“Developing Spiritually”

Christmas 2013 at Howard was fantastic. The weather may have been a little rough at times, but the changes and the celebrations were energetic and transformational. Special thanks to Allison and Tim Wian, Mike and Tracy Beck, andPhil Ponisht for bringing us a blessing in the Bethlehem Morning musical. More thanks go to Patty Masden and Nancy Fishburn for working with our children and offering the Cowboy Christmas musical. We also want to recognize Shirley Salmon and Sara Hoy for coordinating the dedication for the Poinsettias. Shawnee Gardner deserves our thanks and as always laid out a great spread for our Christmas fellowship meal. There were many servants behind the scenes for the musical, the children’s program, and for Christmas Eve that deserve thanks. Your servant hearts are truly a testimony of your faith and love for Jesus.

On the horizon is 2014. In the year we are going to strive to develop spiritually. We will work our “listening” to God. The early believers were passionate about listening to God and developing in their faith. Acts 2:42 states; “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” In the weeks and months ahead, we are going to follow their example and passionately devote ourselves to listening to the Apostles’ teaching, to fellowship, to declaring the Lord’s death until He returns, and to daily prayer.

January’s sermons are as follows:

January 5 – An Introduction (Acts) Chuck Salmon Preaching
January 12 – The Apostle’s Teaching (Acts 20:7-12)
(Saturday, Jan. 18th 7:30 AM– Men’s Breakfast at HCC & Ladies Breakfast at the Café.)
(Sunday, Jan. 19th – Widow/Widowers Luncheon)
January 26 – The Breaking of Bread (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

Wednesday evening will resume on January 8th with events for children, youth, and adults. The adult study will engage in DVD teaching and discussion on “what we believe.” A new year opens opportunities for new choices and development. The elders and I are thrilled with the love and servants hearts of Howard Christian Church. The horizon of 2014 holds opportunities to develop spiritually. Please join me in making spiritual formation a matter of prayer and mark your calendars for wonderful things to come.

You know I love ya,

Don
**January Birthdays**

1. Jim Masden
2. James Peters
3. Karen Crane
4. Keith Rogers
5. Allie Sheaffer
6. Julie Fritz
7. Marcia Kerschner
8. Cory Corman
9. Jodi Niedig
10. Lillian Fishburn
11. Russell Holter
12. Dominique Rhine
13. Danielle Miller
14. Connie Litz
15. Darla Johnson
16. Kendra Stauffer
17. Carol Etters
18. Sarah Martin
19. Kathryn Gordon
20. Debra Kotzur
21. Kevin Johnson
22. Christina Kling
23. Anita Masden
24. Lori Bechdel
25. Whitney Burchfield
26. Michele Ardner
27. Mayleen Brown
28. Sonny Etters, Jr.
29. June Gatten

**January Anniversaries**

9. Don & Karen Crane
10. Doyle & Maxine Richner

*Please call the church office with any*

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**ATTENDANCE & OFFERING**

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**Sisters In Christ**

**Knitting Night**

January 7th
6:30 p.m.

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**Getting To Know You**

We are pleased to start a 2014 column on the “getting to know your community and your church” by Russell Holter. Each month, Russell will be adding a brief article so as to increase the relational awareness we have as a church family. The following is the first edition and you can look for new connections every month.

**HOLTER FAMILY**

George Holter was born near Oslo, Norway, circa 1750. There is not much known of his early life, other than he was an optimist - always hoping for a better life. He worked in vineyards, earning enough money for passage to America in 1768 (sailing from Germany.) He landed in Annapolis, Maryland and later settled in Frederick County Maryland where he spent the rest of his days.

George Holter served in the Revolutionary War and rose to the rank of Captain before the war ended. In the mid nineteen hundreds, a bronze plaque was placed on his grave.

George married Margaret Arnold in 1776 and was blessed with nine children. Two children, Jacob and Catherine, migrated to Central Pennsylvania in 1800.

Jacob (1776-1861) married and had two daughters. His first wife died and he then married Catherine Neff and they were greatly blessed with thirteen children.

