



**December
2013**

**Plains
Presbyterian
Church**

**Serving the
community
since 1806**

Plains Presbyterian Church



326 Plains Church Road
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066
724-538--8785
plains@zoominternet.net
www.plainschurch.com

**Inside this
issue:**

Worship	2
Prayer Requests	2
History Corner	3
From the Deacons	4
Session Highlights	5-6
Calendar	8
Kids Zone	9

As we approach this season called Advent, we will ponder the meaning of things yet to be as we wait for Christmas carols and the giving of presents and especially for the birth of our King. As we gather as the body of Christ known as Plains Presbyterian Church, we will gather in expectant hope for all that we have seen in the past, for all that we are seeing now, and for all that we will see in the future as God continues to move and reveal more of Himself as the world continues to seek confidence in life away from the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Life will change. It always does, and it always has. As the Psalmist reminds us, *“God is our Refuge and Strength, an ever-present Help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.”* (Psalm 46) Therefore, we wait in expectant hope for our Prophet to return.

As we wait for the day when every knee will bow and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, may we gather and wait in that wonderful peace that passes all understanding. In this day and age, as peace seems to be so elusive and missing from most of our lives, may we learn that Jesus Christ offers us His peace. From John 14:27, *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”* Therefore, we wait in wonderful peace for our Priest to return.

As we gather and wait for the day when our mourning shall be turned into dancing, may we wait with those whose lives may look torn and battered on the outside but whose eyes sparkle with an unexplainable joy that only Christ can give. It is not a joy that ignores what the world is like; it is a joy that knows deep in the heart that there is One who has overcome the world, and there is something better on the other side. Therefore, we wait as those who have the full measure of Christ’s joy within us for our King to return.

As we wait for Christmas day and we shop and prepare our homes for family and friends to visit, may we wait in the extraordinary love that knows without a doubt that *“Greater love has no one than this that He lay down His life for His friends.”* (John 15:13) Love knows no bounds. Love offers all and casts out fear. It soothes hearts and speaks truth to promote healing. Love keeps no records of wrongs. May we remember that God is love, a love that sacrifices everything just to claim us as His. This sacrificing love is where we should measure our lives as we serve and give in this season of waiting. Therefore, we wait in extraordinary love for our Savior to return.

Yes, Advent means waiting, and so we wait with expectant hope, wonderful peace, unexplainable joy, and extraordinary love for Christmas day...a day to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

May Christ fill your days with hope, peace, joy and love!

Kimberly



MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 1 ~ Communion

9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

December 8

9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

December 15~ Heifer Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
Christmas Party

December 22

9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

December 24~ Christmas Eve

7:00 pm Candlelight Service

December 29

9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

Helping with Worship This Month

Worship Leaders	Greeters	Nursery Workers
01 The Roscoe Family	01 Tony P. & Frank Leisie	01 Norah Collins
08 The Solman Family	08 Eunice G. & Joann Bark	08 Melissa Holcomb
15 The Holcomb Family	15 Jay & Bonnie Carmichael	15 Cathy Stafford
22 TBA	22 Denise K. & Barb R.	22 Kathy & Ron Carter
24 The Carter Family	24 TBA	24
29 TBA	29 Steve & Dena Solman	29 Dena & Steve Solman

Elder of the Month

Tony Poleti

Deacon of the Month

Amy Roscoe



Please keep our Elders and Deacons in your prayers as they lead Plains into the future.

- Jack Bark • Leeann & her husband • Bob Glaspey
- Angela Kushner's husband, Bob • Thomas Parry
- Armel & Jean Treese • Jan Freehling • Ruth Rausch
- Betty Lehman • Elizabeth Rausch • Linda Treese
- Eunice's sister, Nancy • Heather
- Brian Lockhart (a friend of Ethan's)
- Cindy, a co-worker of Frank Alois
- Ron & Meredith Cox • Jasmine & Jordan Showers
- Ron Carter's father, John • Judy (Schwenke) Mraz
- For safe travels for all who are traveling this holiday season.
- Our friends who are in assisted living: Howard Reed, Marilyn Stamp, Bob Ronksley and Gibbie Sponsler



