

West Swamp News

Volume 5, Issue 6

October/November '16

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FYI

- Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 am, Sunday, Nov. 6. Don't forget to turn your clocks back.
- Children's Church begins in October. DISCO would be thrilled to have more volunteers.
- October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Let's make sure Pastor Kathy and Ken really feel appreciated.

Unexpected gifts

"I am always uplifted after spending time with _____. She seems very happy when I'm with her."

"Definitely: It helps me as much as I believe it helps them."

"_____ appreciates the visits. knows me and calls me by name!"

"I enjoy visiting _____, we both enjoy the visits."

"I feel that someday I may be sitting alone. I enjoyed seeing their smiles and had interesting conversations."

These are quotes from some of our members who have agreed to help Pastor Kathy with visitation to our homebound members.

When I first asked for volunteers, I wasn't sure what to expect. I believe we had a great

response and am pleased with the comments of those who have taken on part of this ministry to our older members.

Many times when we help someone or do something for them, you are giving them a gift, but in many situations, we receive an unexpected gift in return. When these members volunteered, they weren't thinking of themselves, they were thinking of how they could help a fellow brother or sister! Each one received an unexpected gift in return!

As we come close to the end of another year, the Deacons will begin looking over the membership and gifts discernment lists to see who might fit in with their Commissions. Everyone is busy with

their jobs and home life, but where is your priority for helping our congregation? Which of the Commissions do you have a passion for working with? It would be great to have you approach one of the Deacons and ask for more information as to what they do—or better yet, offer to join their Commission.

In some instances, others see traits in you that you might not even recognize. So I encourage each one of you to identify with a Commission that you want to get involved with. Reach out to any of the Deacons and have a conversation.

You might find it to be a very rewarding experience!

~ Don Jacobs
Moderator Deacon

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. —1 Thessalonians 5:11

Pastor's Corner: Color and light



*“You crown the year
with your bounty,
and your carts overflow
with abundance.
The grasslands
of the wilderness overflow;
the hills are clothed
with gladness.
The meadows
are covered with flocks
and the valleys
are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.”
Psalm 65:11-13*

Everybody should take a fall vacation, do a get-away weekend to the mountains, or at least take a long Sunday afternoon drive. This time of year, there is so much beauty to behold!

I can imagine the psalmist, David, sitting on a hillside struck dumb by the beauty before him. As sheep quietly

grazed, the world came alive in color and light and he found glory in the beauty of God's handiwork. Big blue sky and lots of gorgeous light, reds, greens, and yellows changing all around. It happens every year

but so often we let it pass us by.

Ken and I just spent a week in the desert – and even there, God was at work in a mighty way: Colorful rock painted by the sands of time, cacti bearing the golden fruit of late summer, and red geranium bursting forth with cooler nights and daytime show-ers.

But it took time to see it all – a lazy hike in the hot sun, a slow stroll down the street, stopping the car every now and then just to see and breathe it all in.

Coming back on the airplane last night, I lectured myself that I won't let the color and light of a Quaker-town fall season pass me by this

time. No matter how busy I get with the work of the church, I'm going to take time to stop and watch. David was a working shepherd, an active warrior, and a busy king. But, as the scriptures proclaim, he took time to notice what God was doing in him and in the world. Colors and light are everywhere!

I'm going to slow down this fall. I'm going to watch the leaves on these Pennsylvania trees change their color, notice the light just before the sun goes down, and stop a minute to give thanks to God for the mountains and hills and deserts and skies that shout for joy and sing.

I invite you to join me. And together we'll join all creation in a lively new song...

~ Pastor Kathy



More details to come!

Pastor Kathy & Ken invite their church family to their place on **Saturday, Oct. 29 at 7 pm** for fun and fellowship around their fire ring.

