

*Paxton Church will be celebrating All Saints Day with the reading of the necrology on Sunday, November 6th during the 10:00 worship. If you have a loved one who has passed away in the past twelve months and would like their name mentioned please fill out a prayer request card (indicating for necrology) and place it in the offering plate, or notify the church office by October 31st.*

Sharing the Harvest



# THE PACE

OCTOBER 2011

Dear Friends,

There is a significant difference between hearing and listening. We all know this. When we hear someone we notice that they are talking, we acknowledge that they are talking, we hear them though we may not pay attention to them. We hear you. We're just not listening to you.

To listen is to pay attention not only to the speaker's words but to their tone of voice, inflections and body language. We wonder, have they told me this before? Why are they telling me this again? Listening involves probing, pondering and reflection.

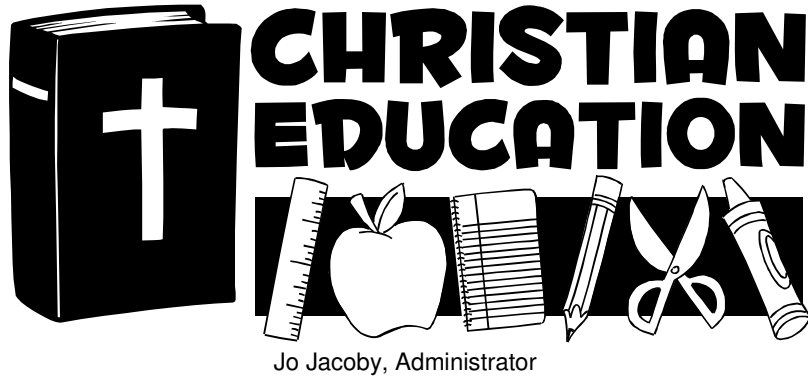
Churches, whole denominations, families and governments often hear but do not listen. It is an ongoing trial between some parents and teenagers. Are you listening or just hearing?

There are currently two wonderful opportunities at Paxton for us to listen closely to each other and to God. One is through the nominating committee. This group of Paxton members is busy seeking out new elders and deacons. In our system we listen for the leading of God and then engage in conversation to discern whether or not the Holy Spirit is calling you to serve as a church officer. The other opportunity is the budget process for 2012. In the Presbyterian way of life, the Session sets the budget. A great deal of prayerful listening is going on right now between those 18 ruling elders. You too can help in that process. Come to church on Sunday, October 16 which is Stewardship or Commitment Sunday. Enjoy a wonderful brunch beginning at 9:00 AM and then bring your completed pledge card to be turned in during worship.

I treasure this time of year at Paxton. The changing leaves and the approaching cooler weather are, of course, wonderful things. But the nominating and stewardship process is also a joy. This is an awesome opportunity for us to listen closely to each other and to God and to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as we respond to God's gracious love in Jesus Christ.

See you in church.

John Green



# FALL CALENDAR

**October 9** During the Church School hour all children in Little Lambs and Kids Connection will be visiting the library for a story by Jeanne Fortino. Children will be encouraged to check out a book!



**October 16** No Church School—Commitment Sunday Breakfast

## 2011 Advent Activities ~ Mark Your Calendar!

**November 6** Sign-ups for Advent Candle Lighting during worship services begins. The sign-up sheet will be available on the bulletin board outside the office beginning November 6. Scripts are provided.

**LOOK FOR ADVENT WORKSHOP INFO IN NEXT MONTH'S PACE!**



## 2011 Peacemaking Offering

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 2

The Peacemaking Offering was created to support the work of peace at all levels of the church; and congregations, presbyteries, and synods use half of the Offering receipts for peacemaking work locally and regionally.

## DOWNTOWN DAILY BREAD REQUESTS

Disposable razors, deodorant, shampoo, large bars of soap, laundry soap, men's clothing, blankets

If you have any questions, please call Chris at 238-4717, ext. 2

## OCTOBER SCHEDULE

**Oct. 13** Bob & Tara Frank  
Chuck Cain

**Oct. 20** Jane Rising  
Keith Birth  
Ron Ramsey



Every time you shop at the Giant Food Store with your bonus card, you can help Paxton Nursery School raise cash for the Millie Mixell Scholarship Fund which helps provide tuition assistance for students with financial need.

