

Religion

John Murray; Roxanne Steil; Barry Issett; Judy Shelly; Fern Richard and David Rose.

The Rally Day celebration will be held at 9 a.m. in the church. Please bring a food-pantry item, Bible, and a friend.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Joint Services: Plan to join us for a very special celebration of the 190th Anniversaries of St. John's and Good Shepherd UCC as we share worship and a picnic on September 9. The early service at 7:45 a.m. will be at Good Shepherd with Pastor Pearson preaching and Pastor William Harner leading the liturgy.

Rally Day will be held at 9:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary with Phoebe the Folksinger, who will share her music and witness. The 10:30 service will be at St. John's with Dr. Merlin Conrad preaching and Pastor Wenzel leading the liturgy and Sister Millicent leading the prayers. A special feature of the later service will be recognition of four young men from Boy Scout Troop 512 who are receiving the God and Country Award.

Following the worship, a joint picnic will be held at the Boyertown Community Park. There are extra Picnic Congregational response forms in the Parish Narthex.

The Festival of Harvest Home will be celebrated on September 16. Please bring your food items, fresh produce and nonperishable items to church before 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 15.

St. John's new e-mail address is easier to remember: stjohenschurch@nni.com. The e-mail address of the pastors and staff remain the same.

St. John's 4th Annual Golf Outing: Sponsorship forms are available outside the church office on the table near the elevator.

The St. John's Women of the ELCA invite you to join them as they resume meetings on Monday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be an update on the new Salvation Army building and how it is being used to serve the Boyertown community and Doug and Patti Richwine's vision for the future. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for devotions and refreshments that will follow the program. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Cub Scout Pack 512 will begin their weekly meetings on Tuesday, September 25 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Boys in grades 1 through 5 are invited to join the fun.

There are many wonderful things planned for the upcoming year. If you are interested, plan to attend that evening or call Paula Smith at 610-369-4921.

Par for the course: Join us for a night of fun and miniature golf at Evergreen Miniature Golf Course on Saturday, September 29. For more information, call Phil Haddad at 610-367-1520.

The Golden Age Club is planning a bus trip to the Rainbow Dinner Theater in Lancaster for Wednesday, October 10 to see Agatha Christie's "Mysteries," a comedy-mystery show. For more information, call Robert Heinly at 610-367-8779.

Calvary United Church of Christ

Saturday, September 8: 75th Annual Vegetable Soup Supper from 3-7 p.m.

Sunday, September 9: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost - "Sacrament of Baptism, Harvest Home." 8 a.m. early service; 9 a.m. Sunday school; 10:15 a.m. worship; youth fellowship miniature golf trip in the evening.

Monday, September 10: Women's Guild trip to Chestnut Knoll at 7 p.m.; stewardship and evangelism meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, September 12: social ministries at 6:30 p.m.; Senior Choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 14: Renewal of vows rehearsal.

Saturday, September 15: Renewal of vows.

Morning Star Fellowship

The Convoy of Hop Outreach will take place at the Reading Area Community College North Parking Lot corner of Penn Street and N. Second Street in Reading on Saturday, September 8, 2001 starting at 11:00 a.m. Volunteers are to arrive at 7 a.m.

Marriage Ministry International will hold an outreach for engaged couples at Our Father's House in Pottstown starting at 7 p.m.

A Child Dedication Class will be held on Sunday, September 9 at 9 a.m. Pastor Liz DeFrain will present the class. Communion will be observed at the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, September 9.

The following members will join the church: Richard Bryan, Lynn Dorshimer, Beth Greenwood, James and Kim Miller, Renee Orobono and John Spencer.

On Wednesday, September 12, participants from Cleansing Stream

will meet at 6:30 p.m.

The AGX Youth Group, grades 7-12, meets on Sunday nights from 6-8 p.m.

Life Groups meet throughout the week.