After the success of their spring

benefit breakfast, the Men's Bible Study is ready to do another one! On **Saturday, Nov. 5 from 7:30-10 am**, they will be flipping pancakes again—this time to benefit AHUB's Code Blue Shel-

ter Program. They also hope our wonderful West Swamp bakers will donate goodies for a bake sale.

Details for both will be in future bulletins.

DISCO:

The adult discussion and Youth Sunday School classes have begun using the resource. *The Story* reveals the unfolding, grand narrative of the Scriptures. Using the New King James Version, this rendering of the Bible allows its stories, poems, and teachings to come together in a single, compelling read. God goes to great lengths

to rescue lost and hurting people. That is what *The Story* is all about: the story of the Bible, God's great love affair with humanity.

New members to the Sunday School classes are always welcome!

Thank you to all who are serving as teachers and facilitators for the adult and children's classes.

Your time and effort are greatly appreciated.

Children's church will resume in October.

Junior Youth will begin meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 4. They will meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm, following Joyful Noise practice.

~ *Jan Wieand*

Community: Keeping in touch with our college students

We have ten students who are currently pursuing higher education. We will be packing up care packages for our college students on Nov. 1 and we're looking for things to fill them with: nonperishable goodies like hard candy, granola bars, snack bags, fun-size candy bars, microwave popcorn and hot chocolate packs; pens, pencils, sticky note pads;

tissue packs; and anything else that would be a nice surprise for them. Personal notes of encouragement are great to get!

Please place donations on the counter in the kitchen behind the door and mark them "for College Students." Drop them off by Sunday, Oct. 30 or bring them on Nov. 1 at 7 pm and help pack the boxes.

We want our young adults to know we care for them and thinking about them while they are away.



Community: FOOD for thought

Here at West Swamp, we love food, do we not? These are some upcoming opportunities in which you can help provide food:

Food Share Program

Thanks to all of you who have provided meals and placed them in the proper containers, with dates and contents and put them on the 3rd shelf in the church freezer. Pastor Kathy sees to it, that the food is distributed to those in need.

COOKIES

Autumn Alive is set for Saturday, Oct. 15; please SIGN UP on the sheet on the bulletin board so we may know how many bags we will be getting. Drop off your cookie donations on Friday evening between 6-7 pm; or drop them directly off at the West Swamp booth on Saturday by 10 am.

Please pre-package your cookies, 2 cookies per baggie. Don't forget to sign up!!! Thanks!

Salvation Army Christmas

Carnival: We will be providing homemade Christmas cookie boxes again this year. We do not have a number of families or a date for the carnival yet; we will provide that information as we get it.

If you have any used Christmas cards and would like to donate them to decorate the cookie boxes, please give them to Barb.

~ *Barb Moyer*

Mission: Get into fall mode and sign up for Autumn Alive!



With the thermometer still soaring, it is hard to believe that Autumn Alive is next month. That's right, Autumn Alive is slated for Oct. 15 in good old downtown Quakertown.

You may ask, "Why should I care when Autumn Alive is? I don't even live in Quakertown and I'm not thrilled about autumn." Well, you should be interested in Autumn Alive because for the past several years West Swamp has had a presence at this community event. We are there with our "West Swamp" canopy with festive fall decorations and lots of "goodies" to give out. The children that stop by our area always seem to enjoy the craft or activity for them, which puts smiles on their faces.

This event is a great way to get the "West Swamp" name out there and also a way to get some non-church goers to think a bit about Jesus and that He truly loves each and every one of us.

So now you are thinking, "Wow, how can I get involved?" This really is a whole church event. Every commission is involved in some way.

If you enjoy helping children, you could volunteer an hour or two to help with the kids craft. Are you a people person? Help hand out goodies and strike up a conversation with a total stranger that turns out to be your 3rd cousin. Are you more of a behind the scenes person?

Come early or late and help set up or take down. How about baking? I think Barb is going to round up all you bakers for those goodies that put smiles on people's faces.

Never been to Autumn Alive and are

unsure of committing to help? Then plan on coming out and stopping by the West Swamp booth to see what it is all about. Seeing a familiar face from church is always a good thing.

