

STONE CHURCH NEWSBRIEF

JANUARY 2017

This abbreviated version of Stone Church newsletter comes to you to highlight the most important January events. The next newsletter deadline will be January 20 for the February edition.



CONGREGATIONAL FORUM

Sunday, January 22 at 8:45 a.m.

Please plan to join us in Fellowship Hall.

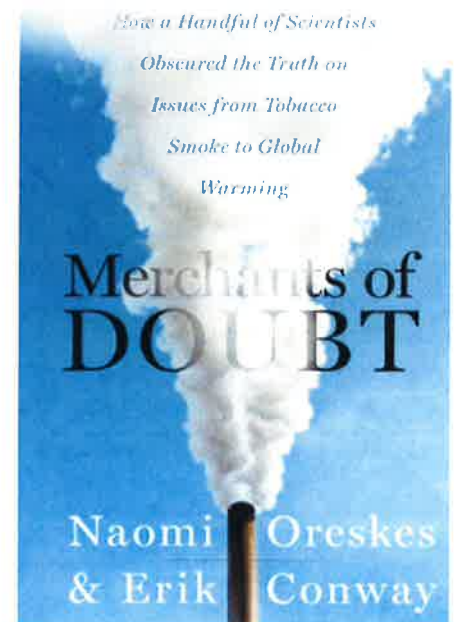
Coffee and pastries served at 8:45.

The meeting begins at 9:00.

It's a new year, and we need to approve a **new budget!**

We will receive **annual reports** and learn more about the findings and recommendations of our **Discovery Team**. Please plan to join us for this important time. Activities for our young people are planned during the Forum (Room 102).

Are you concerned about climate change? Feeling ready to learn more or to act? Join the Sustainability Circle **Sunday, Jan 29 at 3 pm in the Stone Church Fellowship Hall** to watch *Merchants of Doubt*. This documentary explores how a group of silver-tongued pundits-for-hire intentionally created confusion around well-studied public threats – including climate change. Afterwards we'll discuss how to talk about climate change with those who may hold different views, and provide opportunities to advocate for action on climate change.





Leadership Team Meeting 12/14/2016 – “A, B, C, D, E & F” Respectfully submitted by Vice Chair Rick Laabs

It is only fitting that my last duties as interim Vice Chair is to report on the last Leadership Team Meeting of 2016. The meeting was intentionally lengthened to include an extended review of the Discovery Team’s work thus far. You see, I am a member of both teams. The Leadership Team and Discovery Team join in thanks for the wonderful ham dinner prepared and served by Stephen Dowdy, Don and Becky Mitchell.

While the family pop group The Jackson Five once sang “ABC, its easy as 123...”, the extended meeting was far from easy. Since our meeting was double the length, we needed to double our letters to ABCDEF.

“A” is for Affirmed, Approved and Accepted. The Leadership Team affirmed the direction of the Discovery Team after reviewing their draft vision statement and mission depiction. Then the Leadership Team approved Marty Kenney’s request for an extended leave of absence from May, 2017 through August, 2018. Finally the Leadership Team accepted Kim Witkovsky’s resignation as Volunteer Coordinator of Older Adult Ministry and gratefully thanked her for her service.

“B” is for Budget. Bob McMinn, Finance Team Chair presented a final draft of the 2017 budget, for comments and final edits, before presentation to the congregation for a vote of approval. Stone Church has benefited throughout 2016 from the large carry-over at the end of 2015. A substantial end of the year carry-over is expected to bolster the 2017 budget. Thank you Finance Team for all your hard work in preparing the budget.

“C” is for Christmas and Conferences. The Pastors’ report emphasized Advent and Christmas events and preparations and included great appreciation for Brooke Meadows efforts in preparing the Christmas Pageant. Brooke Meadows, Moderator, reported that annual staff personnel conferences were held, but Pastor conferences remain to be held.

“D” is for Discovery Team. With the Leadership Team’s affirmation, the Discovery Team will continue its work on draft staffing models. The models will be presented during another joint Leadership Team and Discovery Team meeting in January.

