

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WELCOME. In the name of Christ, we offer you welcome to this church. May those who sorrow, find comfort; the weary, rest; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; the unhappy, joy; and to all, the sense of God's presence in this Holy Place. If you are new to this parish community, please give your name and phone number to the Rector or sign our guest register on the stand in the back of the Church. As our honored guest, we want to welcome you.

THE SERVICE. There are two main books used for our service; the smaller red book is the *Book of Common Prayer* and the larger blue book is the *Hymnal*. There is also a *Gray Hymnal*. They can be found in the bookrack on the back of the pew in front of you. A *Bible* can be found at the ends of the pew. The page / hymn numbers in the service bulletin help you find your place in these service books. We invite you to participate fully in our worship.

RECEIVING COMMUNION. Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church is open to all who are comfortable participating in the Communion of the Lords' Table. To receive communion, please form two lines in the center aisle and approach the front of the Celebration Altar. Please stand with one hand cupped on top of the other to receive the consecrated bread from the Celebrant. Then step to the side to the Eucharistic Minister and **take** the chalice and drink from it; or you may intinct the bread by dipping it in the consecrated wine. If you do not wish to receive Holy Communion, please come forward for a blessing (fold your arms across your chest to indicate that you do not wish to receive Holy Communion). Return to your pew by way of the side aisles.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

9:00 a.m.

Opening Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1 – 4)

Hymn 56

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 24:7-10)

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Presider: Lift up your heads, O gates!

All: And be lifted up, O ancient doors!

Presider: That the King of glory may come in.

All: Who is the King of glory?

Presider: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty

in battle.

All: Lift up your heads, O gates!

Presider: And be lifted up, O ancient doors!

All: That the King of glory may come in.

Presider: Who is this King of glory?

All: The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Collect for Purity

Prayer Book, page 355

Collect of the Day:

First Reading Isaiah 7:10-16

Insert

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Insert

Second Reading Romans 1:1-7

Insert

Gospel Hymn "Humbly I Adore Thee"

Hymn 314

Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

Insert

Sermon

Rev. J. Patrick Peters

Nicene Creed

Prayer Book, page 358

Prayers of the People

Prayer Leader: From the depths of our interior mansions, and in heightened expectancy of the coming of the Messiah, let us offer our prayers.

Prayer Leader: O come, Emmanuel and purify our conscience that we may be an empty vessel prepared for the coming of your Word. Let us pray.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Prayer Leader: O Wisdom, open our eyes to the signs of your grace in the world about us, and bind us to your will, that we may bear witness to your abundant life. Let us pray.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Prayer Leader: O Lord of Might, strengthen us by your humility, that as we drink from the tears of the poor, and eat from their outstretched hands, we may be filled with the riches of enduring faith. Let us pray.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Prayer Leader: O Branch of Jesse, stretch out your limbs of

hope, that all the peoples of the world may come under the shade of your tree, where war shall cease and the fruits of love flourish. Let us pray.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Prayer Leader: O Key of David, unlock our fear of those who differ from us, and remind us that the essence of our being is one, united across nations and races, cultures and time. Let us pray.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

O Dayspring from on high, fill us with thanksgiving at the beginning of the day, and when night falls place within us a heart of gratitude; we give you thanks for...

(mention any thanksgivings [if any] listed under the heading of “thanksgivings”)

(then say: “the congregation is invited to add other blessings aloud or in silence”),

(then continue)

Let us pray for all who are in need, remembering all who are sick, the elderly, those who are alone, and all who minister to them, that we all may be strengthened by the presence of Christ as a sign of God’s love. We pray especially for...

(read the names of the sick listed on the prayer list. Also read the names [if any] listed under “for the special needs of,” read the names [if any] listed under the heading of “for healthy pregnancy and safe delivery”)

(then say: “the congregation is invited to add others names aloud or in silence”),

(then continue)

O come, Emmanuel, do not tarry; to the dead bring life, to the living hope, and to all creation the renewal of your first gifts. We honor and remember...