So what I am trying to say is this—everyone can help out in some way. If you can only spare an hour, that is fine. The event goes from 10-4. If we have plenty of people, no one need stay more than a couple of hours. Set up will start about 7:45. Look for a sign up sheet on the mission board in the fellowship room and sign up to help with the fun. See me if you have any questions.

~ Rod Rush



Top left: Pastor Kathy hands out West Swamp shopping bags at last year's Autumn Alive.

Right: Lori Farrell and Anita Husvar battle the wind to keep all the little parts of the "Giving Thanks" box craft from blowing away. And see? The craft really did put smiles on kids' faces!



Stewardship: Summer's work is over

It's been a hot, dry summer and fortunately a relatively quiet summer regarding repair needs around our church facility. Compared to last year when we were in the middle of a couple large undertakings—the new elevator, the bat extraction, plus a number of smaller scale repairs—this year has had only a few smaller scale tasks to accomplish.

Here is the short list of accomplishments from the summer along with a couple projects that we have planned for the near future:

We contracted with Otis Elevator for a preventive maintenance / service contract for the new elevator that will be effective

next February. We repaired the water line and restored running water at the pavilion. We consummated the gifting of the church Van to the Christ Centered Church in Philadelphia. We spread a fresh layer of mulch in the playground area and repaired the jungle gym walking bridge. We removed the old elevator from the shaft to get ready for one of our planned 2017 projects: converting the old elevator shaft into closets. We repaired the prayer garden fountain and restored it to its original beauty. Upstairs we attached wall brackets to hang comforter boards off the floor. We repaired the icing problem with the kitchen freezer.

Hmm, maybe it wasn't such a quiet summer after all.

Now we have a fall job on the schedule and we are looking for help. On Oct. 7 and 8 we will be painting hallways on the first and second floors. Don Butcher has graciously accepted our request to head up the work, so we want to give him all the support he needs. Contact Randy or Don with any questions, then come ready with your overalls to get painting.

In closing I want to thank Jim Bevan for another year of faithful service mowing and manicuring the church and cemetery yards.

~ *Randy Rush*

Walking to help the hungry

Each fall people from all over the country (1100 walks in 47 states) walk through their neighborhoods to help fight hunger both globally and locally. The Quaker-town CROP is Sunday, Oct. 9.

Walkers have the option of doing a 6 mile walk or a 1-1/2 mile

course. Walkers can get a sponsor sheet from Rod Rush. If we get at least **8 walkers** from West Swamp, we'll have homemade ice cream at my house after the walk.

I know that not everyone can walk—but anyone can be a spon-

sor.

And the first person who can tell me which three states **do not** have a CROP Walk will get a prize.

~ *Lynne Rush*

Cemetery Work Day

The oldest part of the cemetery (the part next to the church) only needs one more good work day to finish the job. But last fall and this spring, the weather never cooperated. Let's hope Saturday, Oct. 1 will be a different story.

We'll work from 9 am to noon. Bring any of the following equipment if you have it: work gloves, shovels, garden rakes, pry bars, wheelbarrows, plastic buckets

for carrying cement, cement trowels. Everyone is invited, men, ladies, youth. See Earl Miller for more information.



Taking time to be thankful

While Pastor Kathy was on vacation in September, I filled in for her writing and sending out the Word for the Week. I included a request for one thing people are thankful for, to help me write this article. Only one person responded—my husband.

Now I can think of a few reasons for the lack of responses: 1) not many read the Word for the Week, 2) no one except Rod read all the way to the end, 3) no one except Rod had anything to be thankful for, or 4) everyone had too many things to be thankful for to pin down one.

I really can't believe the first three are true, so I'm hoping it's #4. That means I'm pretty much on my own writing this. Here is my Thanksgiving list—only partial due to space constraints.

