



*Poinsettias will again be used for the poinsettia tree and to decorate the sanctuary this December. Anyone wishing to purchase a plant may do so by completing the form below and returning it to the church office or placing it in the offering plate. Each plant is \$10.00 and checks payable to Paxton Presbyterian Church must accompany each order. **The deadline to place an order is Sunday, December 4, 2011.***

**WORDING OF DEDICATION:**

**IN MEMORY OF:**

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**IN HONOR OF:**

-----

**PLACED  
BY:** -----

**AMOUNT  
ENCLOSED** -----

**NUMBER OF PLANTS** -----



# THE PACE

DECEMBER 2011—JANUARY 2012

Dear Friends,

On Monday evenings during Advent there is a group of people who meet in the church parlor to pray. Our study guide is a book by Patricia Farris, "Shine! Light for All People". She writes about one of the ancient traditional origins of the Advent wreath.

"After the harvest was in and as the nights grew longer and colder, the people of northern Europe, those who worked the land and plowed the fields, would take one wheel off the wagon. They would lay the wheel down on its side. Work would stop. Instead, they would take the time in the stillness and quiet of the very dark night to linger and look for the stars, to light candles and light up the darkness of the long night."

Advent begins in darkness. It is a time of spiritual deepening. Usually we curse the darkness and complain that there is not enough time to accomplish our Christmas chores. But the blessing of darkness is that it slows us down; at least it should. Many of us need to slow down, both physically and spiritually. Slow down. Darkness makes us pause and wonder what's up ahead. Spiritual darkness, which is something we are all familiar with, allows our souls to recalibrate, contemplate and draw closer to the Light of the World, which is Jesus Christ.

The stillness and darkness of Advent is a wonderful time to ask deep questions. What is my soul longing for? What is my deepest need? What are those places and experiences of darkness that weigh heavily on us that we might bring to God in prayer?

These few weeks between now and Christmas are a gift to those who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Savor them. This is time to be honest with God. This is a time to welcome the light of Christ into our hearts.

See you in church!

John Green

Join us New Year's Eve!

Potluck Dinner & Games  
at 6:00 p.m.  
(Time on back cover incorrect)

Worship at 7:30 p.m.





Jo Jacoby, Administrator

### December 11

Children's Christmas Program during worship hour at 10:00. No Church School the children will be rehearsing for the program.

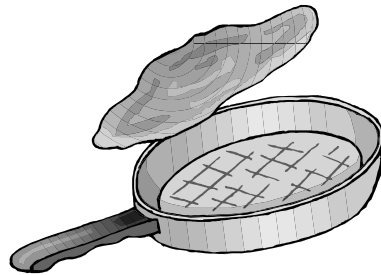
### December 18

Immediately after the worship service everyone is invited to a special birthday party for Jesus. Please plan to attend this special day!



## Annual Youth Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, January 8, 2012



Please join the Youth of Paxton Church on Sunday, January 8, for their Annual Pancake Breakfast from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. There will be no children's church school that morning. Families are encouraged to sit together and enjoy a hearty breakfast as we kick off the New Year! Proceeds will benefit the Souper Bowl of Caring which we are hosting again this year.

## Paxton Music News

Church School & Youth Choir

Christmas Program



### *"In the Case of the Reluctant Inn Keeper"*

Sunday, December 11 ~ 10:00 Worship

(Youth Choirs continue to practice every Sunday after worship. Volunteers always needed. Contact Kathie Zimmerman or Beckie Blazi)



### *Bell Sunday ~ A Paxton Tradition*

Sunday, December 18 ~ 10:00 Worship  
Celebrate the Season. Bring bells to ring with carol singing.



### *Advent Music Program*

Sunday, December 18 ~ 4:00 PM

The Advent Music Program presented by all choirs of Paxton will be presented on Sunday afternoon, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00, featuring the music of John Rutter. The Paxton Handbells and Youth and Children Choirs will also participate. The program will include carol singing, readings and once again conclude with all choirs performing an arrangement of "Away In a Manger". A reception of cookies and hot chocolate will follow the program in the Great Room.



### *Christmas Eve ~ 7:30 Worship*

All Youth and Children's Choirs will sing.  
Paxton instrumentalists will play carols on the lawn following the service.

### *Christmas Eve ~ Communion Worship ~ 11:00*

Adult Choir, instrumentalists and soloists present special music beginning with the prelude at 10:45.