Dec. 8	Mary Jo Harris
Dec. 9	Mary Walter
Dec. 13	Wanda Rice
Dec. 15	Howard Reed
Dec. 20	Frank Leisie
Dec. 29	Bailey Leisie
Dec. 30	Raymond Walter
Dec. 31	Kailey McCune & Mark Daniel Spilsbury

Dec. 1	Bruce & Denise Kremmel
Dec. 14	John & Paulette Ivancik



History Corner



Collections for 1 year in 1876 = \$600

Pastor Salaries Annually

1872 - \$400

1873 - \$500

1877 - \$700 $\frac{3}{4}$ time

1894 - \$500

1896 - \$400 $\frac{1}{2}$ time

Communicant Membership

As Reported to Presbytery

1866 – 162

1872 – 144

1873 – 140

1876 – 215

1878 – 231

1883 – Evans City Church organized

1889 – 160

1890 – 130 Callery Church organized

1892 – 125

Plains Family Christmas Tea

Please join your church family as we celebrate the birth of Jesus at our annual **Christmas Tea!** Immediately following the worship service on Sunday, December 15th, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for delicious tea sandwiches, a variety of teas, and scrumptious desserts. Please look for a sign-up/food donation sheet in the narthex in the next week. We would also like to feature some good ole Christmas entertainment during our Tea – whether you have a special talent or a unique talent YOU think is special, we'd love to have you perform. ☺ From singing and instruments to skits and poems, anything goes! Please contact Steve and Dena Solman (412-364-4144 or ssolman@verizon.net) with any questions.



We will see YOU at the Christmas Tea!!

It's Christmas lunch out for the ladies of Plains...

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 at NOON

at the North Park Lounge,
Rt. 19 in Cranberry.



Let Bev Magill or Joann Bark know by Sunday, December 1 if you can be there. If anyone needs a ride, let Bev know and we will meet in the church parking lot.

LOOKING AHEAD to 2014 -----

The 'Greeter', 'Liturgist', and 'Nursery Hour' volunteer listings from 2013 are available in the narthex. If you would like to add your name, please do so and thank you. If you find it necessary to remove your name, cross it out and initial. These are important aspects of our Worship Service and your help and participation is very much appreciated.

*The "un-decorating" party will be Sunday,
January 5th immediately after the Service.*

Pizza & pop will be served.

Many Thanks.....

A BIG thanks from the Youth Group for supporting our fundraiser luncheon! Almost \$400 was donated. We are overwhelmed by our church family's generosity! Thanks to your donations, we are able to plan fun youth group retreats, like last weekend's retreat to Westminster Highlands. We had a blast!



A Big Thank You From the Deacons



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!! The Deacons want to thank everyone for their incredibly generous donations to Operation Christmas Child. We delivered 69 beautiful boxes to Three Rivers Free Will Baptist Church on November 19th, and soon they will be putting smiles on the faces of children all over the world. Thank you to everyone who attended the wrapping party, who filled our giant box to overflowing with donations, who dropped off even more boxes, who cleaned out their closets and donated all those great shoeboxes, who prayed and continue to pray for Operation Christmas Child. Plains Church is an amazing and giving congregation. Thank you again for all that you do!



The Deacons would also like to thank everyone for their generous donations of food items for the Evans City Food Bank this year.

Plains Presbyterian Church

Session Highlights

September 2013

Session met on Monday, September 16, 2013. Here are some of the highlights of that meeting.

September 1st communion was served to 44 people, (39 juice and 5 wine). Home communion was served to 2 people by Rev. Kimberly and Elder Ron Carter.

August was a poor giving month (typically August is a poor giving month, but this year was worse than normal).

There will probably be a need to pull back on committee budgets next year.

Operation Christmas Child in full swing.

Successful Rally Day and consecration of the Sunday School teachers was on September 8, 2013.

Sunday school has begun as of September 15, 2013

Exploring opportunities for Youth collaboration between churches (starting with Rev. Paul Merrill meeting this week, September 19th).

