



PEQUEA PROCLAIMER

A Newsletter of Pequea Evangelical Congregational Church

VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 3 - DECEMBER 2014



Senior Pastor:

Rev. Gregory F. Dimick
(717) 768-3874
(215) 380-4361

Assistant Pastor:

Rev. Jonathan J. Brown
(717) 733-1948
(859) 230-6819

Pastor Emeritus:

Rev. Melvin H. Stehr
(717) 355-0007

Trustees:

Carl Sandoe
Edie Lowenthal
Wilmer Stoltzfus

Stewards:

Joe Lowenthal
Grace Sandoe
Rodney Peachey

Board President:

Carl Sandoe

Board Vice-President:

Edie Lowenthal

Board Secretary:

Grace Sandoe

Board Treasurer:

Mary Jane Stoltzfus

Sunday School Superintendent

Joe Lowenthal

Pastor's Paragraph

– Rev. Greg Dimick

Greetings to all in the beloved!

Pastor Jonathan and I are indeed gratified about how the *Proclaimer* has been received by the “Pequea Family”. And now, as a family, we look for the “coming of the King”! Once again we shall travel the road to Bethlehem of Judea where the greatest of all miracles will take place before our eyes, and once again the beauty of the Advent season unfolds before us as we worship and fellowship as only Pequea does:

1. Lighting the Advent wreath.
2. The sanctuary as ever marvelously decorated (the decorating “party” takes place the night after Thanksgiving – potluck supper first, decorating, then Christmas carols – come join the fun).
3. The singing of the lovely Advent hymns, many of which are well over 200 years old!
4. The Sunday School program (December 21) including, as always, our wonderful puppets.
5. December 28, just before New Year's, with the Service of Lessons and Carols, reminding us of the little-known stanza of “O Little Town of Bethlehem”:

“...Where charity stands watching, and faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more!”

So – even though we are still in November, let us truly prepare ourselves in heart and mind for the GREATEST event of all time!!!

Why a Church? What's the Mission? Part III

– Rev. Jonathan Brown

In the past two months, we've seen that humanity was made with a mission from the very beginning: (1) we were made to be kings, ruling in love over the earth and all its creatures, loyally and faithfully representing God's rule; (2) we were made to be priests, ministering in the worship of God; (3) we were made to expand the purity of God's Edenic temple to cover the whole earth; (4) we were made to protect sacred things and places from being polluted by sin or uncleanness; and (5) we were made to “be fruitful and multiply”, producing and training up more royal-priests to worship God and to fulfill this calling. Genesis tells the story of Adam and Eve deserting their calling, and the world falling to pieces because of it. Genesis 11 represents the heights of prideful human refusal, but Genesis 12-50 shows how one family, the family of Abraham, was chosen to take up this calling in a new way: to be the means for God to bless the whole world and restore them to what it really means to be human. The story makes it clear, as Abraham's small faith matures and as his children follow in his footsteps for good and bad, that Abraham's family is the first step in God's answer to Adam's failure.

As Exodus opens, Abraham's family, originally living in Egypt to bless the nation with their missional presence, has been reduced to slavery and idolatry; they have forgotten the power of the God who sent them. Through Moses, God reveals himself as the Eternal One, the Faithful God, who has not changed his mind about their mission. Calling them

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Pequea Evangelical Congregational Church
5482 Old Philadelphia Pike
Gap, PA 17527

Sunday Worship - 9:00 AM
Sunday School - 10:30 AM

back to faithfulness, God delivers them through ten plagues designed to show that the LORD is God and that the Egyptian gods – up to and including the Pharaoh himself – aren't (Exodus 4-14). Once the Hebrews find freedom outside of Egypt, they respond the only way that makes sense: a song of worship (Exodus 15).

As God leads them to Mount Sinai, meets them there, and gives them his Torah ('instruction' or 'law'), he proves that he is faithful to his promises. He chose the family of Abraham, and even though the Hebrews of this generation don't measure up to Abraham's fidelity, God has saved them anyway. He has chosen to make the Hebrews into a nation, a covenant community called Israel; unlike the other nations, which have been so dehumanized that the Old Testament portrays them as beasts, Israel is called to be a renewed humanity, a new Adam, and to tame and elevate the 'bestly' nations back to godly sanity.

