

The Shepherd's Staff

Volume 53, No. 9, November 2017



World Communion Sunday

October 1



In 1936, a group of pastors launched World-Wide Communion Day. Amid the Great Depression, they were looking for a way to meet people's spiritual needs and unite Christians in their dedication to Christ.

The observance, now known as World Communion Sunday, is held on the First Sunday of October. For eight decades, it has served as a reminder that Christians around the globe share the same meal in remembrance of Jesus.

Christmas Stocking Project Starts in October

Once again we will be preparing Christmas stockings for the children served by Metro Ministries in Brooklyn, New

York. Metro Ministries serves over 25,000 children each weekend with "on the street" Sunday schools as well as many other programs which bring God's hope and love to children of poverty and crime-ridden urban settings.

For most of these children the Christmas stocking you prepare will be their only Christmas gift. "The children are amazed that someone who never met them would send them a gift." The deadline to bring filled stockings to the church is Sunday, November 5. Beginning October 8 instructions for the stockings, along with some ready-to-fill stockings will be available at a special display in the church foyer. The instruction sheet has the pattern for those who want to make their own stockings. Suggestions for what to put in the stockings include (but not limited to):

Boys

Games	Handball
Small cars	Small Army figures
Small trucks	Socks
Trading cards	Watches

Girls

Hair Clips	Jump Rope
Socks	Coin purse
Jewelry	Stickers
Watches	Jacks



Remember! These stockings are for elementary age children — so think of ages 6-12 when filling them.

(Cont'd .. on page 3)



The Power of Slow

I was speaking with a pastor recently about message preparation and was explaining my peculiar way of preparing for a message. You see: I use an old-fashioned fountain pen. You know, the kind you have to fill up. It was a gift when I graduated from Seminary and I have used it ever since; and for good reason – it runs out of ink!

Fountain pens go through ink faster than your typical ballpoint or gel pen. Because of that, it's not uncommon for me to fill up my pen once or twice a day. And each time I have to fill up it forces me to stop what I am doing, take out the jar of ink and the paper towel I keep in the desk drawer, and go through the several minutes long process of refilling the chamber.

There's something else about a fountain pen – you have to write more slowly. Because of the shape of the tip you cannot simply pick it up and write – it takes more forethought than that. You need to be sure the pen is oriented correctly. You also need to be aware of your speed since going too slowly or quickly can affect the flow of ink. It really is quite a tedious process.

So then, why, would anyone in their right mind, choose a fountain pen? The answer is, BECAUSE it is slower. I have noticed something; using a fountain pen slows the entire process of my message preparation. It adds time and in a world bent on moving at the speed of light, slowing down is a nice change of pace.

In the Psalms we're told to "meditate" on the Word of God. One cannot meditate quickly. By definition meditation takes time. And I have noticed that extra time produces dividends of scriptural insight that would have been missed altogether had I sped through the passage as fast as those other writing instruments would allow.

Therein lies the lesson I have learned and I hope you will glean: take your time with the Bible. It is the world's most perfect and sacred piece of literature. It took more than 1,400 years to write using more than 40 authors and several languages. It has survived countless attacks from the unbelieving world and, has never been disproven and even though it's more than 2,000 years old, it still has the power to transform lives as if it were a new release.

The Bible is worth slowing down for. It is worth the extra time. There is nothing else in life that provides a person the kind of reward that meditating on God's Word provides the believer. Although the true number is incalculable, one could easily say an extra minute in Scripture is worth more than hours upon hours invested in any other pursuit.

Let me encourage you, whatever you're doing this week, to stop for a time and soak in some part of Scripture. My hope is you too will appreciate the value of slowing down through and meditating on the Bible. There is power in slow.

Blessings,

Dr. Collin Monger



Prime Timer Activities

Fellowship Breakfast
Thursday, Oct. 19, 8:30 a.m.
Pied Piper Diner, Bally
Register on the Welcome Card

**Montco-Berks
Golden Age**
Thursday, Oct. 5
Hunterdon Hills, NJ
"Come Blow Your Horn"



Save The Date - Dec. 14
The Prime Timers Committee is sponsoring a holiday outing to Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre for their luncheon buffet and matinee musical, "White Christmas." Reservations will be accepted, starting October 1st. For more details, please see the Prime Timers bulletin board.