(read the names of the departed listed on the prayer list)

(then say: "the congregation is invited to add others names aloud or in silence"),

(then continue)

Let us pray;

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Prayer Leader: O Desire of Nations, grant our leaders, especially Donald, our President; the Congress and the Courts; Thomas our Governor; the Legislature of our Commonwealth; our Borough Council; Leo our Mayor, and all who wield power and authority in the world the moral and ethical wholesomeness, that together with them we may form a just and righteous society. Let us pray.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Prayer Leader: Let us pray for the church, especially Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Audrey, our Bishop; James and Barbara, the Bishops of our Lutheran brothers and sisters; Ronald, the Bishop of our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters; clergy, especially Patrick, our Rector; Gina, Ingrid, Sud, Tim, Mark, Peter, Beth, and John, the clergy of the Rim Parishes; and all our brothers and sisters of the Rim Parishes, that every baptized member may manifest Christ in the world. Let us pray.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Prayer Leader: For the Parish Family of Saint Paul the Apostle, that we all may be strengthened and sustained by God's presence with us. Let us pray.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Prayer Leader: That the Parish Family of Saint Paul may continue to Walk the Way of Love and be Jesus to the world around them. Let us pray.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Prayer Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(a brief pause for the private confession of our sins)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

**All: Forgive us, Lord, when we go our own way,
get ourselves into trouble, and then wonder
where you are.**

**Forgive us when we put ultimate trust in people,
ideas, visions, and things other than you.**

**Forgive us when we ask you for a sign that you are
there when you have been there all along,
patiently waiting for us to turn to you to help
guide us throughout life's twists and turns.**

Forgive us, merciful God.

**Open our eyes and ears, our minds and hearts
to trust and follow you today and forever. Amen**

Absolution
The Peace

Prayer Book, page 332
Prayer Book, page 360

Greetings and Announcements

Offertory
Eucharistic Prayer B
Sursum Corda
Sanctus
Memorial Acclamation
The Great Amen
Our Father
The Breaking of the Bread
Prayer of Humble Access
Communion
Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Blessing
Closing Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 5 – 8)
Dismissal

Prayer Book, page 367
Hymnal S-120
Hymnal S-130
Mass of Creation
Mass of Creation
Celtic
Prayer Book, page 364
Prayer Book, page 337
Prayer Book, page 365
Hymn 56

Prayer Requests December 22, 2019

Hospitalizations

Homebound

Delores Baker (Saint Anne); Ethel Edelman (Autumn House West)

Intercessions

Sue Ellen; Ruth; Ethel; Mike; Joann; Alf; DJ; Bryan; Bobby; Robert; Bently; Mitch; Toni, Pat and Don; George; Janet; Father Patrick; Bev; Everett; Becky; Bill; Mary Jo and Katie; Bob; Neil; Sean; Vickie

Birthday

12/22 Rose Dixon

Anniversary

Departed

Jean Feltenberger; Robert Kuhns

For Those in Positions of Public Trust

President Donald Trump; Governor Tom Wolf; Mayor Leo Lutz; All legislative bodies & all courts of law; for the leaders of all nations and people

For our Bishops, Rector, and Parish Members

The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and his staff; The Most Rev. Michael Curry and his staff; The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan and her staff; The Rev. J. Patrick Peters; the staff and people of this parish, especially Karen Abramo; Bill and Christine Weinberg; Susan Worby

World Cycle of Prayer

12/22 Brazil; 12/23 Brunei; 12/24 Bulgaria; 12/25 Burkina; 12/26 Burundi; 12/27 Cambodia; 12/28 Cameroon