In this Torah, the central theme is true worship: only the LORD, in all his truth, and exactly as he wills it (Exodus 20:3-4). The worship is to revolve around the tabernacle, a portable temple-space at the heart of the Israelite camp. The tabernacle's design is meant to be a model of the universe – but a universe with God really at the center, a universe as it's meant to be. Because of that presence, the whole camp becomes a holy space, able to move through the desert. To keep up this holiness, a system is set up to continually purify it through atoning sacrifices administered by priests. But in fact, the Torah's very structure – a covenant treaty – treats every Israelite citizen as a king, and God's original intention for it is that Israel as a whole would be “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:6).

The laws given to Israel are meant to equip them for this task. Compared to every other Near Eastern nation, the laws of the Torah ooze mercy, compassion, and love; the more I see the contrast, the more in awe I am of God's kindness and wisdom. With this mission in mind, they are called into the land that was promised to Abraham, now that the nations there have become ripe for destruction: they are to keep that land as a holy place, removing by force everyone and everything that has defiled it and would continue to threaten Israel's mission by tempting them with idolatry.

Israel's very existence as a holy nation of royal priests is founded, not on their merit, but on God's holy might and his faithfulness to his promises. Their presence is meant to be a living witness to the truth. God punctuates his redeeming actions by stressing that thereby “the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD” (Exodus 7:5; 14:4, 18; compare 7:17; 8:22). The idea was not to destroy the Egyptians; it was to break their power, humble them before the truth, and invite them to join in partaking in God's blessings and mission. And, for the “mixed multitude” who emerged from Egypt along with Israel (Exodus 12:38), it did! Further, Moses' celebratory song points out that Israel's missional rescue will be known to other nations, who will “hear and tremble” at what God has done (Exodus 15:14-15). In the person of Jethro, the Midianite priest, we see another clear example: this Gentile has come to faith and dines in God's presence (Exodus 18:9-12).

Israel seems well on its way – but not all is well, unfortunately. In Exodus 32, while Moses is conversing with God atop Mount Sinai, the panicked Israelites turn to the idolatry of the golden calf. This act is their “original sin”, as it were, the proof that they are “in Adam” just like the rest of the nations. Many of the heavier points of the Law, the parts that distanced the people further from God, were thus “added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come” (Galatians 3:19). One could say that the Law was given to Israel to draw out the power of Sin and force it into the spotlight, concentrating it there – in a nation of vicarious suffering – until God could address it once and for all by this promised Seed, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:20-21). In the meantime, Israel accepted the covenant, with all the blessings and the curses (Deuteronomy 27-28), including the threat of eventual exile (Deuteronomy 28:64) and the assuring word that exile would give way to restoration, to the circumcision of the heart, and to the ability to fulfill God's love-commandments (Deuteronomy 30:1-10).

Israel was not always successful, but they were called, and this covenant, this Torah, served the next phase in God's plan to create a new humanity to fulfill the very same mission originally entrusted to Adam. We cannot understand the New Testament without the Old Testament; we cannot grasp the significance of Jesus without knowing how he fulfills this very story, this same mission of Adam and Abraham and Israel. And without appreciating all of this, we cannot really see what the church is all about.

Featured Hymn: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Original Text by Charles Wesley

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver,
Born a Child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring;
By thy own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone,
By thy all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), who co-founded the Methodist movement with his brother John Wesley (1703-1791).

Hymn 10 in John Wesley, *A Collection of Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord: and for New-Year's Day* (London: Thomas Cordeux, 1810 [1744]). See also G. Osborn, *The Poetical Works of John and Charles Wesley* (London: Wesleyan Methodist Conference Office, 1869), 4:116.

Appears as Hymn 81 in *The Evangelical Congregational Hymnal* (red), and as Hymn 86 in *The Singing Church* (blue). Both use the Welsh tune *Hyfrydol*, by Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887) and arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Comments by Rev. Jonathan Brown

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” is one of the most highly acclaimed of all the Advent hymns. Starting with words evoking hundreds of years of heart-wrenching expectation for the Messiah to come and deliver his people, Charles Wesley here sweeps the history of God's mighty work of salvation. He begins with the image of Jesus' people – us – not in freedom but in slavery – slavery, not to Egyptians, but to the greater tyranny of our fears, our sins, and our weary and hopeless hearts. Jesus didn't come to leave us lost in them; he came to set us free – and if the Son sets us free, we shall be “free indeed” (John 8:36)! He came to give us rest: “Ye shall find rest unto your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:29-30), and “there remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God” (Hebrews 4:9).

