

The Shepherd's Staff

Volume 54, No. 1, January 2018



SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY JANUARY 21



Melissa Ohden will be the featured speaker at worship services on Sunday, January 21. Melissa is a pro-life speaker and advocate who often appears on television and radio talk shows.

Melissa survived an abortion attempt by her biological mother, weighing almost three pounds at birth. She was adopted into a loving family. Although she knew she was adopted she didn't know about the abortion attempt until she was 14 years old. This proved to be life-changing information for her.

Although initially devastated by this information, she eventually found healing through the Christian faith and felt called to go public with her story in hopes of influencing the abortion debate.

She has founded *The Abortion Survivors Network* as a support for abortion survivors, and *For Olivia's Sake*, intended to raise awareness of the "ripple effect" abortion has on men, women, families and communities.

Ohden is a trained social worker with experience in the fields of substance abuse, child welfare, mental health, domestic violence and sexual assault.

She is the author of *You Carried Me: A Daughter's Memoir*. She and husband Ryan have two children.



Martin Luther King Service

January 15, 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Boyertown Area Ministerial Association

Location: New Hanover United Methodist Church, Gilbertsville





Happy New Year, Shepherd! And what a year it was. As a church we hired new pastors, started new ministries, fully funded our roof project, added a third worship service on Wednesday nights, and reached the world with the Gospel in ways we've never done before. Not that the past year did not present its challenges, but in hindsight it is clear God was moving and changing lives through you all!

On a more personal level, for some of us 2017 brought with it joy and pleasant surprises: graduations, births, blessings of provision, and healing. Still for others, the past year may have been one of difficulty. Whatever your specific circumstance we all share in the fact that 2018 will most definitely be different.

That's how it goes in life, time keeps moving and no one knows what the future has in store - at least no one but God. As the old saying goes, *we may not know what the future holds but we know who holds the future*. God has a plan for your life and that plan is one that includes blessing, strength, courage, and every other thing you will need to accomplish what He has in mind. As the Apostle Paul wrote, *I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength* (Philippians 4:13). Although Paul was not always sure what God was doing, he knew God was doing something and that He would equip him with whatever was needed. I think there is some wisdom in that, trusting God for provision when facing the unknown.

Whatever God has in mind for your life in 2018, I want to encourage you that He has already worked out the *how*. God has already made arrangements to provide you with anything and everything you could possibly need in order to fulfill His call on your life. He provided the covering to Adam and Eve, a lamb to Abraham and Isaac, victory in battle to Israel, wisdom in governance to Solomon, and strength for deliverance over an occupying enemy to Samson. God provided a child to Elizabeth, fish and bread for lunch to thousands, money to the disciples to pay their tax expenses, and He provides His unending love and compassion to any who will take it. With all that in mind, there is no doubt God will also provide whatever you need when the time comes.

2018 will be a different year than 2017, there's no doubt about that. Just writing the date will be a new experience - I've never put 2018 on any form or document. We will come across new challenges and blessings, and they may seem surprising at times. One thing is for sure though; nothing we encounter will surprise God! As Jesus said, *your Father knows what you need before you ask him* (Matthew 6:8). He's already seen what's ahead and made sure that when you get to it you'll be prepared. God bless you all and have a happy and blessed New Year!

Collin Monger

Confirmation Class Retreat

Saturday, January 27

8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.



March For Life

Washington D.C.

January 19

Bus leaves SOTH at 6:00 a.m.

Cost \$25 per person

(payable to Friends for Life)

Sign up at exhibit in foyer or
contact John Brown.

Winter Schedule

Prime Timers
and

Montco-Berks Golden
Age Club

do not meet in January or
February.

Coming Events

Feb. 4
Bloodmobile

Feb. 11
Scout Sunday

Feb. 23
Scout Charter Banquet



The Mission Commitment Project for January is Jeff and Karen Grant of Cru. The Grants live in Florida where they work at Cru Headquarters in Orlando.

Jeff serves on the national team as the Church Partnership Specialist for campuses in the US as part of Cru's Student LINC Ministry. LINC is focused on launching new ministries on campuses all over the United States, in areas where CRU is not currently active.



Jeff, Katherine, Arthur, Karen Grant

The Vision Project for January is Mark Rowdon, who is currently on a nine month mission trip with Adventures in Missions, a mission trip sending organization.

A team of 42 people will serve in India, Nepal and Guatemala. While in these countries they come alongside Christian organizations who are already working in these countries to aid them in fulfilling their mission.

As the team leader, Mark enjoys the opportunity to disciple the 18-20 year-olds who comprise the team.

Mark is the twin brother of our associate pastor, Charles Rowdon.

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.

♦**Winter weather cancellations** will be announced on WBYN (FM 107.5) and Channel 69 (WFMZ). Please check these resources if the weather is questionable. Note: Channel 69 will have delay or closing information on their web site (www.wfmz.com) at all times, but church information will be on television only when severe conditions occur on a Sunday morning. As a general rule during the week we follow the closures of the Boyertown Schools. If they are closed or have early dismissal, we cancel also.

Youth Club

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

Beginning January 10

4 years to Grade 6

Term 2 will conclude on April 18

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.

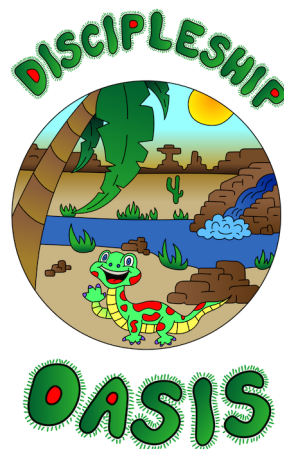
H2O Youth

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 25

Discussion—Parlor East

Spiritual growth—FH



The annual **March for Life** in Washington D.C. will be held on Friday, January 19. Friends for Life is sponsoring a bus, leaving Shepherd at 6:00 a.m. with an estimated return of 10:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per adult.

2017 Statements of Giving will be mailed to those who have contributed \$100 or more in 2017. Those who have contributed less than \$100 may obtain a statement by request.

2018 sponsorship Charts are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Be sure to visit this spot soon and sign up to sponsor bulletins or altar flowers on the special dates in your life. Altar flowers are \$25 per vase; bulletins are \$20.

The **2017 Annual Report** is being compiled. Members will receive a copy in the mail along with a notice of the congregational meeting for approval of the report.

The **Baby Bottle Blast** raised \$840.70 which was donated to Genesis Crisis Pregnancy Center of Pottstown.

SPOT-LIGHT ON...

The Shepherd's Voice

The Shepherd's Voice, the adult choir of Shepherd of the Hills Church, was established by Grace Stoop in the mid 1950's and is one of the longest active ministries of the church. With an illustrious history of singing passionate worship music, our choir brings a distinctive element to any service they help lead. The individuals of the choir each have a passion for worship music and for using their talents to glorify their savior.

The choir practices on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7:45, and is always interested to add passionate, talented singers to their ranks. If you are interested in joining the choir speak with Kathy Hill, the choir director, for more information. If you would like to hear our choir perform, they can be heard on the first Sunday of every month during our 8:00 worship service.



Row 1 (l to r): Karen Smith, Kathy Hill, Sandra Leonard, Sarah Smith, Diane Smith, Linda McDougall

Row 2 (l to r): Keith Leonard, Sue Grove, Rebekah Smith, Emy Zern, Karen Parke

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.

Traditional Service

10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service

Wednesday Service

7:00 p.m.

Magnifi!



Pastoral Staff

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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The Shepherd's Staff is published ten times a year by Shepherd of the Hills Church.