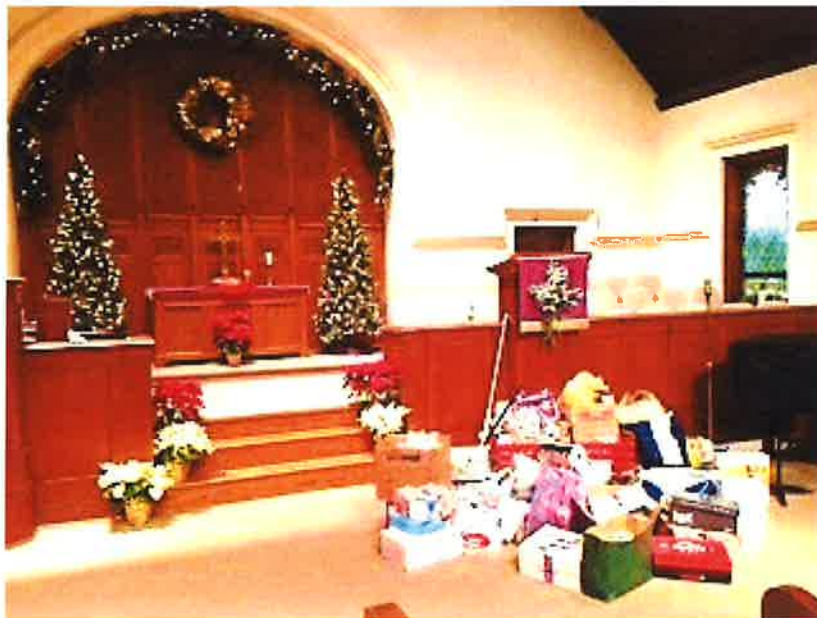
“E” is for Emma. An emotional plea for special prayers was requested by Vice Chair Elect, Dennis Plane, for his and wife Becky’s 13 year old niece Emma, whose cancer has returned. We implore all of the Stone Church community to prayer for Emma and her family.

“F” is for Forum. Preparations for the January Congregational Forum have begun. The agenda will include a vote on the 2017 Budget, annual Ministry Team reports, and an update from the Discovery Team.

The meeting was closed with a rousing rendition of “Joy to the World”.

Advent Boxes

This year Stone Church counted down to Christmas by putting an item (or a gift of money) each day of the Advent season in a box or basket at home. These boxes were then brought to the church on Christmas and New Year's Sundays. These items/financial gifts will be shared with persons of the Huntingdon Food Pantry and Huntingdon House in the new year. Items will be delivered following the final collection day (January 8th) and you can be praying for those persons who might be receiving some of these items.



Christmas Blessings for 2017



The Christmas Pageant



"Oh, Christmas, Treat!"



December 18th



THANK YOU to each of you who shared special gifts at Christmas time with the staff! Pastor Christy, Anna Lisa, Debbie and Barb sincerely thank you for your thoughtfulness.

THANK YOU for your generosity! December Gifts shared from:

Give a Girl a Chance (New Community Project)	\$ 1,243.25
Christmas Eve Offering for Huntingdon Fuel Assistance	\$ 1,254.51
The Alternative Christmas Gifts Bazaar (Saturday & Sunday):	\$15,735.78
Asturias Academy	\$ 4,031.00
Disaster Relief	\$ 96.00
First Book	\$ 360.00
Global Women's	\$ 200.00
Grocery Cards for Food Pantry	\$ 100.00
Grocery Cards for Huntingdon House	\$ 50.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 460.00
Huntingdon County Library	\$ 349.00
Huntingdon Food Pantry	\$ 145.00
Hunting House	\$ 598.00
Heifer International	\$ 790.00
Market Bucks	\$ 208.00
Midwives for Haiti	\$ 171.00
New Community Project	\$ 148.00
On Earth Peace	\$ 68.00
R.R. Wildlife	\$ 99.00
Camp English	\$ 1,184.00
CSA Shares	\$ 92.00
Center Amazon	\$ 1,548.00
Fuel Fund DLF	\$ 112.00
Fuel Fund Food	\$ 865.00
GGC	\$ 350.00
JV Sustainability Club	\$ 76.00
Market Bucks	\$ 50.00
Recyclo Craftz	\$ 149.00
Tug Hollow Honey	\$ 109.25
Youth Pretzels	\$ 930.00
SERVV International	\$ 2,086.53

THANK YOU TO ALL who contributed an amazing variety of cookies for the Huntingdon Community Soup Kitchen on December 23.

THANK YOU TO ALL who prepared the lasagna and cookies at the Longest Night. Those helping and serving 102 guests included: Randy Yoder, Chris Gibboney, Mary Garvey, Ray & Allison Ghaner, Rose Rahman, Betty Ann Cherry, Emily Elder, Philip Zink, Anna Lisa Gross and Christy Dowdy.



Youth Ministries

Greetings Stone Youth and Parents –

Volleyball on Saturdays in January and February at HAHS gym from 6:30-8:30! Youth and parents both need to sign a permission form - contact the office if you need one.



Middle PA District Youth Cabinet, including Chloe and Eddie, is busy planning the Winter Retreat at Camp Blue Diamond, January 13-15. Youth can fill out a scholarship form for financial assistance, also available at the office.

