

The Shepherd's Staff

Volume 53, No. 10 December 2017



Christmas Eve Worship



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

NO MORNING SERVICES

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

7:00 P.M.—FAMILY SERVICE

SHEPHERD'S KIDS CHOIR

9:00 P.M.—CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

SHEPHERD'S VOICE CHOIR

COMMUNION

Hear the Latest on Pro-Life Issues in Pennsylvania

Tuesday, December 5

7—9 p.m.

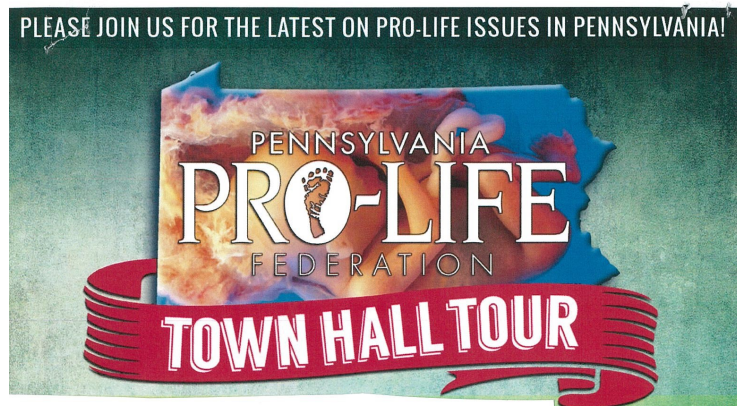
In the Fellowship Hall

Topics:

- ◆Life is winning
- ◆Death is losing
- ◆Roe will go
- ◆Fake news is failing
- ◆Achieve the dream

Question and Answer session
will follow presentations

Free and Open to the Public



Presenters:

Michael Ciccocioppo, Executive Director, PPLF
Matthew Wagner, Education Director, PPLF

For more information, contact John Brown:
610-754-6313 or sothjbrown1@aol.com



Greetings, Shepherd! I hope this letter finds you well. It's hard to believe another year is almost gone; I'm always amazed how fast time flies. It also seems this time of year goes by even faster than the rest. With all the Christmas shopping and traveling, and busyness of the holidays, time has a way of doing that: getting away. Since this is our last Shepherd's Staff of 2017 I wanted to take a minute and recap with all of you what our church accomplished this year.

In January we launched our Bible College ministry and it's going very well. Students are learning a lot and growing in their faith, and even having some fun along the way. Maybe you noticed the video we created and posted to Facebook. If you did, share it with your friends. We just finished enrolling for our 2018-2019 class and if all goes as planned we will have more than half-a-dozen churches represented through students in classes. Thank you to all who help do this and for your prayers and support!

Another thing we did was to update our church's bylaws. While not the most interesting thing, I admit, it was greatly needed. Elders and Deacons met for hours on end to provide you with something we can all be proud of. Thank you to all who helped to make that happen!

We said goodbye to Pastor Derrick who went into full-time missionary work but at the same time we received two new outstanding pastors, Charles and Lucas. They've been with us for about six months now and have acclimated well. Charles, our Executive Pastor, has been handling much of the adult ministries and the pastoral administrative duties, while Lucas has been handling the youth and worship ministries.

We experienced some natural disasters in this nation with hurricane after hurricane hitting the southern states. You all rallied and together though and we sent almost \$7,000 in aide through Samaritan's Purse, in addition to our regular missions support. Thank you for your help and for making a difference!

We had a Luau in September that was a lot of fun. Around 350 people attended and I'm told the music could be heard almost a mile away. We had such a great time we're already talking about doing one next year, so tell your friends to watch for it!

And speaking of music, you probably noticed we had several musical guests this year. We've been working to bring you guest artists as we are able. The truth is we have more that are interested than we can bring at any one time, which is great! This year we welcomed Allan Scott, Behold the Beloved, and Final Harvest – twice, and we're already working on groups for next year.

Something else we launched this year was our radio ministry called Light the Way through 107.5 Alive. The response to the program has been great! I'm told the program can be heard as far as New Jersey and Gettysburg.

In addition, we went through several major teaching series. We started the year with "Under Construction," looking at how God builds us up. Then, over the summer, we studied the book of Philippians in a series called "Happy Dance," looking at the joy we have in the Lord. Finally, we concluded the year with "Unshakable," looking at the book of 1st Peter for guidance in navigating a world hostile to the Christian faith. We're already planning for a series in January and will be announcing that soon!

It's been a great year with you all and we're eagerly looking forward to next year to see what God will do. One thing is for certain, He is moving here at Shepherd!

I hope you have a Merry Christmas and we'll see you on Sunday!