Jacob had a blacksmith shop in the narrows east of Howard and later farmed.

Reverend Henry Holter was the last Mennonite minister of a log church build in 1812. In 1913 the railroad company purchased the property and removed the building. Rev. Holter died in 1887.

To be continued next month….
How About Your Relationship with Jesus?

Shirley and I spent a couple days in San Antonio one Christmas weekend. The day after Christmas, we made the mistake of going to the Walmart to buy a few items. The store was still crowded, even though it was late. The checkout lines were long and the employees were exhausted. As a shopping day, I definitely don’t recommend the day after Christmas! We stood in line for about forty minutes. Two young men chatted in front of us, mostly in Spanish. I observed their faces, read their jackets, and half listened to their conversation. My Spanish is hardly adequate to call it eavesdropping. The wait seemed interminable, but finally we arrived at the checkout. As the young men picked up their purchases to leave, I said to one of them, "I think I’ll miss you. We’ve been in this line together so long I feel like I know you personally." He flashed me a good natured smile and went on his way.

Our relationship was brief, impersonal, and shallow. I might have recognized their faces if I saw them again the next day, but I won’t remember them for long. I don’t know their names, don’t speak their language very well, and I doubt I will ever meet them again.

It occurs to me a lot of folk have just such a relationship with Jesus. They have met Him briefly but know little about Him, are seldom found in the same place with Him, and don’t know how to speak to Him. It’s sad because they are missing a great blessing. Most of us believe there is a God, recognize our need for a Savior, and want to live a better life. However, living in relationship with Christ requires a little more effort than most are willing to expend for the purpose. We are so busy providing for our needs and those of our families, enjoying God’s blessings, and planning for the future we have little time left to invest in our relationship with God. We have our priorities set in reverse order.

Jesus said, "But seek first (the Father’s) kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matt 6:33-34 NIV.) As we begin the new year of 2014, let us, as best we can, heed this admonition of Scripture; "set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." Col 3:1-2. I believe, to the degree we are able to accomplish this.

God will bless us with the peace and courage which comes from His Spirit. Begin this new year with God and begin it with confident faith.

Luv Ya,
Bro. Chuck

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Prayer List
Immediate Requests
Charles Aber, Jr-surgery
Don Aber-severe health issues
Jeff Bell-recovery
Lynn Causey-breathing problems
Ethan Cleaver-health issues
Family of Shannon Davy
May Â Falls-Pneumonia
Teresa Geiser-blood clot in arm
Joe Harvey-work accident
Craig Hunter-salvation
Vaughn Johnson-health issues
James Landucci-back surgery
Relda Lyons-cancer, surgery
Vaughn Lyons-foot surgery recovery
James Peters-stroke
Erin Puissegur-surgery recovery
Keith Stevens-surgery recovery
Jacob Stiles-health concerns
Jared Strunk-decisions
Jennifer Tice-health issues
Lisa Vale-surgery recovery
Family of Jamie Van Orden

Ongoing Requests
Those with unspoken needs
The Elders and congregation
Emma Andrews-health/pain issues
Mike Confer-chemo
Darla Johnson-active transplant list
Colton Stauffer-infant w/health issues
Our College Students
Our Troops
Alissa Womer-health concerns
Alexis Womer-health concerns
Karen Yeomans-ready for dialysis

Praise God For
Jesus- Our Savior
Our Church Family
Our Teachers & Missionaries

Please direct Prayer Chain calls to Barb Snyder at 814-264-8037 or 468-1112.

To add someone to the Prayer List contact Nancy at the church at 625-2764.

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Serving in the Military

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<tr>
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<td>Jeremy Stover-Japan</td>
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MEN'S BREAKFAST

JANUARY 18TH
7:30 A.M.

Marsh Creek sausage and Pon Haus will be served, so come out and enjoy!

Widow & Widowers Dinner

Sunday, January 19th
after morning services at
Howard Christian Church.

The dinner is free, but please sign up and let us know you are coming by Sunday, January 12th.

Ladies’ Breakfast
Saturday
January 18th at 7:30 a.m.
@ The Cafe