Acquired woodchips for playground from Symanski Landscaping, Carpets in church and Christian Ed building were cleaned, Upstairs windows in Christian Ed building were cleaned, Holes in driveway repaired, New dishwasher in manse installed, Exterminator removed bees from CNS closet and attic.

Next Regular Session Meeting – October 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy G. Roscoe
Clerk of Session



Attention Committee members:

Please get your annual committee reports ready and give to Jodell in December for the Annual Report. Thank you!

Session meeting: December 16 at 7pm

Deacons meeting: December 18 at 7pm

Plains Presbyterian Church

Session Highlights

October 2013

Session met on Monday, October 21, 2013. Here are some of the highlights of that meeting.

There may be a need to move some of the New Covenant Fund to cash later this year. Along with that, there will probably be a need to pull back on committee budgets next year.

Cranberry Chorale – thank you and donation received from them.

Reviewed the 2014 Budget Projections.

Deacons are continuing their plans for “Operation Christmas Child”. Collection of items for the gifts boxes continues, and a “wrapping” party will be held at the church.

Farewell Service and Luncheon for Allen Frederick went well.

Women of Faith was a successful time of worship and fellowship for the women.

CNS Event Dates for 2013/2014 finalized.

Session approved the use of the church by the Mom’s Club on October 22nd and December 12th.

Stewardship Cards will be completed and ready for distribution to church members.

Saturday, November 30th – Hanging of the Greens for the Christmas season.

Sunday, January 5th – Un-decoration of the Church.

Communion scheduled for December 1, 2013 (First Sunday of Advent).

Additional Communion will occur on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Sunday. To be determined.

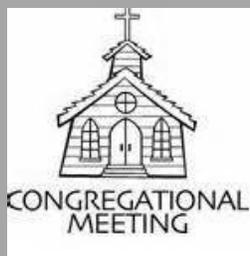
Elders retreat at Presbytery Office on Saturday, November 2nd (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – lunch will be provided).

Policy and Procedure Manual (example from Park Presbyterian Church) and Policy on Sexual Misconduct and Child Protection (example from Presbyterian Church USA) brought to meeting by the Personnel Committee.

Next Regular Session Meeting – November 18, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Solman
Temporary Clerk for this Session Meeting



There will be a Congregational Meeting Part I scheduled in December. Please look for the announcement in future bulletins.



CNS News

This year the students at CNS celebrated a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving featuring popcorn and toast. Rather than a lavish feast, during the month of November they were busy collecting non-perishable food for the Evans City Food Cupboard. Students and families “fed” the turkey their donations as they arrived each morning. Even at the age of 3-5, the children understand the importance of giving to others. Thanks to everyone who made this service project a huge success.



Please note:

Registration for the 2014-2015 school year will begin December 6th and open registration will begin January 6th.

Support local crafters and vendors

2nd Annual

Harvest Home Craft Fair

Dec 7 th

9:00AM-4:00PM



Featuring

SATARA RUSTIC FURNITURE, 2013 PITTSBURGH HOME SHOW,

MARY KAY COSMETICS, PAMPERED CHEF, WILLOW TEAS, beautiful handmade knitted scarves and baby items, jewelry from sterling silver semi-precious settings to fun costume jewelry, lighted bottles and blocks, handturned pens and pencils and delicious German baked goods...to name a few. Sandwich Shop and Chinese Auction.

Plains Presbyterian Church 326 Plains Church Rd, Cranberry Township, Pa

For directions, a complete list of vendors and info go to www.plainschurch.com or call 724-538-8785



Brayan Jukumari, holds one of the family's Goats in Bolivia.

Baryl Atieno Onyango, milks one of her families goats in Kenya.

Please help Heifer International make our 2013 Kids 2 Kids Campaign a success.

Kids 2 Kids in Kenya

You've learned why goats are uniquely suited to help families in need. And because you care about Heifer's mission to end hunger and poverty, you understand that quite often, it's the gift of goats that empowers a family toward self-reliance.

This is Baryl Onyango. When she reached her first birthday, she weighed just 11 pounds—less than half the average weight for a child that age.

Today, won't you please help support struggling families around the world by providing the most generous gift you can?