Christian Citizenship Seminar is April 22-27, focusing on Native American Rights: Food Security, in Washington, DC and New York City. See more at <http://www.brethren.org/yva/ccs>. This is a great opportunity to apply for a scholarship from Stone Church!

Older Adult Ministries

Older Adult Luncheon

The Older Adult Lunch gathering will meet Tuesday, **January 17 at 12 noon** in room 102. If you know someone within Stone Church or a neighbor or friend who might enjoy this time of gathering, be sure to invite them.



Reservations are requested in the church office (643-3390 or stonechurch@verizon.net) by Monday morning, January 16th!

From Kim Witkovsky - December 22

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ—

Thank you so very much for your beautiful gift of a home communion set to celebrate my ordination and ministry. It is something I will be using for a long time as I seek to serve others wherever they come to meet Christ. I will cherish your love and support demonstrated through your material gift and all the years of sharing together in the name of Jesus.

Blessings & Love,
Kim

Thank You!

January Birthdays

3—Emma Santos	9—Charles Swigart	20—Guen Porcelli
4—Jeff Decker	11—John Bowser	21—Linda Parlett
6—Orpha Hearn	12—Katherine Swigart	21—Cindy Clarke
6—Kevin Davis	13—Sabin Fisher	23—Celia Cook-Huffman
7—Melody Jaymes	14—Lois Harbaugh	25—Will Thurston-
7—Samuel Christopher	14—David Quarry	27—Cecelia Grugan
8—Ashlee Fultz	14—William Smith	28—Heather Rice
8—Tom Carpenter	15—Robert Ritchey	31—Tinka Berger
9—Christy Dowdy	18—Bill White	

January Anniversary --- 11—Belle & Jim Tuten

We Remember.....

Annabelle Kidd

November 21, 1926 – December 3, 2016



Annabelle Houp Kidd, 90, was born Nov. 21, 1926, in Aitch, she was a daughter of the late George and Alice (Russell) Kidd, and a longtime member of Stone Church. Annabelle and her husband, Dick, married in 1961, and served as deacons for many years. She was an active part of the quilting group and loved to do handwork, as well as gardening. Many remember her raisin filled and date nut filled cookies which were offered at the annual Christmas Craft Fair. The Kidd's lived on a beautiful farm in Big Valley prior to building their new home in Huntingdon. Annabelle has recently enjoyed the Older Adult meals held at the church, as Carolyn Lidston often made it possible for her to attend, transporting her from her most recent place of residence in Reedsville. A Funeral Service was held at Cutright Funeral Homes in Huntingdon on December 8th. Pastor Christy officiated, assisted by Kim Witkovsky.

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 HOLIDAY—Closed 4p Yoga GatheringRm	3 4p Gifts Discernment-Rm 201	4 10a Staff Mtg-Rm 201 5p Yoga GatheringRm	5 7p Discovery Team-Rm 201	6	7 8a Men's Breakfast/ Movie-FH 6:30p Youth Volleyball-HAHS gym
8 4p Cub Scouts	9 12p Forum of Churches-FH 4p Yoga GatheringRm	10 5:30p Christian Ed.-Rm 201 7p Discovery Team-Rm 201	11 5p Yoga GatheringRm 5:30p Leadership Team-Rm 201	12	13 District Youth Retreat (Camp Blue Diamond) 11a OAM Mtg-Rm 102	14 Christy on retreat District Youth Retreat (Camp Blue Diamond) 6:30p Youth Volleyball-HAHS gym
15 Christy on retreat District Youth Retreat (Camp Blue Diamond) 12p Deacon Mtg-Rm 201 4p Cub Scouts 4-5:30p Boy Scouts 6p TAIZE SERVICE	16 Christy on retreat 4p Yoga GatheringRm	17 Christy on retreat 12p OAM Luncheon-Rm 102 5:15 Worship Team-Rm 201	18 Christy on retreat 5p Yoga GatheringRm 7p Finance Team-Rm 201	19 Christy on retreat 5:30p BBBS/S.M.A.R.T. 7p SURJ-FH 7:16p Choir	20 Christy on retreat Newsletter Article Deadline	21 Christy on retreat 6:30p Youth Volleyball-HAMS gym
22 9am Congregational Forum 4p Cub Scouts 4-5:30p Boy Scouts	23	24 7p Witness Team-Rm 201	25 10am Staff Mtg-Rm 201	26 5:30p BBBS/S.M.A.R.T. 7:16p Choir	27	28 6:30p Youth Volleyball-HAHS gym
29 3p Film Series begins	30 Christy off	31 Christy off				

Stone Church of the Brethren
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STONE CHURCH NEWS

January 2017

Congregational Forum
Sunday, January 22 – 8:45am
Fellowship Hall

2017

For all members and friends of Stone Church!