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

12/22 Pray for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement, His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome; His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch The Revd Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; Bishop Ivan M Abrahams, General Secretary World Methodist Council; The Reverend Chris Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches; 12/23 Evo (Nigeria), The Rt Revd Innocent Ordu; Exeter (England), The Rt Revd Robert Atwell; Exeter (England), The Rt Revd Nick McKinnel; Exeter (England), The Rt Revd Jackie Searle; 12/24 Ezo (South Sudan), The Rt Revd John Kereboro Zawo; Faisalabad (Pakistan), The Rt Revd John Samuel; 12/25 Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and the People of Bethlehem; Falkland Islands (Parish of) (Falkland Islands), The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton; False Bay (Southern Africa), The Rt Revd Margaret Brenda Vertue; Federal Ministries (The Episcopal Church), The Rt Revd Carl Wright; Federal Ministries (The Episcopal Church), The Rt Revd James Magness; 12/26 Fianarantsoa (Indian Ocean), The Rt Revd Gilbert Ratelason Rakotondravelo; Florida (The Episcopal Church), The Rt Revd John Howard; 12/27 Fond du Lac

(*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Matthew Alan Gunter; Fort Worth (*The Episcopal Church*); The Rt Revd Scott Mayer; **12/28** Fredericton (*Canada*), The Rt Revd David Edwards; Freetown (Sierra Leone) (*West Africa*), The Rt Revd Thomas Arnold Ikunika Wilson

Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer

12/22 Association of Grace Baptist Churches; 12/23 Association of Reformed Baptist Churches of America; 12/24 Association of Regular Baptist Churches; 12/25 Baptist Bible Fellowship International; 12/26 Baptist Conference of the Philippines; 12/27 Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec; 12/28 Baptist Convention of Western Cuba

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer and Parish Cycle of Prayer:

Saint Andrew's, Lewisburg and their congregation; Concordia Lutheran Church, Columbia and their congregation

Companion Parish Cycle of Prayer:

Ecumenical:

The people of Saint John Lutheran Church, Columbia
Rev. Mark Kopp and the people of Saint James Lutheran Church, Columbia
Rev. Stephen Kelley and the people of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Columbia
Rev. Anthony Swamy Anthappa, MSFS and the people of Saint Peter Roman Catholic Church, Columbia
Rev. David Powers and the people of The Columbia Presbyterian Church, Columbia
Rev. Thomas Grubbs and the people of The Columbia United Methodist Church, Columbia
Rev. Patricia McAllister and the people of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, Columbia
Rev. Hub Smith and the people of The Columbia Christian Fellowship, Columbia
Rev. Greg Impink and the people of Ironville United Methodist Church, Columbia
Rev. Mary Ann Kingsborough and the people of Concordia Lutheran Church, Columbia
Rev. Dione Kleptka and the people of Saint John Herr Estate Retirement Community

Rim Parishes of the Lancaster Convocation:

Rev. Gina Bautista and the people of Saint John Episcopal Church, Marietta
Rev. Ingrid Andersen and the people of Saint Luke Episcopal Church, Mount Joy
Rev. Sud Tiwari and the people of Saint Paul Episcopal Church, Manheim
Rev. Tim Small and the people of Hope Episcopal Church, Mt. Hope
Rev. Mark Scheneman and the people of Bangor Church, Churchtown
and the Revs. Beth Mollard, Pete Greenfield, John Emmert and Ellie Garner

Peace and Justice

South Sudan; Nigeria; Iraq; Israel; Kenya; Afghanistan; Palestine; Somalia; Iran; Libya; Syria; Egypt; Tunisia; Yemen; Ukraine; Venezuela; North Korea; Turkey