✓ You can go to [GiantAplus.com](http://GiantAplus.com) and register your bonus card number under our nursery school code **02321**

**OR**

✓ Write your bonus card number below and drop it off in the church office, or call the office at 561-0510

✓ THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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Submitted by Mary Myers,  
Stewardship & Finance Ministry



We've come a long way...still have a ways to go.

We began paying off our building renovation project in January 2007. At that time we had received three-year pledges from members and friends totaling \$1.2 million toward our total building renovation costs of **\$2.1** million. By January 2009, two years into our pledge payments, we were able to reduce our debt to \$790,699. December 31, 2009 marked the end of the third and final year of pledge income toward our mortgage debt, which was reduced to \$544,715.

At the end of 2009, several members graciously offered to extend their pledge commitment to help reduce debt service by making an additional one year (2010), two years (2010 & 2011) or three year (2010, 2011, & 2012) pledge. At this same time, Session refinanced our mortgage to help further reduce our debt. Beginning Jan 1, 2010, monthly mortgage payments in the amount of \$4,212.00 (\$50,644.00 per year) were included in the annual operating expenses of the church. These monthly mortgage payments were to continue through September 2029.

Because of the above mentioned additional pledges, along with special gifts the church has received and extra payments toward our mortgage principal, we have continued to reduce our mortgage. As of December 31, 2010, our mortgage balance was \$382,492. Nine months later, as of September 14, 2011 our mortgage balance is \$297,118 with the final payment due on December 1, 2018 (eleven years earlier than anticipated.)

We have come a long way because of the faithful generosity of our donors; however, we still have a long way to go to pay off our mortgage. If you can, please consider a gift to help Paxton reduce our debt. For your convenience, PSALM envelopes (Paxton Seeks a Lower Mortgage) are located in your offering envelope packet and the pew racks. We thank you in advance for your continued support.

# Around Paxton



Thank you so much for all of the sympathy cards, love and support you have shown after Tink's passing. We also want to express our sincere gratitude for the numerous notes, words of encouragement and visits during Jeannette's recovery as she continues to improve.

Again, Thank You!

The Holtzman Family

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I am overwhelmed by the love and support from the congregation during the recent flooding of my home.

Thank you all, for your prayers encouragement, loaning of tools, volunteering to gut the interior of my first floor and countless other acts of kindness.

Thank you!  
John Moyer

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Thank you to those who kept us in your thoughts and prayers, sent cards and had kind words for us after the death of my father. Also, a big thank you to all who helped with the memorial service and the reception afterwards.

Kevin Roland



**Gabriel Mykel Martin**, grandson of Tambrey Strickland, was baptized on August 28, 2011.

**Isabella Jeanne Dougherty**, daughter of Melissa and Charles Dougherty, was baptized on September 4, 2011.

**Avery L. Henry**, daughter of Laurie and Jared Henry was baptized on September 25, 2011.

Pastor Green recently officiated at the wedding of Erica Snyder and **Bradley Hamilton** at Paxton Church on July 9th and the wedding of **Tim Downey** and Chelsey Snyder on September 17.

Congratulations to the newlyweds!



Congratulations to the Elder family on the recent birth of Amelia Joan Elder, daughter of Josh and Michaelyn, and granddaughter of Dave and Peggy Elder on September 15th.

Start schools early and often!!

Morning after morning in December we bring this awesome experience to Harrisburg's 4 year-olds. In 2010 we served **360** shoppers from Harrisburg's poorest neighborhoods. It's not a simple charity hand-out, *oh no!* It's what you might call pure Christian magic bestowed right on the nose to a child who is ready to be blessed.

