and paint the walls and ceiling. You are invited to help and to bring a friend and a paint brush and/or roller. We will be doing more group renovations in the Spring as well. Also, due to the amount of time spent on the month's other events, we will no longer be meeting for Youth Group on January 25. Our revised January schedule is:

Sunday, January 4: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
New beginnings {time capsule and resolutions}

Saturday, January 10: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Youth Zone renovation time for youth, parents and others

Sunday, January 11
No Youth Group

Saturday, January 17: 7:00 p.m. to Sunday, January 18 @ 9:30 a.m.
Lock-In

Sunday, January 25
No Youth Group

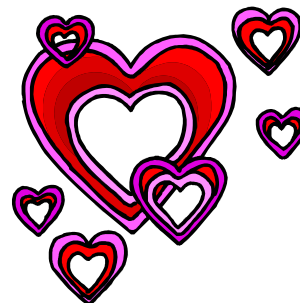
Coming also in 2009: Souper Bowl, more renovating of the Youth Zone, local mission work, game night, ski trip, camping trip, spending time with other local youths, Pretzel Day, helping with worship, sporting event and some topics to include technology, Lent, Bible 101 and much more! We have something for everyone . . . come and join us!

All events begin in the Youth Zone space in WMPC unless otherwise noted.

For more info and up-dates, visit <http://www.wallacememorial.org/youth.aspx> on Facebook at WMPY – Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Youth.

WALLACE PRESENTS.

The Annual Valentine's Day
Dance
Saturday, February 14
featuring
The University of Pittsburgh
Alumni Dance Band



COMING UP:



An Evening of Fabulous Ensembles
with *Cellofourte* and more!
Sunday, April 26

The Annual Band Concert and Ice Cream Social
with Community Band South
Sunday, June 28

Memorial Flowers

The 2009 schedule for the flowers that decorate the Sanctuary each Sunday is presently being set up. As noted in the bulletin each week, the flowers are given in memory of loved ones, or to honor a special occasion. In 2009, we will continue to receive our flowers from Parkway Florist, Inc. @ a total cost of \$40.00 for the two arrangements. Please contact the Church Office @ 412-561-2431 if you are interested in reserving a date in 2009. There are still a few remaining "open" dates on the calendar.

High Nooners

The High Nooners' Holiday Party was held @ The Grand Concourse @ Station Square on the 10th of December, 2008. Mark your calendars for the next High Noon event to be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 @ 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall.

CPR/Defibrillator Training Session

The Deacons will sponsor a CPR/Defibrillator training session on Sunday, January 11, 2009, at 12:45 p.m. If you are interested in being certified or renewing your certification, please fill out the slip below and return it to the Church Office. Call Jan Sterling for further information {423-341-0539}.

Return this to the Church Office:

_____ is interested in taking the CPR training session on January 11, 2009.

Here Comes Wally!!



Dear Friends,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Wow! Christmas is fast approaching as I write this letter. I'll be at the Christmas Dinner and Carol Sing on the 21st. I hope you made it. And then there is the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve. I like that one, and we get to see all the light as we go home.

I was at the Thanksgiving Dinner and really enjoyed everything I had. All those cooks at the church and the members who brought things did a great job. I hope you had a good time too.

Did you make your candle at the Circle of Hope Breakfast? They were so pretty. Granddad made us one, and we use it at dinner every night. Are you using yours?

January looks like a slow month. Maybe we can get caught up on all we let go over the Christmas Holidays.

We already made a resolution for 2009. We agreed to take the schedule of Bible readings from the Tool Box and use it at dinner every night. Have you made your New Year's Resolution yet?

Did you get your Pledge into the Discipleship Committee? Granddad said they have been slow in coming in. Do you think the economy has anything to do with that? Dad said I would not get a raise in my allowance this year, but because I am another year older, I get another chore to do around the house. I hope it helps out.

Don't forget the Valentine's Dance. I won't. Let's see, I think it's on Saturday, February 14, this year. I'll try to come.

I'll see you folks soon. Keep warm.