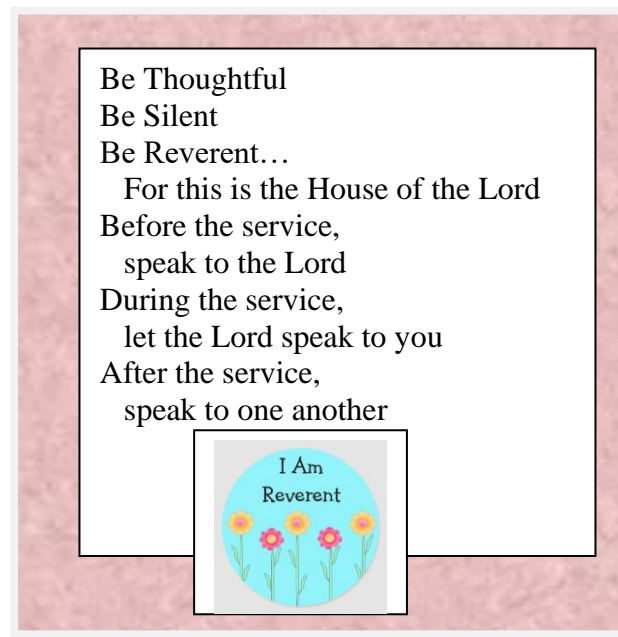
Amount needed each week to meet the 2019 income budget:	\$2,763.00
Amount budgeted each week from fundraisers and investment income:	\$1,764.00
Amount needed each week in pledge and plate to meet income budget:	\$ 999.00

Amount needed each week to meet the 2019 expense budget:	\$3,535.00
Amount expected each week from fundraisers and investment income:	\$1,764.00
Amount needed each week in pledge and plate to meet expense budget:	\$1,771.00

	12/15/19	12/16/18
St. John Herr Estate	16	19
9:00 a.m.	<u>38</u>	<u>25</u>
	54	44

Weekly Impact Attendance: w/e 12/15/19: 302

Pledge and Plate	\$1,353.00	\$1,239.00
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2019

5:00 p.m.

Lectors:

Bill W./Jess

Eucharistic Ministers:

Christine/Ralph

DECEMBER 23, 2019 THROUGH JANUARY 5, 2020

Tue: 5:00 PM – Christmas Eve Service

Wed: 10:00 AM – Christmas Day Service

Thur:

Fri:

Sat: 5:30 PM – Eucharist – St. John Herr Estate

Sun: **-THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY-**

9:00 AM – Eucharist

10:30 AM – Coffee Hour in the Mary Elizabeth Bair Parish Center

A man who does a daily blog named Seth Godin recently wrote the following and I have to think this describes where Saint Paul is right now:

There are two polar opposites: Staying Still and Breaking. It's easy to visualize each end of the axis, whatever the activity. In between is Stretching.

Stretching is growth. Extending our reach. Becoming more resilient, limber and powerful. Stretching hurts a bit, and maybe leaves us just a little bit sore.

But then, tomorrow, we can stretch further than we could yesterday. Because stretching compounds. If you're afraid of breaking, the answer is not to sit still but to dedicate yourself to stretching.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

The Altar Flowers are available for the weeks of December 29; January 12, 19.

The Sanctuary Candle is available for the weeks of December 29; January 5, 12, 19, 26.

The Bread and Wine is available for the weeks of December 29; January 5, 12, 19, 26.

Prayer Ministry: Please take an active part in our three Core Prayer Ministries:

- 1) Send those birthday cards to the people who have a birthday in December. The names and dates are on the Prayer Calendar you received and there is also a list on the table in the

back of the church. Birthday cards are available in the back of the church for a small donation.

- 2) Remember your Prayer Partner every day in December. Take the time to pray for them and the needs that they may have. Just remember them and ask God to bless them.
- 3) The Daily Prayer Intention Calendar was sent out for December. Please use it. Prayer changes lives! Lots of prayer changes lots of lives! Your prayers are heard and answered! Pray always!