For more information, please contact the church office at 610-369-1960 or look us up on the web at www.mstar.org.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rally Day will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sassamansville, on Sunday, September 9 at 9 a.m. This Rally Day will be the kick off for the "Heifer Project" 2001.

Services will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1809 Hoffmansville Road, Sassamansville, on Sunday, September 9 at 10:15 a.m. The Rev. George M. Harpel will conduct the service. Participating will be Marilee Cassidy, layreader; Brian and Ruth Miller, counters; Scott Cassidy, acolyte; Doris Moyer, crucifer; and the ushers for the service will be John and Thelma Simmons and Harold and Mary Moyer.

Thursday, September 13 at 7 p.m.,

Pastor Harpel will lead a Bible Study at the church. All are invited to attend this informative session.

Huff's Union Church

On September 9, Huff's Union Church, Hereford Township, will celebrate Rally Day. At 9 a.m., there will be a special Sunday school for all ages, with the children's division focusing on the theme of "fish." Worship, at 10:15 a.m., will be held outdoors. The service will focus on the joy of learning and the responsibility of teaching.

On September 16, the church will celebrate Harvest Home (the Pennsylvania Dutch Thanksgiving Festival) during its 10:15 a.m. worship service. The church will be specially decorated to emphasize our theme: Bumper Crop of Blessings. Children will process in, bearing produce, and later perform a skit entitled "Storehouse Full." Canned goods and produce donated at the worship service will be shared with Allentown Rescue Mission.

Saint Columbkil Church

Olivia Ruth Chaplin, daughter of

Jeffrey and Angela Chaplin; Kelsie Erin Hansell, daughter of Forde and Tracey Hansell, were recently welcomed to the parish family through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Our parish health ministry will hold its first Health Advisory meeting Monday, September 24 at 7 p.m. All health professionals are invited to join us as we continue to plan programs to bring to our parish family.

Our health ministry will again facilitate a grief share program to help persons deal with the losses in their lives. This is a 13-week program and those who attended last spring found it very helpful. It begins Tuesday, September 18 at 7 p.m. in room 202.

Our support group for parents or caregivers of special children is back and will have its first gathering on Wednesday, September 12 at 10 a.m. This support group will continue to meet here on the second Wednesday of each month. Call Toni Pederson at 610-367-9317 for more information.

An RCIA Information Night will be held Tuesday, September 25 at 7 p.m. in the Ehst Room. The program explores the teachings of the church and also the Catholic Formation way see RELIGION on 22

CHURCH DIRECTORY

For information call (610) 367-6041 or (610) 689-9558. Deadline is 12 Noon on Friday.



ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Morning Star Fellowship, 100 Limekiln Rd., Bechtelsville. Rev. Steven R. DeFrain, Senior Pastor; Rev. Bruce Borgard, Assistant Pastor; Rev. Paul Willman, Youth Pastor; Rev. Liz DeFrain, Administrator. Sunday Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. Children's Ministry and Nursery provided. AGX Youth Group (7th-12th grades) meets on Sunday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. L.I.F.E. Groups (small groups) meet throughout the week. Please call (610) 369-1960 for more information or look us up on the web at www.mstar.org.

BAPTIST

Grace Independent Baptist, 1204 Montgomery Ave., New Berlinville. Rev. Greg Wasser, pastor. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Sunday Services: 10:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting: Wednesday, 7 p.m. Awana Clubs (kindergarten thru sixth grade) Wednesday 7 p.m. Small group Bible studies for men and women meet throughout the week. For more information call 610-367-5955. www.GIBCHURCH.ORG.

New Covenant Baptist Church, N. Hanover & Prospect Sts., Pottstown. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 8:30 and 11 a.m. Youth group 4 p.m. Tom Brokaw, pastor, 610-323-0385. Family night Wed. 6:45 - 8 p.m.