Love,
Wally, III

Clerk's Report of Session Meeting of Monday, December 15, 2008

- Sunday, December 21, 2008, a Birthday Party for Jesus will be held during the Sunday School hour for the children of Grades Pre-K through Grade 2.
- Sunday, December 21, 2008, "A Wallace Christmas Party," with dinner @ 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by a program in the Sanctuary @ approximately 6:30 p.m., featuring the debut of the new Wallace Orchestra leading us in carol singing, plus The Adam Osmianski Trio with Christmas jazz, and featuring the entertaining and humorous Joe Marotta.
- Wednesday, December 23, 2008, we will hold the Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services @ 6:00 p.m. for families and 10:00 p.m. with the Orchestra and Choir.
- Sunday, December 28, 2008, Wil Forrest, The Youth Director, will share the Annunciation and the Nativity through photos and words in the Arthur J. Campbell Chapel @ 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, January 10, 2009, the youth will start renovating the Youth Zone in the Chapel Basement and Phase 1 will begin with a work day.
- Saturday and Sunday, January 17 – 18, 2009, the youth will hold a lock-in.
- Saturday, January 24, 2009, the Session will hold a Session Workshop/Training from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 28, 2009, High Nooners' Luncheon & Program @ 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday, February 1, 2009, the youth will hold their second annual Souper Bowl luncheon.
- Thursday, February 19, 2009, Pittsburgh Presbytery is holding a Vital Convocation from 2:00 – 5:30 p.m. at Beulah United Presbyterian Church regarding "Our Freedom of Religion at Risk: A Presbyterian Crisis." This will be a live convocation covering the following topics:
 - "The Westminster Assembly," by Dr. Joseph Small
 - "Covenant and Freedom of Conscience," by Dr. Beau Weston and Dr. Euan Cameron
 - "Religious Liberty: A Legal History," by attorneys Mark Tammen, Esq. and The Rev. Jeff Tindall.

Discussions will cover such topics as:

- Historic roots of Presbyterianism faith and practice in today's secular context
- A Biblical perspective on use of private property and personal possessions
- Freedom of Conscience-where covenant and scruples meet
- Religious liberty and law in an age of secularism

(Note: After each presentation, time will be given for discussion)

- A letter from Jay, Lewis, Stated Clerk of Pittsburgh Presbytery, shows the Per Capita for 2009 will be \$23.15. General Assembly - \$6.16, Synod of the Trinity - \$2.10, and Pittsburgh Presbytery - \$14.90.
- The Pictorial Directory should be received in January. The proofs are due back to Life Touch by December 22, 2008.
- \$1,000.00 to be disbursed from the Global Reach Budget for Congo Relief.
- Christmas Greetings to Wallace from the church in Tyre, Lebanon.
- The Nursery School purchased two new tractors and two new motorcycles for the bike room with the hoagie money.
- A new all-in-one color laser copier and printer was also purchased for the Nursery School.
- An all-school program with the Queen of Hearts (Kim Adley) on manners, reading (love of), and some nursery rhymes will be on February 09, 2009.
- Diane Dattilo, a dental hygienist, will come to the Nursery School on February 18, 2009.
- The Circle of Hope Family Breakfast was attended by 125 people on November 30, 2008. Each family created a candle to take home, based on John 1:5, "A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." The "Share the Warmth" project was coordinated with the breakfast, and approximately 100 pairs of gloves, hats and scarves were collected, and will be distributed to Sojourner House and the clients of the Wallace Food Pantry. This event was reported at the Pittsburgh Presbytery Meeting as a part of the "I Spy" program that Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson, Interim Pastor to Presbytery has started.

Ann M. Baldrige
Clerk of Session

Memorial gifts have been given in loving memory of the following:

*J. Douglas Preffer
Margaret Blye Davis
Edward J. Oberst
Raymond M. Reisacher
William Furedy
Jessie Croft*

Gifts have been given in honor of the following:

*Richard and Sally Petro
Mrs. Raymond M. Reisacher*

January Birthdays

****AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR****

3	Kenneth Canonge, Sr.	11	Genevieve Fugate	20	Mildred Hum
4	Ann Baldrige		Samuel Miller		Janet McConnell
	Christine Popovich	14	Scott Fallgren	21	William Wylie
6	William T. Gery		Laura Halley	22	William Schwartzmiller
7	Helen Hultman	15	Paul Weightman	24	May Fenton
8	Leanora Rombach	16	Ronald Kunz		Helen Trautman
	Shirley Schultz	17	Elizabeth Gillen	26	Glenna Miller
9	Haley Bittel		Scott Donald	27	Martha Greer
	Hannah Bittel		Kenna Lutton		Joan Wylie
10	Hannah Buttermore		Jeannie McGuire	29	Karen Badzgon
	JoAnne Lamb	18	Sydney Krauth		Brian Gottschall
	Marisa Mancini		Jennifer Tancaitor	30	Karie Golden
		19	William R. Gery		Christopher S. Volk