Baryl's family lives in Western Kenya. Her parents, Stephen and Phoebe, used to earn less than \$2 a day, and meals in the Onyango family were inadequate. Baryl and her three siblings were malnourished. Malaria was another danger, as the family couldn't afford to buy a mosquito net.

Your 2013 Kids 2 Kids Campaign gift can help a child with a glass of nutritious milk today, an education tomorrow and the chance for a bright and prosperous future!

But then everything changed for Baryl and her siblings, when her parents received three goats from Heifer International and caring supporters like you!

Please, take just a moment now to make the most generous gift you can in support of kids around the world. Thank you!

The goats have provided fresh milk for the children to drink, manure that has brought their vegetable gardens to life and a sustainable source of income. Baryl and the other children are healthy and well-fed, they sleep protected by mosquito nets at night and they can afford to send them to school.

To find out more about Heifer programs, visit our website at www.heifer.org/kids.

The perfect combination for health, hope and happiness!

Phoebe is profoundly grateful to Heifer supporters like you for this gift of goats. "I am very thankful for what they did for my life," she says. "May God bless them so that they can help others."

When you make a gift to Heifer's Kids 2 Kids Campaign, you help support children in need, just like precious little Baryl.



1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72202
www.heifer.org/kids

Heifer Kids to Kids:

Donations for the Heifer Kids to Kids Campaign are being collected in Oct, Nov and Dec. If every member of the congregation gives \$2.00 each month, we can give 3 goats..kids... to “kids” in Kenya, the Philippines and Bolivia. Please mark your check or envelope, Heifer goats. Thank you for giving the children health, hope and happiness.

December 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service Communion	2 CNS closed	3	4	5	6	7 Harvest Home Craft Fair: 9am-4pm
8 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service Heifer Sunday Christmas Tea Party- after service	16 7:00 pm Session mtg.	17	18 7:00 pm Deacons mtg.	19	20	21
22 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	23	24 7:00 pm	25 Office is closed	26	27	28
29 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	30	31 				

Deacons Sponsor Christmas Joy Offering

What is the Christmas Joy Offering?

For more than 70 years, Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas to support the unmet needs of families who have devoted their lives to the mission of the Presbyterian Church. Today this Offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical assistance to Presbyterian church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling. Please watch for the bulletin inserts and more information. The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected through Christmas Eve. Thank you for your generous support of the Christmas Joy Offering.

HOW YOU CAN GIVE

GIVE through your church		Text JOY to 20222 \$ 10
---------------------------------------	--	---

www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy

On Christmas Eve, the loose offering is designated for the Deacons. Because of your generous gifts, the Deacons have been able to help families in need and to support many charities, including the Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Thank you so much.





Christian Christmas - Word Jumble

Unscramble the letters using the words from the word bank below.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| 1. VISROA | _____ | 11. MALEC | _____ |
| 2. NGELA | _____ | 12. DPREHSEH | _____ |
| 3. YRAM | _____ | 13. LHEHTEEMB | _____ |
| 4. ODNYKE | _____ | 14. REMGNA | _____ |
| 5. ISKNG | _____ | 15. RASTW | _____ |
| 6. HEJOPS | _____ | 16. PEEKNNRIE | _____ |
| 7. NAECDL | _____ | 17. TSRA | _____ |
| 8. BHTRI | _____ | 18. YTSPoiHLIR | _____ |
| 9. AVENHE | _____ | 19. SUJES | _____ |
| 10. SINAMEW | _____ | 20. SEDSBLE | _____ |

angel	star	birth	Savior
candle	wiseman	donkey	Holy Spirit
Jesus	camel	Heaven	straw
manger	shepherd	innkeeper	kings
Mary	Bethlehem	Joseph	blessed



**Plains Presbyterian
Church**

326 Plains Church Road
Cranberry Township, PA
16066 Phone: 724-538-8785
E-mail: plains@zoominternet.net
www.plainschurch.com

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“As disciples of Christ, we share the gospel
with one another and the community.

We are committed to growth in the
knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Holy
Spirit through worship, study, teaching, and
fellowship.”



**Christmas
Eve
Candlelight
Service**

**December 24th at
7:00pm**