

THE

FELLOWSHIP INFORMER

Stephens City Mennonite Church
December 2008

Worship Schedule

- December** 7 - The comforting face of God
14 - The restoring face of God
21 - The indwelling face of God
28 - The embracing face of God
- January** 4 - The welcoming face of God
11 - Ekklesia
18 - Communion
24 & 25 - Missions Festival
(focus on Bolivia)

“Christmas Gift Suggestions:

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart. To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.”

Christmas Caroling

December 21 @ 3:00 pm we will go caroling in the community including places like Bon Air Home for the Elderly and other individual homes where elderly people are residing. We plan to return to the church by 5:00 pm for a light supper of soup and cookies and hot chocolate.

Christmas Eve Candlelight service

A one-act play called COME TO THE STABLE will be performed on December 24th @ 7:00 pm. There will be a play practice on **December 16** at the church at **6:00 pm**.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!



LIKE A STONE ON THE SURFACE OF A STILL RIVER, DRIVING THE RIPPLES ON FOREVER. REDEMPTION RIPS THROUGH THE SURFACE OF TIME IN THE CRY OF A TINY BABY.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 5: Larry Herstam
- 6: Sandra Snodgrass
- 7: Jacob Neff
- 8: Carol Lazer
- 9: Sean Higgins
- 12: Mikeal Neff
- 16: Rick Heisey
- 18: Matthew Heisey
- 23: *Tim and Heather Myers, 1995*
- 28: *Rick and Nancy Heisey, 1974*
- 31: *Jeff and Shannon Neff*

PRAYERS for SCMC

Advent is a time of waiting. How appropriate for our church to also be in a waiting period where we are discerning how we can be faithful followers to God's call for our body at this time.

Prov. 3:5-6 --- God, Keep us open to your direction

Isaiah 42 - I will make a way--- God of new birth, give us grace to recognize the new things which need to be born in our personal lives and in our church.

Give us the courage to make changes which involve risk.

Remind us that YOU, the Living God, are working among us even though we may not see immediate indications of your work.

You, God, have walked with us through this growing process --- Give us a clear sign of the next step we need to take.

Help us have teachable spirits. We acknowledge that you are with us.

Help us learn from our past. In your word we have witnessed that at times a leap of faith into uncharted territory can set new directs and result in surprising fruitfulness.

You are a God of surprises ---You can make the impossible, possible---- the unthinkable, thinkable.

We believe your breath dwells in us --- breathe life into the solution of the decision before us.

December 11, 2008 is our next congregational prayer gathering to be held at the church.



Sherando Choir Christmas Concert Schedule:

Sunday, Dec. 7th - Woodstock Christian Church 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 14th - Market Street United Methodist Church -
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 16th - Sherando High School - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21st - Capon Bridge Christian Church - 5:00 p.m.

If you need more information or directions, please contact Eunice Myers at 869-6852.

The social events committee, composed of Jim Musser, Denny Myers and Pat Spory, has been busily planning some activities for SCMC to enjoy together. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend! Most activities are planned for Friday evenings.

Friday, January 9th: coffeehouse at SCMC. We will gather upstairs. Activities available that evening will include drama improvisation led by Chris Whitney, karaoke (if we can borrow a machine--contact a committee member if you have access to one), poetry readings, and board games. Coffee, tea and lemonade will be provided; bring flavorings if you would like to add some to your coffee. Plan to bring a snack to share, and soda if you wish to have some.

Friday, February 20th: Indoor game night at SCMC. Bring a snack to share as well as your board games. We will enjoy some games with the whole group, then will have time to break into smaller groups for board games.

March: Gym night on a Friday, date to be determined based on availability of a local gym. We'll play volleyball and indoor horseshoes, maybe other games as space and time allow.

April: Bike hike on a Saturday after Easter.

Friday, May 15th: Family gameshow night, patterned after the Newlyweds Gam format but possibly involving kids and parents instead of spouses.

Sunday, June 14th : picnic and hike at Blandy Arboretum in Clarke County.

Saturday, July 25th: Church picnic under the pavilion, including homemade ice cream. Outdoor games after the picnic and the game Sardines played outside when it is dark.

Other ideas for future fun: movie night, swim night, valentine event, team acting/building activities, hymn sing, skills night, mountain hiking, trip to Isaac Walton League site in Warren County. Please contact a member of the committee if you have other ideas.

The FELLOWSHIP INFORMER is a monthly publication of Stephens City Mennonite Church. Submissions can be made to Doug ZehrVogt via church mailbox or at dougzv@verizon.net by the last Sunday of each month.

To view past issues, please visit www.stephenscitymennonite.com