Final Decorating of the Church: Today, Sunday, December 22 at 10:30 a.m. the Altar Guild will do the final decorating of the church. Please stay after the service to help.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Service: On Monday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church (277 S. Fifth Street), as part of our Monday Night Adult Forum Program, we will gather for an ecumenical service of worship and prayer to honor the memory of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Please plan to attend.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Each year, Christians the world over pray for unity among Christian churches and denominations. At the Last Supper Jesus prayed that we would be one even as Jesus and the Father are one. Unity among churches does not necessarily mean a unity of organizational structure (since Jesus did not leave a blueprint or organizational chart of the church with the Apostles, he could not have prayed for that). The unity that exists between the Father and Jesus was a unity of mind and heart – of reason and love. This year the Week of Prayer For Christian Unity begins on Saturday, January 18 (The Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter) and ends on Saturday, January 25 (The Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul). We will have one service to celebrate this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service will be Solemn Evening Prayer on Tuesday, January 21 at Saint Peter Roman Catholic Church beginning at 7:00 p.m. This service will be a joint celebration of prayer and praise of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Saint Paul Episcopal Church, and Saint Peter Roman Catholic Church. Father Swamy will be the main celebrant with Father Kelley, Pastor of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church assisting and preaching. Father Patrick will represent Saint Paul Episcopal Church.

Solemn Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul: We will celebrate our Patronal Feast – The Conversion of Saint Paul – on Sunday, January 26. There will be a Solemn Festive Eucharist at 9:00 a.m. in the Church. Father Patrick will be the primary celebrant and we will have a guest preacher. During this service, we will recognize the new members of the Saint Paul Sages Society – which are those of our family who have turned 80 during the past year. Come celebrate the mission and ministry of Saint Paul – the person and this parish – and all that the future holds for us. Come celebrate our “wise foundation” – our “rocks” who are the foundation of this parish family and who have helped make Saint Paul what it is today.

Prayer Circle: In the bulletin you will see our updated Parish Prayer Circle. Please make use of this powerful source of prayer. If you have a prayer need, just call Jeanne Cooper – the first name on the Prayer Circle – and tell her your request. It can simply be a name or an intention. Jeanne will call the next name on both prayer lists. This is a powerful source of prayer...please make use of it.

Prayer Meditation: Each month you will find a meditation by Steven Charleston in our Sunday bulletin. These messages are taken from his book “The Medicine Wheel.”

For December

Who will you bless today? Whose life will you touch with a hint of grace? One of the most joyful things about being a person of faith is the awareness that we all have the ability to change reality. Not with magic, but with mercy. We have the power to impart a word of understanding, a gesture of kindness, an act of grace. We can lighten the load of a troubled heart, listen with compassion to another person's story, share some of our strength to support a good cause. Each day we are offered a series of choices to add our blessings into life. What will you choose to do today?

Wednesday Morning Prayer and Healing Service: Wednesday Morning Prayer and Healing – 9:30 a.m. in the Rector’s Office.

Missed You Cards: Father Patrick sends weekly "Missed You Cards" to those who miss our Saturday or Sunday Eucharist for any reason. Coming together each week is very important and we hope that you will make every effort to attend our Sunday Eucharist. Common Parish Family Prayer on a Saturday evening or Sunday morning is important every week for disciples of Jesus.

“Rediscover Jesus”: On the table in the back of the church are copies of “Rediscover Jesus”. If you would like a copy of this book, please take one after the service. There is no charge for the book. Only two copies left.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Sunday School: Sunday at 8:50 a.m. in the Mary Elizabeth Bair Parish Center. Please see Christine Weinberg to register your children or to volunteer to help. No Sunday School on Sunday, December 29, 2019 – will resume on Sunday, January 5, 2020.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH,
SAINT PAUL EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
AND SAINT JOHN HERR ESTATE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**

**MONDAY NIGHT ADULT FORUM PROGRAM SCHEDULE
2019 – 2020**

All sessions, except as noted, will take place in the dining room of the Saint John's Herr Estate Retirement Community. Please enter through the Personal Care Entrance and go down the hallway to the Rotunda. The dining room is on your right. There is plenty of parking.

All sessions, except as noted, begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m.