Wesley manages, just so succinctly, to capture the universal reach of the gospel. Jesus is good news for Jews: he is “Israel's Strength and Consolation”, which alludes to God's title as the “Strength of Israel” in 1 Samuel 15:29 (and see also Joel 3:16). Jesus is equally good news for Gentiles: he is the “Dear Desire of every nation”, that is, the “Desire of All Nations” spoken of in Haggai 2:7. But Wesley also balances the communal and the personal. On the one hand, Jesus is good news ('hope') for the entire earth, for Jews as a whole and Gentile nations as wholes; but just the same, Jesus is joy for every individual “longing heart”.

Charles Wesley delights in paradox – it's a common theme in so many of his hymns – and he doesn't disappoint here. He stresses that Jesus was “born a child, and yet a king” – a royal infant, already ruling, because, as the church has confessed for centuries and centuries, Jesus is “truly God and truly man”, as the Definition of Chalcedon says. In no other way could this child – the “Child” born to us in Isaiah 9:6 – already be a king, and his kingdom will last forever, as that same verse says.

But like many good Advent hymns, this one bridges both advents: one is the First Advent, Jesus' birth in Bethlehem; but the other is Jesus' return in glory, the Second Coming – hence Wesley's plea, “Now thy gracious kingdom bring”. The flow moves from the first to the second. This hymn prays for the Son, with the Holy Spirit, to have sole and exclusive rule in all our hearts – which in Wesleyan theology is the meaning of 'entire sanctification' or 'Christian perfection'. As our *Discipline* quotes Charles Wesley's brother John, it is “the giving to God of all our heart; it is one desire and design ruling all our tempers”, and so “loving God with all the heart and our neighbor as ourselves”.

Finally, moving from entire sanctification to glorification, the hymn asks Jesus to “raise us up” to his “glorious throne” – as per the promise of Revelation 3:21 – to rule with him, not because we're so good in ourselves, but because the merit of Jesus is “all-sufficient”. Never here is the focus really on us; it always remains on Jesus, because the season of Advent and the festivities of Christmas are all about *him*. Come to earth as a humble infant, and now returned to his glory on high, Jesus is the one who releases us from fears and sins; he is the satisfaction of our every desperate longing for hope, joy, and deliverance; he is the ruling king; and he will cleanse us, rule in us, and raise us up to rule with him in the rest that we find only in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Financial Report (October 2014)

– Mary Jane Stoltzfus

<u>October Income</u>		<u>October Expenses</u>	
	<u>September Balance</u>	\$4,547.72	
10/02/14	RBC Interest	\$48.90	10/08/14 Select Security
10/05/14	Church Offering	\$1,005.00	10/06/14 Jonathan Brown (Seminar Registration)
10/05/14	Sunday School Offering	\$48.00	10/07/14 Frontier (Church)
10/12/14	Church Offering	\$900.00	10/09/14 Yoder Property Maint. (9/4,10,19,26)
10/12/14	Sunday School Offering	\$37.00	10/09/14 James Griel (Guest Minister)
10/12/14	Pars. Toll Call Reimb.	\$40.00	10/09/14 Jonathan Brown (93 mi @ .56)
10/19/14	Church Offering	\$1,027.00	10/12/14 Frontier (Parsonage)
10/19/14	Sunday School Offering	\$37.00	10/17/14 W L Zimmerman (Parsonage Oil)
10/19/14	Missionary Offering	\$30.00	10/19/14 Office Max (Offering Envelopes)
10/26/14	Church Offering	\$505.00	10/19/14 E C Church (Home Missions Offering)
10/26/14	Sunday School Offering	\$27.00	10/20/14 PPL (Parsonage)
			10/23/14 PPL (Church)
			10/26/14 Gregory Dimick (Oct. Salary)
			10/26/14 Gregory Dimick (Oct. Med Premium)
			10/26/14 Jonathan Brown (Oct. Salary)
			10/26/14 Living Hope
			10/26/14 Global Ministries Commission
			10/26/14 Salisbury Elementary
			10/26/14 E C Church (Oct. Ministry Fund)
			10/26/14 W L Zimmerman (Church Oil)
			10/27/14 Wanda Bixler (Bulletin Supplies)
			10/30/14 US Treasury (3 rd Qtr. W/H)
			10/30/14 PA Dept of Revenue (3 rd Qtr. W/H)
			10/30/14 LCTCB (3 rd Qtr. W/H)
			10/30/14 Office Max (Offering Envelopes)
	October Income	\$3,704.90	October Expenses
			\$6,590.78
			October 31, 2014 Balance
			\$1,661.84
	October Building Fund	\$100.00	
	Building Fund Balance	\$8,367.74	