CHARISMATIC

Harvest Fellowship, 584 Colebrookdale Road, Boyertown. Pastors Barry Parsons and Bill Wilson. Sunday: 9:30 a.m., Corporate Prayer: 10 a.m., Worship Service with Children's Ministry; Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts; Wednesday: 8 p.m. AA; Thursday: 7 p.m. Family Ministry for all ages; 2nd Saturday: 9 a.m. Food Pantry. Call the church at 610/367-2853 Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. for information regarding monthly Youth, Adult and Women's Fellowship events, special events, directions or other information.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Mechaya Mission, a non-denominational group. Welcomes you to their contemporary service on Saturday night at 7 p.m. Location 911 Swinbart Road. Watch for our sign on Rt. 100 and Grosser Road.

New Passion Church. Our purpose is to connect people to the passion of God! Join us on Saturday night at 6:30 p.m. Our Saturday Night Services are held at The Salvation Army, 409 S. Reading Ave., Boyertown. Please call 610-367-2255 or visit www.newpassion.com for more information.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Evans & Prospect St., Pottstown. Sunday school and worship service at 11:30 a.m. Effective May 27 to Sept. 2. Wednesday service includes Testimonies of Healing 7:30 p.m. Reading room open to the public Monday and Friday 1-4 p.m., Wednesday 7-8 p.m. 610-323-7388. www.spirituality.com

EPISCOPAL

St. Gabriel's Episcopal, Rt. 422 East, Douglassville. 610-385-3144. Summer Schedule: **Saturday:** Informal Holy Eucharist (Communion) in air-conditioned 1801 Chapel at 6 p.m. **Sunday:** Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10 a.m. Nursery care available during 10 A.M. service. Summer Sunday School for ages 3-9. **June 24-Aug. 26** at 10 a.m. Liturgy for people in recovery programs at 5:30 P.M. **Wednesday:** Healing Service with Eucharist, refreshments and Bible Study at 9 a.m. The Rev. Canon Calvin C. Adams, The Rev. Faith J. D'Urbano, The Rev. John Harvard and the parishioners of St. Gabriel's invite you to join them!

EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL

Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church, Swinehart Rd. & Second St. Rev. Kevin Leibensperger, Pastor. Sunday: Morning Worship Services 8, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m., with staffed nursery. Sunday School 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. Junior & Senior High Youth Group, Sunday 6 p.m. & Wednesday 6:45 p.m. Also Wednesday staffed nursery, Pioneer Clubs for ages two through 6th grade. 7 p.m. Adult Prayer & Bible Study.

INDEPENDENT

Grace Chapel, Megan Lane, Gilbertsville. Lord's Supper for believers, 9 a.m.; Bible ministry and Sunday school, 10:30 a.m., Sunday evening service, 6 p.m. Bible Study & Prayer Meeting, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. For more information call 610-369-1307.

Colebrookdale Chapel, Farmington Ave. and Greshville Rd., Boyertown. Pastor Raymond Leslie. Sunday, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School for all ages; 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Worship Services. Wednesday, 7 p.m., Midweek Prayer Service. Thursday, 7 p.m. Word of Life Teen Club; all 7th thru 12th grades welcome. Nursery for all services, 610-369-1111.

Hope Community Church. We desire it to serve you wherever you are in life, so come as you are to Boyertown Jr. High East Center, Route 73, Gilbertsville, for age-appropriate ministry and service at 10:30 a.m. Office: 2732 N. Charlotte St., Gilbertsville, 610-327-3722. Pastor Rick Knarr. All students grades 6-12 are welcome to join us on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Salvation Army, Boyertown for activities, music and life-relevant teaching.

Mountain View Chapel/Pastor Eshleman, Douglassville. Services 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sun. Call 610-326-5856. S.S. Avail. 68 Old Douglass Dr.

LUTHERAN

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran, 45 N. Reading Ave., Boyertown. Rev. John G. Pearson, Senior Pastor, Carl A. Wenzel, Associate Pastor, Sunday services, 8, 9:20 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday school 9:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship Sat. 6 p.m.