## Financial Corner

by Paul Remaly, Treasurer

	<u>October, 2011</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$44,674.39	\$501,722.17
Expense	\$50,292.71	\$506,332.24
Budgeted Expense	\$39,727.58	\$397,275.80

October's expenses included major payments for fourth quarter pledges for Presbytery Per Capita, Mission and Outreach payments, and added contributions to debt service which account for expenses over income.

Our 2012 budget of \$522,604 has been passed by Session and will be presented in an upcoming congregational meeting.

At the end of October, the balance of our debt service at Centric Bank was \$290,573.74. Once again our thanks for your attention, care, and participation through pledges and contributions.

Pause to offer thanks this holiday season for our Lord's continued guidance as we seek his will for Paxton.

### The Per Capita Assessment for 2012 is \$22.58 per active member.

General Assembly	\$6.63
Synod of the Trinity	\$2.20
Presbytery	\$13.75

### Giant Gift Cards



As holidays approach we ask that you plan ahead for purchases of gift cards and sign up at the "Giant" table, or call Carol McCall, 566-2786. We want to order adequate cards, and we do appreciate your help and support.

We will not sell on Christmas Day.

### DOWNTOWN DAILY BREAD

#### December Schedule

8th	Barb and Dave Foreman Dave Johnson
15th	Mary Reinhart Ken Collins Jeanne Hoopes
29	Shuey Family Jacobs Family



### *I Hear Voices and That's a Good Thing*, by James Moore

Hearing the voices of Moses, Esther, Jesus, Mary and others has helped Mr. Moore throughout his life. Voices can be a good thing. A discussion guide can be found in the book.

### *Lord, Give Me Patience*, by James Moore

With his brother Bob, Mr. Moore has written another book in a series of helpful books. Perhaps with some effort we can have more patience after reading this book. Discussion guide included.

### *Tuesdays With Morrie*, by Mitch Albom

Highly recommended by several of our members who have found this book to be a treasure.

### *Revelation of the Magi*, by Bert Landau

Thanks to recently discovered documents, Mr. Landau has given us a new look at a beloved story of the Three Wise Men. A MUST READ!

### *Pilgrims ~ A Wobegon Romance*, by Garrison Keillor

Who isn't familiar with Mr. Keillor's Lake Wobegon characters. Enjoy discovering a good romance with a touch of adventure.

### *Joshua and the Shepherd*, by Joseph F. Girzone

Meet David Campbell who is mentored by Joshua. Follow David as he preaches to all faiths and discover how his message effects people's lives.

### *Joshua and the Children*, by Joseph F. Girzone

Second in the Joshua series is a gentle and inspiring story about village children discovering a very special man.

### *In The Company of Others*, by Jan Karen

A new addition to our Father Tim series. Travel with Father Tim to Ireland and enjoy his adventure as only Jan Karen could write.

### *What Really Matters*, by Eugenia Price

Ms. Price has written a personal book about what, for her, is the reason of contemporary life. It is a book for all Christian readers.

**Please stop in our library and check out all the wonderful, helpful, informative, and enjoyable books we have. You might find a treasure or two!**

## Presbyterian Women of Paxton



The **UNITY CIRCLE** will meet on Tuesday, December 13 at 12:30 at the church. Please bring a packed lunch and a dozen or so Christmas cookies or treats to share. We'll enjoy singing the songs of the season and visiting with each other.

The January meeting will be held on the 10th and Hazel Peiffer will lead lesson 4. We need a hostess and a devotions leader. Carol McCall ~ 566-2786

**CIRCLE 2** will meet on Tuesday, December 6 at 12:30 at Lorna Baer's home. Lorna and Jeannette Holtzman will co-hostess and Elizabeth Moore will give devotions.

## Soup Sale Update

Presbyterian Women would like to thank all the great cooks at Paxton who made soup this year for our annual soup sale. The soup sale was a big success. We sold most of the soup on Saturday and the remaining soup we sold on Sunday morning. Thanks to all the soup makers, soup buyers and helpers on the day of the sale.



Between sale of soup and donations, we made a profit of \$920.00 this year. We also sold \$36.00 in merchandise (note cards, tote bags, dish clothes). We will use the money to benefit local missions for women and children in our area.

For all you cooks out there, please put November 3, 2012 on your calendar for our soup sale next year.

**EVENSONG**—There will be no Evensong meeting in December or January. We will meet in February. Please watch for more information in the February PACE. Evensong wishes everyone happy and peaceful holidays.