Statistical Report (October 2014)

– Rev. Jonathan Brown

	<u>Worship Service Attendance</u>	<u>Sunday School Attendance</u>
10/05/14	25	12
10/12/14	17	9
10/19/14	19	7
10/26/14	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u>
Average:	20 (19.75)	10 (9.5)

We'd like to start a regular Q&A column in the newsletter soon! Please submit questions to Rev. Jonathan Brown (jonathan.brown@asburyseminary.edu) or leave them in the church office. Please also tell us some of your favorite hymns!

Testimonial

– Julie Lawson

Life's lessons come to us in many unexpected circumstances. One revealed itself to me almost forty-five years ago while I was a student nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lancaster. Much of the “wisdom” of the Sisters of St. Francis translated into learning experiences for us; they were always eager for us to show opportunities of love and compassion, as their namesake implied.

It was a Christmas tradition at St. Joe's to have the student nurses “carol” through the halls after supper and evening meds; the hall lights would be dimmed, and fifteen to twenty of us would carry real lighted candles and sing traditional favorites, stopping outside patients' rooms. This particular Christmas, one room had a woman recovering from a head gunshot wound that she received from her husband. It was a miracle that she was alive and survived, but she showed no outward sign of recognition of any of her senses – sight, sound, responsive touch, understanding. Yet, as we took our turn in caring for her, the Sisters made sure that we talked normally to her as if she understood – despite the doctors' admonition of permanent brain damage – while giving her her bath, turning her from side to side, and doing passive exercise on her limbs. I can still see the scene in my mind... a small, still form with shaven head and ugly railroad track scars splayed across her skull from the operational repair!

We gathered around her bed on all three sides and started sweetly singing Silent Night, as it seemed so fitting for a patient who could not speak or understand. Was it imagination, or did we see a reflection of our candlelight in her dark, glistening eyes? We did! It was! Because, as we finished the second verse, all noticed a single tear running down her cheek... She understood... She knew... We had made the connection to her spirit through a beloved Christmas carol. More tears of joy than hers joined in the song that wonderful night as we each departed with our own happy Christmas present – that of sharing God's love and restoration!

We needed no other presents that Christmas, as we received the blessing of witnessing God's grace that very special Christmas Eve. Sometimes I wonder what happened to her in the years ahead... Did she ever return to a normal, useful life? Did she become whole again? I will never know the answer to that, but this I do know... She and we were shown God's love, and in that instance, it was enough... Enough to last a lifetime!

Recipe of the Month Rolled Flank Steak

– Michele Levan

Ingredients:

- ◆ 1 (2-lb) flank steak
- ◆ ½ cup olive oil
- ◆ ¼ cup soy sauce
- ◆ 2 tsp. steak seasoning (and more to taste)
- ◆ 2 tbsp. chopped garlic
- ◆ ½ lb. thinly sliced provolone cheese
- ◆ 4 thick bacon slices
- ◆ ½ cup baby spinach
- ◆ ½ cup sliced cremini mushrooms
- ◆ ½ red bell pepper, seeded and cut into strips
- ◆ ½ cup chopped onion

Instructions:

1. Place the flank steak on a cutting board with the short end facing you. Starting from one of the long sides, cut through the meat horizontally to within ½ inch of the opposite side.
2. Combine the oil, soy sauce, and steak seasoning in a 1-gallon zip-top plastic freezer bag. Add the steak, zip the bag shut, and squeeze to coat the steak. Marinate in the refrigerator for 4 hours or overnight.
3. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease a large, cast-iron Dutch oven.
4. Lay out the flank steak flat in front of you, with the grain of the meat running from left to right. Spread the garlic evenly over the meat, and sprinkle with steak seasoning to taste. Layer the provolone over the steak, leaving a 1-inch border on all sides. Arrange the bacon, spinach, mushrooms, bell pepper, and onion over the cheese in stripes running in the same direction as the grain of the meat. Roll the flank steak up and away from you so that when the roll is cut into the pinwheel shape, each of the filling ingredients can be seen; roll firmly, but be careful not to squeeze the fillings out the ends. Once rolled, tie with kitchen string, securing at 2-inch intervals.
5. Place the stuffed steak into the prepared Dutch oven and bake until a meat thermometer inserted at the center of the stuffed steak registers 145 degrees, about 1 hour. Removed the stuffed steak from the Dutch oven and let stand 5 to 10 minutes before cutting into 1-inch-thick slices. Remove the string before serving.