Collin Monger



Prime Timer Activities

Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, April 1, 8:30 a.m.
Pennsburg Diner, Pennsburg
Register on the Welcome Card

Montco-Berks Golden Age

Thursday, April 6, 2:00 p.m.
Butter Valley Community, Bally
Program: Michael Kropp,
guitar player



Orders for poinsettia plants to beautify the sanctuary on Christmas Eve are being received until December 10.
\$8.75 per 5-bloom plant

Coming Events

Thanksgiving Day

November 23

Term 1

Youth Club

Ends December 6

Preschool

Christmas Program

December 15

December Missions Projects

The **Mission Commitment Project** for December is Howard McFarland, associated with the international student ministry of SPADE. in Kempton, PA. Howard's wife, Charlotte, passed away in February of this year after a season of failing health. SPADE has designated a memorial project in honor of Charlotte. It is a one room, historic brick building on the SPADE property that is going to be restored as "Charlotte's Cottage" and used in a way that reflects her loving and joyful spirit.. Howard is now retired and lives with his daughter in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The **Vision Project** for December is Bob and Carmen Morrison with ConeXion Mosaico. ConeXion Mosaico is an organization whose objective is to bring about city transformation and at the same time expand God's kingdom. They work in holistic church planting, research and community development.

The Morrisons are based in Chimalhuacan, Mexico, on the outskirts of Mexico City. This is a slum area where there is a high rate of domestic abuse, poverty, violence and spiritual emptiness.

This is the second year Bob and Carmen have been in this ministry. Carmen's skills are being put to use by providing marriage counseling, parenting classes, and recovery guidance for the abused. Bob's work emphasis is in communications and fundraising aspects of the organization.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, Dec. 17
After each service.

Reorganization begins under new Bylaws

In 2018 there will be changes in the governing bodies of Shepherd of the Hills Church in keeping with the revised Bylaws accepted by the congregation on June 11, 2017.

Terms for deacons on the logistics ministry will be three years instead of one year. In order to establish a rotation the existing deacons will be elected this year for 1, 2 or 3 year terms. Terms for members of Consistory will be 3 years.

Names placed in nomination are:

Logistics: 1 year term: Mark Fryer, Denise Borchelt
2 year term: Jeannette Korchowsky, Debbie Ellwanger
3 year term: Ken Nase, Paul Little

Consistory:
2nd term—John Oister, elder; 1st term—Ken Nase, deacon



Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal schedule

December 16, 10—12 p.m.
December 20, 6:215—8:30 p.m.
December 23, 10—12 p.m.

Youth Club

Wednesdays, 6:15- 8:30 p.m.
4 years to Grade 6
Term 1 ends Dec. 6

H2O Youth

Wednesdays
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Shepherd's Den



Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Children & Youth

Toddler—2 yrs—Room 14
3 yrs—K—Room 12
Grades 1-6—Room 24
Grades 7-8—Library
(Confirmation Class)
Grades 9—12—Den

Adults

Adult—Music Room
Discussion—Parlor East
Spiritual growth—FH

Children's Church

Pre-K to Grade 4—every Sunday
during the 10:30 a.m. service.
Room 12



2018 Offering Envelopes will be on a table in the foyer until December 17. After that date please see Janet Smithson in the church office to obtain you envelopes. No envelopes will be mailed.

Reminder! Please do not use your 2018 envelopes until January 2018. Your envelope number may have changed.

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.

To receive credit for gifts in 2017 your contribution must be received by December 31. Gifts given after that date will be credited to 2018.

Shepherd of the Hills Christian Preschool will hold its Christmas program in the church sanctuary on Friday, December 15, 7:00 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend.

188 Christmas Stockings were sent to Metro Ministries in Brooklyn, NY on November 6. Many thanks to everyone who filled a stocking.

Winter weather cancellations will be announced on WBYN (FM 107.5) and Channel 69 (WFMZ) and www.wfmz.com. Please check these resources if weather is questionable.

Remember! We follow the Boyertown Area School District closings. If Boyertown Schools close all church events at Shepherd are also cancelled. (Note: Scouts and AA meetings are not church events and they make their own decisions.)

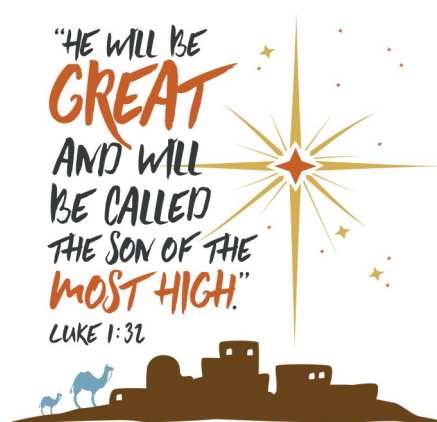
Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.
Traditional Service

10:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service

Wednesday Service

7:00 p.m.
Magnify!



SPOT-
LIGHT
ON...

Shepherd of the Hills Christian Preschool

Shepherd of the Hills Church takes significant effort to offer our community a high-quality Christian-based educational preschool for children, ages 3-5. The preschool is God centered, believing all truth is God's truth, and dedicated to helping parents prepare their children for Godly success in their faith, life and academic career. The mission of the Preschool is to work in partnership with families to foster the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical aspects, of each unique child.

Throughout the day, our dedicated staff guide young students through a carefully planned curriculum that includes reading, mathematics, learning to follow instructions and other skills designed to give children the tools they need when entering kindergarten. The preschool is a ministry of Shepherd of the Hills and is funded by the student tuitions and congregational support. It is governed by a school board consisting of dedicated church members.



Front (l-r): Suzanne Yonkovitch, Sandy Moser, Patti Wilkins, Kelsey Herman, Pat Mest
Rear (l-r): Keith Leonard, Denise Borchelt, Paul Little

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.