New Hanover Lutheran, 2941 Lutheran Road, Gilbertsville. Rev. Richard H. Elliott, S.T.M., Pastor. Susan P. Lynch, Associate Pastor. 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. Worship Services 7:45 & 10:15 (nursery care avail. during 10:15 service). Bible Study Thurs. at 9:30 a.m. For more information e-mail pastorr@cfast.net or call 610-326-1335. www.newhanoverlutheran.org.

St. Joseph's (Hill) Lutheran, 244 Koch Rd., Boyertown. Rev. Vicki L. Keller Pastor. Sunday service: 7:45 & 10 a.m.; Sunday school 8:45 a.m. Day-care and preschool call 610-367-1980. Church office 610-369-0990.

St. Luke Lutheran Church, 35 Wilson Avenue, Gilbertsville. Pastor Christopher L. Weidner. Worship service: 7:45 & 10:15 a.m. Sunday School: 9 a.m. Call 610-367-9738.

Christ Lutheran Church, 222 Niantic Rd. Barto (1-1/2 mi. off Rt. 100 from Longacre's Dairy). Sunday Worship, 7:45 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.*; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; *Nursery for preschoolers. (610) 845-2583. Website: www.christniantic.com

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Route 73 and Neiffer Road, Obelisk, (5 mi. east of Gilbertsville) Rev. James Shelly, 610-754-7762. September 9: Communion Service, 8 a.m.; Rally Day Program in the Church, 9 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:15 a.m. (nursery provided) You are welcome! St. Luke's website is: www.stlukesobelisk.com.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 325 Covered Bridge Rd., Oley. Rev. Robert R. Mitchell, Jr., pastor. Sunday church school, 9 a.m.; worship, 10:15 a.m. Nursery available. 610-689-5296, parsonage.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1749 S. Main St., Bechtelsville. Rev. Eugene C. Zaiser, Pastor. 9 a.m. Sunday School and 10:15 a.m. Worship. Service. Church office, 610-369-1281.

St. Paul's Lobach's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lobachsville Road, (on top of hill overlooking Lobachsville). The Rev. Charles A. Adami Jr., Pastor. Church office ph. 610-987-3321. Sunday School for all ages 9 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Everyone welcome.

MENNONITE

Oley Valley Mennonite Church, (Rt. 662 nr. Oley Tnkp.), Oley, S.S. 9:30 am; Worship 10:30 am. Call for caring activities: 610-987-3315. Pastor Dave Bartow: DAVEWINB@AOL.COM.

Bally Mennonite Church, Rt. 100 Bally. Sunday service 10 a.m.; Sunday School 9 a.m.; Home Bible studies, youth program boys and girls clubs. Call 610-845-7780 for details.

Boyertown Mennonite, 275 Mill St., Boyertown. Pastor Nelson Shenk. 610-369-1974. (on the hill with WBYN Radio Station). Sunday School 9 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m. Wednesday Youth Club (Grades 1-12), 5:15-7:30 p.m. Monthly Youth (8th-12th Grade) meetings. Monthly small group activities.

Hereford Mennonite Church of Bally. Bob Gerhart, pastor. The brick church with the oak trees. Sunday School at 9; Worship at 10:15. Call 610-845-2429 for other activities.

Ark Bible Chapel, 88 Woodchoppertown Rd., Boyertown (Earl Twp.). Karl Glick, Pastor. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Wednesday 7 p.m. Bible Study for all ages. Phone 610-689-5862.

METHODIST

St. Andrew United Methodist, Swamp Creek Road, New Berlinville. Rev. J. Donald Zeiter. All Sunday School classes, 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

New Hanover United Methodist, 2211 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville. Rev. David M. Lewis. Worship Services 8, 9 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. Phone (610) 323-2353.

PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian Church, 750 N. Evans St., Pottstown. 610-326-0620. Rev. W. Carter Lester Jr. and Rev. Karen Pidecock-Lester, Co-Pastors. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m., Worship: 10:30 a.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St. Columbkil, 200 Indian Spring Road, Boyertown. Father Robert C. Quinn, pastor; Father Edward Essig, parochial vicar. Weekend Masses: Saturdays at 5 p.m., Sundays at 7:30, 9 and 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon. 9 a.m. in the chapel. Confessions each Saturday from 4 to 5 p.m. Baptisms on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

Most Blessed Sacrament, 610 Pine St., Bally. Msgr. Edward Coyle. Father Michael Briggman, Pastor Emeritus. Sunday Masses: 6, 7:30 and 10:15 a.m.; Saturday 4:30 p.m. (preceded by Rosary at 4 p.m.)

Daily masses 6:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday & Friday; 7 p.m. on Tuesday & Thursday; 8 a.m. on Saturday. First Friday Mass at 6:30 a.m. Reconciliation: Saturdays 3-4 p.m. and before weekday evening masses.

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sundays, 1 p.m. (arranged in advance).

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1565 South Keim Street, Pottstown. September 9: Ingathering Sunday. Responsibility: to What? to Whom? Lay Assistant: Bob Hakin. Worship Service at 10 a.m. Minister Greta Brown. Religious education for all ages including nursery. For more information call 610-327-2662 or visit our web site at: members.aol.com/uupottstown

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Good Shepherd UCC, 35 W. Philadelphia Ave., Boyertown. Rev. Dr. Merlin Conrad, interim sr. pastor; Rev. William E. Harner Jr., Pastor of visitation. Sunday services 7:45 a.m. & 10:20 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. 610-367-2842.

Shepherd of the Hills UCC, 527 Hoffmansville Rd., Bechtelsville. Rev. Vernon Stoop. Sunday services: 8 and 10:15 a.m. Sunday Church School 9 a.m.

Salem UCC, 307 Covered Bridge Rd., Oley. Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy, pastor. 610-385-8895. Worship 10:15 a.m.; Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Mondays: Quilters & Crafters Group, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Calvary UCC, 1231 Route 100, Barto. 1-1/2 miles south of Bally, Rev. Homer E. Royer Jr. Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship, 10:15 a.m.

St. John-Hill UCC, RD #4, (Pike Township), Boyertown. Rev. James W. Rogers. Sunday worship, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Historic Church, serving today's people.

Falkner Swamp Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ, 2077 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville. 610-323-4053. Rev. Dr. Donald E. Moyer, Pastor. Sunday Worship, 9 a.m. with nursery hour.

Thoughts for this moment



Ministry to the Ageing



John B. Brown, Jr.
Minister of Counseling,
Shepherd of the Hills UCC,
Bechtelsville

The older adult population of our country is increasing rapidly. Average life expectancy is 77, and there are 4.2 million men and women over 85 years of age in the United States. This represents 12.6% of our nation's population.

For those who do not value the elderly this is a problem. Some suggest that health care for older adults be limited. Other, more radical approaches, advocate physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia for certain chronic or terminal conditions. Not surprisingly, among families caring for older adults who reflect this view there has been a substantial increase in elder abuse.

The Christian approach in contrast, is shaped by an attitude of respect, a determination to speak out on the behalf of older adults, to protest any and all kinds of abuse, and by upholding their value and place in our families, churches and communities. This view is stated clearly in the Bible: "Show respect for old people and

honor them. Reverently obey me; I am the Lord" (Lev. 19.32) The Bruderhof, a Christian community in western Pennsylvania, is noted for its love for the handicapped and the elderly, whom they view not as problems, but as individuals to be treasured, whose wisdom and experience can be shared throughout their lives.

Our community and our churches can minister to the elderly and older adults by calling upon them for their help and insight, by showing hospitality to them, and enjoying their company. And what would happen if each congregation in the Boyertown area were to adopt a local nursing home, and encourage their entire membership to become involved in paying regular visits to the particular home their congregation should adopt? Such ministries would help give life to a comment of bioethicist John Kilner, "In God older people do not have a hopeless end, they have an endless hope."

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