Serves 4 to 6 people.

Quotes for Thought

“Religion is interested not in whether a man is happy, but whether he is still alive, whether he can still react in a normal way to new things, whether he blinks in a binding light or laughs when he is tickled. That is the best of Christmas, that it is a startling and disturbing happiness; it is an uncomfortable comfort. The Christmas customs destroy the human habits. And while customs are generally unselfish, habits are nearly always selfish. The object of the religious festival is, as I have said, to find out if a happy man is still alive. A man can smile when he is dead.”

– Gilbert Keith Chesterton

Newspaper column, 11 January 1908, in *The Collected Works of G. K. Chesterton* (Ignatius Press), 28:25

“The world all around us is full of Advent tokens; of changes and chances, of wars and commotions, the signs of approaching judgment. The Church, equally all around us, is full of Christmas memorials, of psalms and prayers, sacraments and offerings, signs no less sure of Christ's never-failing mercy. [...] And we? what are we doing? Are we not, too many of us, letting the time pass away, as if nothing particular had happened, as if we had no great work of our own to do? The very children in our streets reproach us, if we are careless and easy about our souls, by their Christmas carols, as they sing them from door to door. Oh, let us change our ways, before we have quite thrown away another year, which when it is once gone can never, never be recalled! Behold, he who found no room in the inn this morning, is now standing at the door of our hearts, and knocking. If we hear his voice and open the door, he will come in and abide with us: if we turn a deaf ear to him, he will depart; and then what is to become of us?”

– John Keble

Sermons for the Christian Year (James Parker and Co., 1882), 2:106-107

“Oh wonder of wonders! Manger of Bethlehem, thou hast miracles poured into thee! This is a sight that surpasses all others. Talk ye of the sun, moon, and stars; consider ye the heavens, the work of God's fingers, the moon and the stars that he hath ordained; but all the wonders of the universe shrink into nothing when we come to the mystery of the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ. [...] Is he not rightly called Wonderful? Infinite, and an infant – eternal, and yet born of a woman – Almighty, and yet hanging on a woman's breast – supporting the universe, and yet needing to be carried in a mother's arms – King of angels, and yet the reputed son of Joseph – heir of all things, and yet the despised carpenter's son. Wonderful art thou, O Jesus, and that shall be thy name forever.”

– Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Sermons of Rev. C. H. Spurgeon of London (Robert Carter and Brothers, 1883), 5:19-20

“If we could muse less upon ourselves, and meditate more upon the Lord Jesus, we should do better. He likewise is always the same: as near and as gracious in the storm as in the calm. Yea, he expresses a peculiar care of those who are tempted, tossed, and not comforted. Though you are sore thrust at that you may fall, he will be your stay. But I wish you could more readily rest upon his word, and rejoice in his righteousness, even in that only.”

– John Newton

Letter dated 6 December 1772, in *The Works of the Rev. John Newton* (T. Hamilton, 1821), 11:195