I'll start with little things. Crème brulee made by Ken Yoder, my mom's apple pie, Chinese dumplings, dark chocolate: I am very thankful for food, especially the abundance and variety we have. May I never take that for granted.

I'm thankful for the kindness of strangers, from those who give me directions or help me in a store, to those who just give a smile or hello as I pass.

I am thankful for the Moatstown Choir who sing every year at the Treasure Mountain Festival in Franklin, WV. I hadn't been to TMF for ten years so am especially thankful that the two aunts (front row and respectively, 87 and 82 years of age) were still singing. It was truly a blessing to see them again.

I'm thankful that my volleyball league starts next week. Though I feel slower and stiffer each year, I'm thankful

that I can still move and get a chance to play!

I'm thankful for back roads and quilt barns. And a husband who doesn't mind sometimes taking a few hours on a trip to let me indulge in both.

I'm thankful for Tuesday night's sunset. I was here at church, killing time while the Ministry Team met, when I noticed some strange colors peeking through the bush outside the office window. I went outside to check it out and the whole western sky was awash in deep pinks and oranges. Thank you, God, for such delights!

And speaking of the Ministry Team, I am very thankful of the men and women who donate so much time and energy to the leadership of our congregation. May God bless them for their willingness to serve and may we be a congregation that is a joy to lead.

So now I'm getting into bigger things, like my thanks for our church family, especially those who are so thoughtful and encouraging, not just to me, but to so many in the church.

And now would be a good time to put in Rod's response: "I'm thankful for the health of my parents, considering their age and past health issues." Ditto. Both Rod's dad and my mom experienced major head trauma and we thought we might lose them. So now everything we get to do with them seems like bonus time, and we are very thankful.

I'm thankful for my time with my father and all the things he passed on to me—faith, love of nature, the impor-



tance of education, and so much more.

I'm extremely thankful for my children, and in so many ways that I'll just mention two. We have only had to deal with two major health issues, Emily's kidney stones when she was 9 and Ben's herniated disc. Both of those were things that could be solved. My heart goes out to parents who have dealt or are dealing with much more serious health issues.

Secondly, I'm thankful for the faith my children have. Watching them grow into a man and a woman of God is an incredible joy.

I am very thankful for Rod. To have a husband who shares my faith and values is truly a blessing. To have one who cleans the bathroom and surprises me with flowers now and then (I found some yesterday waiting for me in the back room of Ten Thousand Villages when I went in to work) is an incredible treasure.

Before I run out of room, I am thankful for a loving, compassionate, just and merciful God. The song "He has done so much for me, oh, I cannot tell it all" comes to mind. And because of all these blessings, I will be at the **Community Thanksgiving Service** here at West Swamp on **Nov. 23 at 7 pm**. I hope you will join me.

And I hope you will tell me sometime just what *you* are thankful for.

~ *Lynne Rush*



★ Kid's Page ★



Friends in the Lord

Jesus offers a perfect example of friendship. What does he do for his friends?

Directions: Follow the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the completed Bible verse below.

1. Better than; rhymes with *crater*: _____
2. Opposite of hate: _____
3. Opposite of yes: _____
4. Three minus two: _____
5. Not _____ but that; rhymes with *hiss*: _____
6. To place something down; rhymes with *say*: _____
7. Opposite of up: _____
8. Opposite of death: _____
9. Best buds: _____

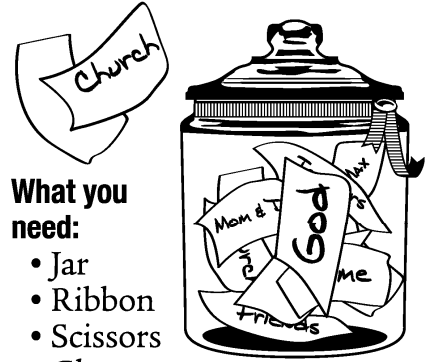
“ _____¹ _____² has _____³
 _____⁴ than _____⁵ : to _____⁶ _____⁷
 one's _____⁸ for one's _____⁹.”