December 23 CHRISTMAS BREAK—NO CLASS

December 30 NEW YEAR'S BREAK – NO CLASS

January 6 SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The Sermon on the Mount presents the largest single block of Jesus' teaching in the New Testament. We'll look into the Sermon's introduction, the Beatitudes, as an invitation to potential disciples; the Antitheses (5:21-48) as setting forth Jesus' expectations for disciples; and how the Sermon reflects the distinctive emphases of Matthew's Gospel.

Dr. Greg Carey
Lancaster Theological Seminary

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

Please, Please, Please: If you missed church the past several weeks, please make up your weekly contribution so that we can keep on budget. The treasurer needs to pay bills whether you are here or not. We are behind in pledged and non-pledged income. Thank you.

From Our Treasurer: Please put your pledge for 2020 in the offering or mail into the office. Thanks, Bev.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Columbia Food Bank Online Information: Information regarding the Columbia Food Bank can be found on their website: <https://www.columbiafoodbank.org/> or on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/columbiafoodbank/>.

Food Donations: You are reminded to bring your food items to church each week so that on the last Sunday of the month we can present them to the Lord for blessing and then give them to the food bank. Whenever you go shopping, please add extra non-perishable items to your order for this outreach ministry. Jesus never forgot the last, the lost and the least in his ministry and neither can we.

Adult Cereals (less sugar)
Soups
Spaghetti Sauce

Peanut Butter
Rice

Jelly
Boxed Potatoes

Let's all bring one non-perishable food item each week as committed to in our Mission and Ministry Plan.

Food Bank Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday – 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The Columbia Food Bank is closed on holidays.

Greeting Cards: We are collecting greeting cards so that adults with autism and other intellectual disabilities can recycle them into new greeting cards. Don't throw away your greeting cards – just bring them to the church and put them in the box on the back pew. This will be an ongoing outreach ministry project. Thank you.

Angel Tree: Once again, this year we are participating in the Angel Tree Project. There is an Angel Tree by the side altar with angel tags on it. Each tag has a need of the Episcopal Home in Shippensburg – an outreach ministry of The Diocese of Central PA. Please take as many tags as you can and then return the item (unwrapped) to under the tree no later than Sunday, January 5. This is a very concrete way to help those in need.

ADMINISTRATION

Parish Office Hours: The Parish Office hours are: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The Office is closed on holidays.

Use of St. Paul's Facilities: Please call the Parish Office if you want to reserve the Parish Hall or Church.

Reminder: Please remember that when you use the Parish Hall nothing can be put on the walls or the woodwork. Using scotch tape, duct tape, masking tape, and even some types of painter's tape has the possibility of pulling the paint off the wall or damaging the surface. Items can only be placed on the wooden food bank cabinets or the metal kitchen window and its metal surrounding. Only masking tape or painter's tape can be used on these surfaces. This applies to both parish

members and outside groups that use the hall and is clearly stated in the policy outlining use of the parish hall or the church. Thank you.

PARISH EVENTS

Attention Readers: St. Paul has a small library located in the Mary Elizabeth Bair Parish Center. Feel free to borrow a book (or books). When you have finished reading it, please drop your book into the “Book Return” basket located to the left of the book shelves. We have also included a donation box if you would like to make a contribution. Enjoy! Thanks to Vickie Stump for all her hard work in organizing and maintaining our library.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Here are a few Youth dates to put on the calendar:

February 14 - 16, Happening (Sr. high youth retreat at Camp Mt. Luther)

March 27-29, Middle School Retreat at Camp Mt. Luther - Theme is Narnia

OTHER EVENTS

Quilts for Kids: If you know how to quilt, want to learn how to quilt, know how to sew, don't know how but want to learn, or just have a relaxing hour or two finding out how, we can cheer up a sick kid with a quilt. If you have quilting supplies you do not need anymore, we may be able to use them too. Call Gayanne Basham through the parish office (717-684-8496) if any questions. The quilting group meets Wednesday afternoons.

Free Sunday Breakfast: On the last Sunday of every month, the Columbia United Methodist Church offers a Free Community Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in their Fellowship Hall. All are invited.