### The SEWING CIRCLE

December 7 & 14—No Sewing  
December 21—Sewing at 9:30  
December 28—No sewing

January - Sewing every Wednesday



A special meeting of the Corporation is scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2011, for the purpose of approving the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2012. A Stated Meeting of the Congregation is also called for that day for the purpose of receiving the Pastor's Terms of Call, the election of officers and at-large members of the Nominating Committee for 2012, presentation of the 2012 budget and amending the bylaws.

*As our church membership has decreased the Session has decided to amend the by-laws to reduce the number of elders and deacons by one. This will be acted upon at the December 4th Congregational Meeting. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Green or Arden Hoopes, Clerk of Session.*

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS

#### ARTICLE IV

#### THE SESSION

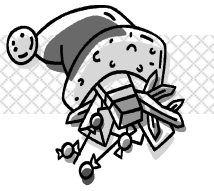
- Section 2. There shall be **17** ruling elders, divided into 3 classes **each as nearly equal as possible**. One class shall be elected each year at the stated meeting of the congregation for a term of 3 years. The term of office of ruling elders shall expire when their successors have been installed or ordained. Ordination and installation shall take place **as early each calendar year as possible, but** not later than the fourth Sunday of January.
- Section 4. A quorum of the session shall be the pastor or other presiding officer and one third of the elders.**

#### ARTICLE VIII

#### BOARD OF DEACONS

- Section 2. There shall be **17** deacons, divided into 3 classes **as nearly equal as possible**. One class shall be elected each year at the stated meeting of the congregation for a term of 3 years. **The term of office of deacons shall expire when their successors have been installed or ordained. Ordination and installation shall take place as early each calendar year as possible, but not later than the fourth Sunday of January.**

## Santa Shop Sites



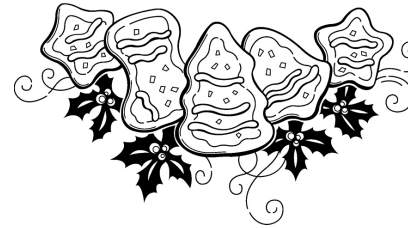
TH 12/1	8:30 am 3:30 pm	<b>Lang Head Start</b> 179 Watson St., Steelton <b>Allison Hill Community Ministry</b> 1508 Derry St. (parking lot)
F 12/2	8:15 am 12:00	<b>Foose Head Start</b> 1301 Sycamore St. Foose Second Session
M 12/5	3:00 pm	<b>Neighborhood Center</b> 1801 N. Third St.
T 12/6	8:15 am 3:30 pm	<b>Scott Head Start</b> 1900 Derry Street <b>Center for Champions</b> 113 S. 13 <sup>th</sup> St <b>NEED HELP</b>
W 12/7	5:00pm	<b>The Program</b> 1515 Derry St (parking lot) <b>NEED HELP</b>
TH 12/8	8:15 am	<b>Melrose Head Start</b> 2041 Berryhill St. <b>NEED HELP</b>
F 12/9	8:15 am 2:15 pm	<b>Marshall I.U. and Head Start</b> 301 Hale Street Marshall Second Session <b>NEED HELP</b>
Sun 12/11	1:00 pm 6:30 pm	<b>Christ Lutheran &amp; Brethren Youth</b> 124 S. 13 <sup>th</sup> St. <b>NEED HELP</b> <b>Bethesda Women and Children</b> 818 N. 20 <sup>th</sup> St.
M 12/12	5:30 pm	<b>Camp Curtin U.M. Afterschool</b> 2221 N. 6 <sup>th</sup> St.
T 12/13	5:30 pm	<b>Camp Curtin YMCA</b> 2135 N. 6 <sup>th</sup> St.
W 12/14		Three Shifts to serve all day: 176 kids! <b>NEED HELP</b> <b>Camp Curtin Head Start and Kindergarten</b> 7:30 - 10:30, 10:00 -1:00, 12:30- 3:30
TH 12/15	9:00 am 3:15 pm 3:30 pm	YWCA 1101 Market St. (Old Sylvan Terrace) <b>YWCA preschool day care</b> <b>YWCA afterschool program</b> <b>YWCA shelter children/women</b>

**Sign up today or email**

**Barb Greenwood [bosakgreenwood@hotmail.com](mailto:bosakgreenwood@hotmail.com)**

## Baking Spirits Bright

**Paxton's  
Cookie Sale  
December 10th**  
Set up time ~ 7 a.m.  
Sale time ~ 9~11 a.m.



### Our last and final tip:

The church will be open Friday night until 7:00 p.m. to accept cookies. Any help you might want to offer in set up and clean up on Saturday would be welcomed.