JOHN 15:13, NIV

Answer: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13, NIV

BLESSINGS JAR

Thanksgiving reminds us of our many gifts from God. Count your blessings all month long with this craft.



What you need:

- Jar
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Glue
- 3 sheets of paper (different colors)
- Marker or pen

What you do:

1. Measure and cut enough ribbon to wrap around the jar's neck, below the lid. Glue in place and let dry.
2. Fold each piece of paper in half three times, resulting in eight rectangles per sheet. Cut along the fold lines, and you'll have 24 rectangles.
3. Each day in November until Thanksgiving, write down one blessing from God. Then place that blessing in the jar.
4. On Thanksgiving, open the jar and read all your blessings to your family and friends.



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Reflecting God in our
living, loving and serving



Birthdays

October

- 10/6 Jordan Stauffer
- 10/7 Deb Stevenback
Jan Wieand
- 10/10 Bea Heimbach
- 10/14 Don Rosenberger
- 10/17 Bill Deecher
Julia Mininger
Case Mood

October

- 2—World Communion Sunday
- 4, 6:30 pm—Junior Youth
- 4. 7 pm—Community Com.
- 4, 7 pm—DISCO
- 6, 1 pm—Senior Luncheon
- 7 & 8—Hall Painting
- 8, 9 am—Cemetery Work Day
- 9, 1 pm—CROP Walk
- 11, 1 pm—Worship Com.
- 11, 7 pm—Mission Com.
- 12, 6 pm—Chimin' In
- 13, 7 pm—Stewardship Com.
- 13—Ten Thousand Villages
Service Trip
- 15, 8 am—Men's Bible Study
- 15, 10 am—Autumn Alive
- 18, 6:30 pm—Junior Youth
- 23, 12p—Sunday Lunch Bunch
- 25, 7 pm—DISCO
- 25, 7 pm—Anniversary Com.
- 28, 6 pm—Ministry Team Mini-Retreat
- 29, 7 pm—Fall Fire Ring Party

Regular Activities

- Tuesdays, 8 am—Quilting & Knotting
- Tuesdays, 6 pm—Joyful Noise
- Wednesdays, 7 pm—Adult Choir

Calendar of Events

November

- 1, 6:30 pm—Junior Youth
- 1, 7 pm—Community Com.
- 2, 6 pm—Chimin' In
- 3, 1 pm—Senior Luncheon
- 5, 7:30 am—Benefit Breakfast
- 8, 7 pm—Mission Com.
- 10, 7 pm—Stewardship Com.
- 15, 1 pm—Worship Com.
- 15, 6:30 pm—Junior Youth
- 15, 7 pm—Ministry Team
- 16, 6 pm—Chimin' In
- 19, 8 am—Men's Bible Study
- 20, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
- 22, 7 pm—DISCO
- 22, 7 pm—Anniversary Com.
- 23, 7 pm—Thanksgiving Eve
Service at West Swamp
- 27—First Sunday in Advent
- 30, 6 pm—Chimin' In

- 10/18 Paul Heimbach
Casey Parzych
Joann Rush
- 10/20 Amanda Wieand
- 10/21 Randy Rush
Sue Shelly
- 10/25 Corinne High
- 10/29 Dale Loch
- 10/30 Ken Roth
- 10/31 Jim Rosch

November

- 11/1 Ruth Mohr

- 11/3 Nancy Jacobs
John Riley
- 11/05 Olivia Mood
- 11/06 Jordan Husvar
- 11/08 Alex Parzych
- 11/18 Andrew Spiess
- 11/19 Pam Grube
- 11/20 Don Butcher
- 11/21 Bernice Keller
- 11/24 Aidan Garza
- 11/26 Les Rice
- 11/27 Rachel Gerstenberger
- 11/28 Kitty Stauffer
- 11/30 Mary Bittenbender