

# The Shepherd's Staff

Volume 53, No. 9, November 2017



## *Final Harvest Presents In Concert...* *"A Christmas To Remember"* *"He Came"*



Saturday, Nov. 18

4:00 p.m.

A Freewill Love Offering will be received.

### *Final Harvest*

will also perform at the  
8:00 and 10:30  
morning  
worship services on Sunday,  
November 19.

## Christmas Stocking Project Ends

Christmas Stockings for the children served by Metro Ministries, mainly in Harlem and Brooklyn, New York, will be accepted until Sunday, November 5.

Last year we sent a total of 182 filled stockings, 99 for girls and 83 for boys. These stockings go to children who get little or nothing for Christmas.

Many thanks to Gerri Reardon who makes it easy for the rest of us by sewing the felt stockings in huge quantities. Pick up a stocking or two from the display in the foyer and fill it as you would for your own children or grandchildren.

Return it to church by Nov. 5. The stockings will be boxed and shipped the following Monday.

Please be sure the stockings are able to be closed and contain no perishable items or glitter.





Greetings Shepherd! I hope this finds you well and blessed in the Lord. No doubt you have noticed the weather is (finally) starting to change. The green of summer is giving way to the orange of autumn as the leaves change and fall. I must admit this is my favorite time of year. The air is cool, the mornings crisp, and the smell of fires burning from chimneys of nearby homes reminds me of the warmth of the many blessings of God.



All of us enjoy countless blessings from God on a daily basis. Each one of us has been blessed in ways too numerous to count. That doesn't mean we don't have ongoing needs, however. Recognizing past blessing does not mean denying current necessity. In fact, the Bible recognizes we will have ongoing needs in life. Jesus said, *your father knows what you need before you ask and Pray then like this... 'give us this day our daily bread'* (Matthew 6:8, 11).

God recognizes we will have needs and, what's more, He encourages us to ask Him to meet them and promises He will do so but, and this is the key, He instructs us ask in an attitude of thanksgiving. The apostle Paul said, *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God* (Philippians 4:6).

Many people ask why we pray for our needs if God already knows them and has promised to meet them. The answer is simply because it causes us to do three things. First, it reminds us the God is in control of our life and that calms our heart. Second, it reminds us that God is the provider of all things good in our life. James wrote *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights...* (James 1:17). And third, it causes us to remember what God has already done in our life. Someone once said, *If we start every prayer by first listing our blessings, our needs won't seem that impossible* and there is truth in that.

This month is November and one Thursday this month we will gather around a table and give thanks for all we have, as we should. Let me encourage you, though, to make every day and every prayer one of thanksgiving. It's amazing how small a current need can appear when viewed through the lens of all the needs God has already met on our behalf. God bless and happy Thanksgiving!

Blessings,

Pastor Collin

## Prime Timer Activities

PRIME  
TIMER  
LUNCH



Thursday, Nov. 16, 11:30 a.m.  
Meet at Pizza Como  
Pennsburg  
(in Weis shopping center)  
Register on the Welcome Card

## Montco-Berks Golden Age

Thursday, Nov. 9  
Holiday Dinner  
Calvary UCC, Barto



Thursday, Dec. 14  
**White Christmas**  
**SOLD OUT**



## Coming Events

Thanksgiving Day  
**November 23**

Term 1  
Youth Club  
**Ends December 6**

Preschool  
Christmas Program  
**December 15**

# **Missions Commitment**

**The Mission Commitment Project** for November is the Jay and Briana Stokes family who are serving with Ethnos360 (formerly called New Tribes Mission) on the Papua Island of Indonesia. They work with the Dem tribe.

Through Ethnos360, Christian missionaries do Bible translation and evangelism to plant churches among unreached people groups around the world.

Learning the Dem language, which is unwritten, has been a major challenge for Jay, although he reports making slow and steady progress. Dem people are at their house every day. The language difficulty prevents them from much verbal communication but they show them love and provide simple medications such as Aspirin and Tylenol.



The **Vision Project** for November is *Briana and Jay The Stokes* The Ministries at Main Street, headed by Kork Moyer.

Located in Pottstown, this ministry provides food and overnight shelter for homeless and needy persons. The Shelter season runs from November through April.

Several Pottstown churches each provide sleeping quarters for one month of the season. Donations from church and organizations help fund the expenses of meals, personal items and bedding.

## Did You Know. . . ???

The Upper Room devotional is available at the literature rack in the sanctuary and fellowship hall foyers. It is published bimonthly. The November/December issue is available now. A donation is suggested.

## Looking for a way to honor or remember someone special?



Consider sponsoring the altar flowers and/or bulletins on their special day. An announcement will be placed in the bulletin recognizing the occasion. Sponsor-ship charts are posted outside the church office door.

The cost to sponsor the altar flowers is \$25.00 per vase and to sponsor the bulletins \$10.00. Checks should be made out to Shepherd of the Hills Church. There are still a number of available dates in 2017.

## Youth Club

Wednesdays, 6:15- 8:30 p.m.

4 years to Grade 6

Term 1 will conclude on Dec. 6

The format this year is for everyone to gather in the fellowship hall for worship at 6:15 p.m. This is followed by a lesson, craft time, game time, a snack at 8:15 p.m.

Dismissal is from the lower level at 8:30 p.m.

## H2O Youth

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Shepherd's Den

## Children's Church

Pre-K to Grade 4—every Sunday during the 10:30 a.m. service.



## Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Toddler—2 years—Room 14

3 years—K—Room 12

Grades 1-3—Room 24

Grades 4-6—Room 25

Grades 9—12—Den

Confirmation Class (Grades 7-8) Library

Adult—Room 22

Discussion—Parlor East

Spiritual growth—FH





**Wedding bells rang** for Joe Hughes and Courtney Rife on Saturday, September 30. Pastor Collin Monger officiated.

**Hurricane Relief donations** were collected throughout September and forwarded to Samaritan's Purse. A total of \$6,547.22 was collected.

**Christmas Eve** falls on a Sunday this year. There will be no morning services; there will be the usual two evening services, 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. **Volunteers are needed** for the Sunday morning refreshment table. Coverage is needed for both the 8:00 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m. Service.

## Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.  
Traditional Service

10:30 a.m.  
Contemporary Service

## Wednesday Service

7:00 p.m.  
Magnify!

SPOT-  
LIGHT  
ON...

## The Shepherd's Theological Institute

The Shepherd's Theological Institute has partnered with the Institute of Theology to bring you a fully accredited Bible College experience. The program we offer leads to a Certificate of Christian Ministry and is four semesters long. Each semester, sixteen weeks, students will take one class focusing on either Discipleship, Old testament or New testament.

Students will gather weekly for class with their cohort group, growing together as believers and closer in their walk with God. This will be the same group they meet with for the duration of the program. Each week's class will consist of prayer, group discussion of the week's lesson, and a short quiz. There will be a final exam at the end of the course but don't worry - you will be well prepared and all the questions come from your weekly quizzes.

The purpose of the class is to better equip believers for Christian service and to improve overall biblical literacy. If you are interested in joining one of our courses beginning in the new year all you need is to be a believer, at least 16 years old, involved in your church, and have the support of your pastor – THAT'S IT!



INSTE teachers (l to r): Lucas Hahn, Charles Rowdon, Nick Korchowsky, Collin Monger



## Pastoral Staff

Rev. Collin Monger

*Senior Pastor*

Charles Rowden

*Executive Associate Pastor*

Lucas Hahn

*Associate Pastor of Youth*

James Jessum

*Associate Pastor of Visitation*

Shepherd of the Hills' regular office hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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