**SANTA SHOP DONATIONS**

**October 15—November 15th**

**Bring your goodies to the Santa Shop room downstairs (off Jr. Assembly Room).**

**Items needed:**

- Small new gifts**
- New mugs**
- New stuffed toys**
- New books**
- Any kind of jewelry (even broken)**
- 2012 calendars**
- Toiletries of all kinds**

## Financial Corner ~ Paul Remy, Treasurer

	<u>Augst, 2011</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$30,190.45	\$324,061.29
Expense	\$33,859.42	\$308,008.45
Budgeted Expense	\$39,727.58	\$317,820.64

As shown above, year to date income through August exceeded expenses. Many thanks for your continued care and attention. Paxton has already begun our next program year with enthusiasm, asking our Lord's guidance as we move forward.

At the end of August, the balance of our debt service was \$299,686.21 at Centric Bank. Many thanks again for your attention, care and participation.

Remember to offer prayers for our Lord for continued guidance as we move to accomplish the opportunities He provides.

## SANTA SHOP STORY

By Barb Greenwood

“Let the Little Ones Come Unto Me”



Santa Shop serves **five** Head Start programs in city elementary schools. Shopping with Head Start students is a unique experience because all the shoppers are 4 years old, and because they have never before experienced Santa Shop. They are also at the perfect age to be awestruck.

We begin with costumes: red furry Santa hats, maybe a Christmas sweater or vest. Some helpers add reindeer ears or flashing earrings. Every helper wears a jazzy jingle-bell necklace. These are worn like Olympic medals. When a helper is paired up with one little shopper, I believe the magic connection begins with the hats and the bells.

The gift tables, where our young shoppers make their choices, are low kindergarten tables. Most of the helpers are bent like safety pins to communicate with the children. Once again, the children are awed by the dozens of pretty new things: every one small enough to fit into a paper lunch bag. Linda Brown crochets hot pads all year long so that the Head Start shoppers can take them home to Mom. The choices are so difficult!

Over the years, we have learned that the tables cannot be loaded

with too many choices. Although we'd really like to WOW the kiddos, we only set out about 10 items at a time. If we pulled out all the stops, their precious little eyes might pop!

Once a gift is selected and put inside a labeled paper bag, it's time to bedazzle the kids again! They are invited to sink their arms down into a hopper full of sparkling shredded gift wrap and tinsel: our famous Silly Paper. A handful of this goes into the bag to protect the gift, and to add some pizzazz on Christmas morning. (*Our motto: "It's a party in a bag!"*) For some, the stapler at the finale is almost too much fun to bear.

The shoppers repeat this thrill-ride over and over until every person who lives in their house, plus grandparents, has one gift-wrapped present. As you can imagine, some of their residences are filled with cousins and aunts. Some lists are very short: just Mom and baby brother. Every list expresses some mother's hope that her child is in for a real treat, something far beyond what the Harrisburg School District can deliver.

Ironically, it is harder to get volunteers for these Santa Shop because they occur during the workday. This is a plea to all at-home volunteers to sign up for Head

## Cookie News



October and time to think about honing our baking skills. With the great advertising from last year's cookie sale we anticipate a greater turn out. Remember we sold out of every thing even before closing time.

For our new members who may not be acquainted with our cookie sale; we are entering our sixth year. The date is December 10th and all members and friends are encouraged to bake cookies, either your own special recipe or ones that the cookie committee with have on hand each Sunday in November during coffee fellowship. The proceeds of the sale benefit our Debt Service.

As usual, we kick off the sale by hosting the October coffee fellowship at the end of the month. So please be sure to come and sample some of the new cookies that will be offered for you to bake.

**P.S. New feature this year: Dog Cookies**



P.P.S. We are still in need of an additional electric scale. If any one can point us in the right direction to borrow or rent please notify Penny Moore or Connie Cochran or any member of the cookie committee.

As most of you know, John Myers, our Maintenance Director, retired at the end of June. What you may not know is that we have a new custodian! Mary Bowers was hired in July as John's replacement. Mary has been a member of Paxton for 19 years. Say hello to Mary when you see her hard at work!