Runners to replenish cookie platters during the sale are also needed.

Bakers, don't forget to label your cookies with name of baker and type of cookie when you drop your cookies off.

### Commitment Sunday Update

As of November 22, we have received 145 pledges totaling \$352,710.00 toward our budgeted goal of \$370,000 for 2012. Thank you to those who have generously pledged a commitment to Paxton. If you have not already done so, it is not too late to make a pledge for 2012. Each pledge, no matter the size, makes a positive impact on the mission and ministries of Paxton.

### What Is the Christmas Joy Offering?

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

Whether providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families or enabling deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools, your generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit.

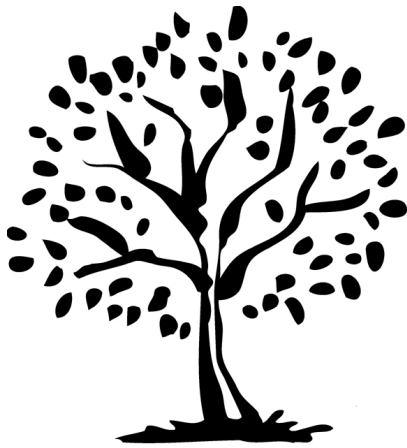
## A WALK IN THE WOODS By Norm Daniels

**Thank you** to the 35 people who ventured out on November 19th to rake leaves. The day was perfect, the camaraderie was great, and much was accomplished. Your gift of time is very much appreciated.

At its beginning, Paxton Church was a Christian light in the forest - a beacon inspiration and support during turbulent times. Today, those thick woods have diminished, and if you walk these grounds, you will find numerous depressions where trees had been. Additionally, many trees are reaching the end of their life cycle.

For those reasons, in 2009, the Grove Committee concluded that it was time to begin replanting. Opportunity was given to donate trees based on a planting plan to provide beauty and diversity. This plan has been enthusiastically supported by the congregation with 32 trees dedicated last year, and 21 new trees joining them this year. Possibly, a few more trees will be added next year.

It is our desire that this grove will be part of our outreach and evangelistic effort to our community.



We would like it to be a place for children to gather leaves for school and scout projects; a place for people to stroll through the grounds and read the markers; a place where people can come to rest and reflect; and if we are very lucky, a place where a troubled person may hear the still, small voice of God.

I think of our grove as not just as "outside," but rather as an extension of our Church - the outdoor rooms of our sanctuary. Some of these rooms are

large for group gatherings and some rooms are small for individual reflection and meditation. Here, people can come and listen to the wind in the trees and the sounds of birds and insects. They can smell the grass in the spring and summer and leaves in the fall. They can feel the soft breeze or the rough bark, and they can see squirrels, rabbits, and even deer moving through our grove. In the process, they can meditate and reflect. Perhaps at times, these sights and sounds of na-

ture in our outdoor sanctuary can be more powerful than the singing of hymns and the words of our pastor in our indoor one.

As you walk this park and read the markers, you will see a diversity of messages. Last year two ministers were remembered, and this year, we honored a beloved pastor as we dedicated his tree. Men and women who served in our armed forces are honored as are organ donors and their families. Then, there are the many, many family and friends - some perhaps we all can picture in our minds. All these markers express love.

During the process, as I talked to all the donors about their trees, I was struck by the care they took in their selection to honor a loved one. Some wanted a specific tree. Rev. Glise had to be an oak, because it symbolized his strength of character, leadership, and spirituality. Likewise, Barbara Arnold was an oak symbolizing her unfailing kindness and inner strength. Some people wanted a specific location. Bill and Mary Beth Goho's trees are located along Paxtang Avenue, standing side by side, just as they did in life. Rev. Glise's tree will be peeking into the pulpit, keeping an eye on the current pastor as well as future ministers. Linda and I selected the cabin area for our tree. It holds special memories of our sons working on their Eagle Scout projects. Some people did not

have a specific tree or location, because to them, the importance was not tree or place, but rather the statement about the person they loved.

As I thought about those discussions and looked at all the markers dotted throughout our outdoor sanctuary, I realized that something very special and unexpected had happened. Through your gifts, you have transformed our grove. It is now not just a collection of trees - you have made it a seven-acre expression of love. And perhaps, that light of love will help Paxton to continue to be a beacon of inspiration - now and in the future.