Birthdays

12/11 – John Sargent

12/27 – Debra Sargent

12/16 – Lukas Levan

12/27 – Todd Stoltzfus

Anniversaries

12/30 – Todd and Cynthia Stoltzfus

PRAYER LIST

- *We praise God* for all the wondrous blessings he has given us, most notably the ministry of his Son (from death through resurrection to priestly intercession at the Father's right hand) and the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and *we pray* that God would glorify his name in the sight of all nations and would bring his kingdom more fully to earth.
- *We pray for our denomination, our congregation, and the church universal*, that God would bless us at all levels with faithfulness, wisdom, vision, and fortitude to earnestly labor in his vineyard and lovingly minister in his mission. We pray particularly for our pastors, **Rev. Greg Dimick** and **Rev. Jonathan Brown**; for **our church board**; and for leaders like **Bishop Bruce Hill** and our conference minister **Rev. Gordy Lewis**.
- *We pray for the peaceful and healthy resolution of global and national crises* such as the Ebola epidemic, the violence of ISIS and other terroristic movements, the strife and unrest in Missouri, and others.
- *We pray for our missionary partners*, such as the Ambermans and the Farris, that God would keep them safe and faithful and would concentrate their attentions on the work he has set forth for them to do, and that God would grant success in accordance with his holy and perfect will.
- *We pray for our nation and its government* at all levels (all branches of local, state, and federal government), that God would move our leaders to have godly hearts and to repent of ungodly and unjust practices and laws, and would crown them with wisdom, security, and civility.
- *We pray for all members of our military*, that God would protect them and keep them safe as they serve in just causes to protect the lives and liberties of the vulnerable and resist forces of oppression across the world.
- *We pray for all those suffering from cancer* – including Joe's wife **Loretta Lowenthal** (stage-4 cancer, on radiation treatments); a little girl named **Aria Kujawa** (on radiation treatment and chemotherapy); Barb Welsh's cousin-in-law **Arlene Fitzwater** (on chemotherapy); our own **Gene R. McKillips** (prostate cancer, being treated at Johns Hopkins); Wilmer's brother **Kenny Stoltzfus** out in Arizona (terminal cancer); **Rickie McGrane** (on radiation treatment); and Michele Levan's friend **Skip Van Lew** (prostate cancer) – that God would heal them, shield them from pain, restore their bodies, comfort them and their families with his abundant peace and rich love, and would bless their doctors with great wisdom and skill. *We pray* that God would woo their souls to himself, drawing them and their families to deeper intimacy with him through Jesus Christ.
- *We pray for* Gerry Huyett's daughter **Denise Harnish**, who, though in remission from stage-3 breast cancer, is diabetic and awaiting a knee replacement, that God would heal her and would bless the doctors with wisdom and efficiency.
- *We praise God* that **Edie Lowenthal's** pain in her hands is being helped by injections she has resumed receiving, and *we pray* that her pain would continue to decrease, that God would heal her, that God would give her doctors wisdom, and that God would grant her peace amidst the stress of work.
- *We praise God* that **Rev. Greg Dimick** is doing well after his late-August heart attack and is being treated with medication, and *we pray* that God would continue to strengthen him in body, soul, and mind for daily living in good health and also for a faithful and fruitful ministry.
- *We pray for* **Julie Lawson**, whose beloved husband Ben Lawson passed into the presence of Christ on March 26 of this year, that God would warm her with his peace and comfort, and would fill her memory with thanksgiving for the many good times with which God blessed them, and would magnify her Christian hope to see Ben again in the resurrection.
- *We pray for* Julie's brother-in-law **George Desmond**, who is recuperating at home from open-heart surgery, and for George's son **Greg Desmond**, who is recuperating from cervical spine surgery, that both of them would have swift and peaceful recoveries and would regain full vigor of body and spirit.
- *We pray for* the family of **Gary Carter**, whose mother is fading from this world into the arms of the Savior and whose granddaughter has been suffering with fever, that healing, restoration, and peace would pervade their lives.
- *We pray for* **Tom McGrane**, who is continuing physical therapy and decreasing his pain medication during this phase of his recovery from a back injury, that God would bring healing and patience and would shield him from excess pain and give him outlets for his recovering energy supply. We pray that the results of his MRI would be good, and that the health issues of his aunt, his uncle, and his mother-in-law would likewise be eased and tended to by our gracious Lord. *We pray further for* the business decisions confronting **Lori McGrane**, that God would crown her with divine wisdom and the Spirit's guidance and give her peace about this and other matters.

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
(Nov 30) ADVENT 1 WORSHIP – 9AM (Jonathan preaching) SUN. SCHOOL – 10:30 AM (TBD teaching)	1	2 BOARD MEETING Church 7:30 PM	3	4 FEAST DAY OF ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS	5	6 FEAST DAY OF ST. NICHOLAS
7 ADVENT 2 WORSHIP – 9AM (Jonathan preaching) SUN. SCHOOL – 10:30 AM (Wilmer teaching) NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY	8	9	10 COTTAGE MEETING Parsonage 7:00 PM	11	12	13
14 ADVENT 3 WORSHIP – 9AM (Jonathan preaching) SUN. SCHOOL – 10:30 AM (Carl teaching)	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 ADVENT 4 CHRISTMAS SUNDAY WORSHIP – 9AM (Greg preaching) (Christmas Program) SUN. SCHOOL – 10:30 AM (Bobbie teaching)	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE (Service at Pequea Presbyterian Church)	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 FEAST DAY OF ST. STEPHEN	27
28 WORSHIP – 9AM (Greg preaching) (Lessons and Carols) SUN. SCHOOL – 10:30 AM (Jonathan teaching)	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	(Jan. 1) NEW YEAR'S DAY	(Jan. 2)	(Jan. 3)