## A WALK IN THE WOODS By Norm Daniels

*Summer has turned into early fall and yet, work in the Grove continues.*

We are asking for volunteers to **spread top-soil** along the kitchen wall in the nook and along the dirt areas on the north side of the building on **October 8th** at 9:00 a.m. The purpose is to increase the slope away from the building to stop water from coming inside the kitchen and basement. **Your help is urgently requested.**

Also, mark your calendar for the **Fall Clean-Up on November 19th at 9:00** with the rain date being December 3rd. This year's date is later because last year, half the leaves were still on the trees when we raked.

Eighteen trees have been purchased and selected for the 2011 Memorial/Honor Tree Project. Within the next few weeks, you should see a new crop of young trees on our grounds. A dedication service will be held soon afterwards so watch the bulletin for details.

About 20 people took part in the Fortnight for Mission Project on June 13 and June 22. Projects completed included: the construction of the sign garden, bushes were trimmed, beds were cleaned, the retention hole



was raked, three benches were placed, tree markers were repaired, trees and beds were mulched, and Dave Elder painted a bathroom!

Over the summer, Dave Holt collected soil samples from the Grove for analysis by Penn State. Based on their recommendations, we will be applying dry fertilizer, calcite limestone, and

sulfur in a ten-foot diameter around each of the new trees. Dave was also busy this summer monitoring the conditions of the trees planted last year to make sure they were well watered and healthy. He even worked to eliminate poison ivy!

Janice Barnes, Diane Jacobs, and Trish Moore were all busy with the Walled Meditation Garden during the summer planting, pruning and caring for the beds.

The storms also kept us busy in the Grove. Dave Holt and Norm Daniels removed over nine trailer loads of limbs and branches!

Because of all the work by many people, the Grove is a beautiful place to "set a spell.." Come and enjoy its fall wonders!

## Presbyterian Women of Paxton



**The UNITY CIRCLE** will meet on Tuesday, October 11. Please bring your own packed lunch. Carol McCall will lead the discussion on Lesson 2 of the Beatitudes series. Yvonne Rosenberger will serve as hostess. Plans for Santa Shop preparations will be discussed.

**CIRCLE 2** will meet at the church on Tuesday, October 4. Carol Himmelright will lead our new lesson study chapter 2 of Horizons. Kessey Smith will be the hostess and Elizabeth Moore will lead the devotions.

**The SEWING CIRCLE** –Why not join us every Wednesday to sew for Harrisburg's needy? You'll discover that you can do the easy tasks, and you'll have a good morning laugh! Every Wednesday, 9:30-11:30, in Fellowship Hall. Donations needed: flannel sheets, insulated drapes, fabric

**EVENSONG** "elves" had such a good time making bracelets, they will be making them again on Tuesday, October 18, at 10:30 AM in room 202. Please come join the fun and the fellowship. Lunch will be provided.



### PW Soup Sale

Saturday, November 5th ~ 9 AM - 12:00 PM

Calling all soup makers! PW is again in need of people willing to make soup for our Soup Sale.

This year, we would like information on the ingredients in the soup. (We always get a lot of questions about that.) Cards on which to list soup ingredients are on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room, after 9/11/11). Write down what kind(s) of soup you made and how many quarts of each there are. Include your name as well. Then list the ingredients that you used. Turn the card in when you bring the soup to church.

If your soup is frozen, you may bring it to the church anytime. Please put it in the downstairs freezer. Put your ingredients card in the envelope on the freezer.

Fresh soup may be brought in on Thursday or Friday, Nov. 3 or 4, during the day and put in the refrigerator in the downstairs kitchen. Put your written list in the envelope on the refrigerator. There will be PW people at the church on Friday evening, Nov. 4, from 5 - 7 pm if you need to bring it during the evening.

Thank you in advance for all your hard work.

PW Soup Sale committee (questions call Jeanne Fortino 564-2036)

**A special note:** The soup that sells the fastest is Chicken Corn soup.