H2O
6:00—8:30 p.m.
Shepherd's Den

Youth Club
Wednesdays, 6:15—8:30 p.m.
Session One: Sept. 13—Dec. 12
For K through Grade 6

Missions Commitment

The Mission Commitment Project for October is Will and Rhoda Longenecker of WEC International. Although they recently retired from active duty they continue to be involved through care and concern for the Muslim population. They have decades of experience in knowing how to reach Muslims for Christ.



Will & Rhoda Longenecker

The Vision Project for October is John Brynan of Light of Life Ministries. John has worked with the Pokot tribe of East Pokot, Kenya for ten years. Projects include building and maintaining schools and churches, and providing pure drinking water. Currently they have several schools and churches operating and two wells which pump and store water. Their goals for the next 10 years include:

- build 8 more classrooms;
- build 2 more wells;
- build additional churches in remote areas and provide qualified leaders.

Youth Club

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

4 years to Grade 6

Term 1 will conclude on Dec. 7

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. and dismissal 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.

(Christmas Stocking, cont'd from p. 1)

Please fill only the number of stockings which you can do in a nice way. Aim to get a mix of "sensible" and "fun" items for the child. Please avoid large items such as big coloring books, etc. Do not put in any "dark" items such as things decorated with skulls, witches, etc.

Decorating the stockings is a great way to make it more fun and exciting for the child receiving it. Just be sure your decorations are stitched or firmly glued to the felt. Please do not use "press-on" foam stickers. They do not stay on. **NO GLITTER PLEASE!! Important! Nothing may stick out the top. The stockings MUST be able to be closed. Oversized items will be removed.** Helpful hint: to save space trim cardboard packaging, or remove it totally if it does not carry instructions.

Coming Events

Daylight Saving time Ends
November 5

Veteran's Day
November 11

Thanksgiving Day
November 23

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

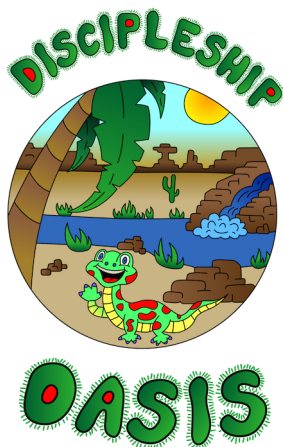
Grades 9—12—Den

Confirmation Class (Grades 7-8) Library

Adult—Room 22

Discussion—Parlor East

Spiritual growth—FH





Care Room is now available during the 8:00 a.m. worship service for children 4th Grade and under. Children should be registered in Room 14 prior to the start of the service.

The End of Summer Luau was enjoyed by 350 people. The Allan Scott Band was the featured musical attraction. Lulala Polynesian Arts presented hula dancing and a Moana impersonator.

Hurricane Relief donations were collected from Sept. 17 to Oct. 8. The funds were sent to Samaritan's Purse for use in recovery from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Charisma magazine and **Today's Christian Living** will be discontinued when each subscription runs out at the end of the year as a result of lack of sales.

The Upper Room devotional will continue to be available. A donation is requested (they cost about \$1.00 each.) Use the small envelope attached to the booklet and drop it in the mail slot on the church office door.

Final Harvest singing group will be at Shepherd on Saturday, Nov. 18 to perform in concert and on Sunday, Nov. 19 at worship services.

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.

Traditional Service

10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service

Wednesday Service

7:00 p.m.

Magnify!



SPOT-
LIGHT
ON...

Youth Club

This month's ministry spotlight is Youth Club. Offering kid's choir, games, snacks, Bible lessons, crafts, and more the youth club at Shepherd is truly an engaging experience. Designed to minister to children in kindergarten through sixth grade, Youth Club is a great way to get your child engaged in the church. Their next big event is Hallelujah Night (Oct. 28, 4-7 p.m.) —a fun time of food, games, a hay ride, bounce house and giveaways.



Seated (l-r): Kathy Hill, Diane Smith, Renee Miller, Barbara Berger, Jessica Brown
Standing (l-r): Jake Arms, Tara Mawby, Ken Nase, Robin Nase, Paul Little, Joelle Wagner, Jake Mawby, Tina Giessmann. Missing: Denise Borchelt, Rodney Kulp

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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