

STONE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Now, I know what you're thinking, "Didn't I read this last month?" But I promise, this is a new note from a different pastor, so keep reading! While Advent is the beginning of the church year, the rhythms of our lives still make the beginning of a new calendar year an opportunity for reflection on the year past as well as dreaming a bit about the future.



January 15 marks one year in our ministry together with you at Stone Church! We feel so blessed to be sharing life with you. We have heard so many stories about the ways that God is active in your lives, the ministries and missions that give you life and voice, and experienced the depth of your talent, care, and hard work. We have also felt privileged to be invited into more difficult spaces with you - places of pain, sickness, and grief. We have been glad to walk with you in all of life. Thank you for the many ways you have helped our whole family join you in being the community and the body of Christ together. We look forward to continuing to learn about you - to hear more of your stories - and to keep creating some of those stories together.

As we look forward with hopeful anticipation, there are lots of exciting opportunities for our church in 2019. There will be a special business meeting on January 6 (right after worship) to discuss a partnership with Juniata College in our ministry to and with the campus. Don't miss this chance to listen to how God might be calling Stone Church to engage and equip our neighbor across the street! We will have our Congregational Forum meeting on January 27 (at 9AM). We will host the Forum of Churches Ecumenical Hymn Sing also on January 27 (at 2PM). There is more information on these meetings and opportunities in the rest of the newsletter - so keep reading!

**Stone Church
Leadership Team Report
December 2018**



“Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.”

“On a Scale from 1 to 11, I’m at 13”

Matthew Damschroder from Juniata College visited with Leadership Team during our December 5 meeting. The topic was a possible arrangement between Stone and Juniata that would strengthen the relationship between these two neighbors and life-long friends. The basic idea is that Ben and Cindy and the entirety of Stone Church would increase on ministry to Juniata students. This would mean that Ben and Cindy would perform some of the ceremonial functions that Dave Witkovsky currently undertook as college chaplain. They would also be available to minister to students through participation in various activities such as Bible studies. For its part, the College would provide support services and a modest expense budget. This is not a second job; It’s relationship building. And Ben and Cindy would be under no obligation attend any given event, an arrangement that is designed to ensure that Stone Church—as was their calling—comes first.

I asked Matthew how excited he was about the possible new relationship. With a nod to *Spinal Tap*, Matthew assesses that “on a scale from 1 to 11, I’m at 13.”

I’m also at 13. I’m excited to see the historic bonds between the place where I work and the place where I worship strengthened. I’m excited to see more Juniata students walk through Stone’s doors. I’m excited to feel the vibrancy and energy of youth. I’m excited to extend the ministry of Stone Church to our neighbors.

Some have expressed concern that expanding ministry to the College will sap the time and energy of our beloved ministers. With raising three young boys and ministering more than full time to the Stone congregation, what happens if too many demands are placed on their gifts? I, for one, hope to find out. That is the best kind of problem to have. How wonderful would it be for there to be so much demand from the College community for ministry that we find ourselves running low on resources to meet the demand?!?!? That is a problem I would be glad to brainstorm solutions for.

The Leadership Team concluded that this relationship-building agreement is something that the congregation should weigh in on. After all, it’s not just an agreement between the pastors and the College; it’s an agreement between the Church and the College. So when this comes to a vote, listen for a call. Do you hear God calling us to increase our ministry to the College? Do you hear God calling us to build a relationship with our neighbors? I hear the call loud and clear. Are you at 13, too?

With all the love and joy that is Christmas,

Dennis Plane

YOU ARE INVITED!

Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019

— to a Special Meeting in the Sanctuary Following Worship —

This gathering will address a recommendation by the Leadership Team to affirm a Memorandum of Understanding between Stone Church and Juniata College.

A Brief Summary:

Pastors Ben and Cindy and the church Leadership Team have been in conversation with representatives from the college about serving in an official chaplaincy capacity there, following Dave Witkovsky's retirement. At first, this was presented by Juniata as a part-time job offer. After careful consideration and open conversations with our Leadership Team and many other interested individuals, the Lattimers turned down the position as offered. The pastors and Leadership Team, however, believe that ministering to those on campus fits well with the mission and vision of Stone Church, and that this conversation presented an opportunity to further that ministry. And so, the conversation with the college about the possibilities for collaboration continued. This led to the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Juniata College and Stone Church. As Pastor Ben explained to us, the MOU does not include financial compensation because the pastors feel that a paycheck from the college would only serve to complicate matters by creating a sense of obligation. Instead, they believe they can make presentations, generate content for spiritual development events, and continue to provide pastoral care for students, faculty, and staff – *with* the ability to say “no” to requests, when necessary – and *without* taking on additional administrative duties. Our understanding is that the college would hire someone else to care for the administration of religious life activities and events on campus.

In early December, our congregation's Personnel Team and our Pastoral Relations Team met jointly with Pastor Ben to discuss the implications of such an agreement. The teams ultimately recommended (with enthusiasm) that Leadership Team accept the proposed MOU. Next, the Leadership Team had a question-and-answer session with Matthew Damschroder, Juniata's Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students, before engaging in further discussion. We then voted unanimously to recommend the MOU to the congregation. Since this would be an agreement between the college and the church, as opposed to the college and the pastors, we must decide as a congregation whether or not to approve it. Thus, we will vote on the matter during the Special Meeting set for Jan. 6. Please contact Moderator Brooke Meadows for more information and/or for a copy of the MOU (814-215-5513 or mama.meadows@gmail.com). Pastors Cindy and Ben are also willing to answer any questions you may have. In the meantime, we hope you will prayerfully consider our ministry priorities in light of God's call for this congregation.



Called to serve!

Below is the list of those who will be serving in “Called” positions in 2019. Those in **bold type** were affirmed during the November 11th Congregational Forum. We thank them for accepting this call and thank you for your commitment to support them.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

	Term Expires
Jeff Decker, Chair of Leadership	2021 (2nd term)
Dennis Plane, Vice Chair of Leadership	2019
Brooke Meadows, Moderator	2020 (2 nd term)
Cathy Closz, Clerk	2020
John Wright, Treasurer	2019
Mary Garvey, Chair of Christian Ed	2021
Luke Roth, Chair of Church Property	2020
Barb Purdy, Co-Chair of Deacons	2020
Bob McMinn, Chair of Finance	2019
Henry Thurston-Griswold, Chair of Gifts Discernment	2020 (2 nd term)
Sarah Worley, Co-Chair of Hospitality	2020
Roxann Yon, Co-Chair of Hospitality	2020
Andy Murray, Chair of Witness	2020
Chris Gibboney, Chair of Worship	2021

GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

	Term
Henry Thurston-Griswold – Chair	2 nd term – 2018-20
Betty Ann Cherry	2nd term – 2019-21
Emily Elder	1 st term – 2018-20
Jamie White	1 st term – 2017-19
Tara Yorke	2 nd term – 2017-19
Pastor	

2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Rick Laabs
Anita Soliday

2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ALTERNATES

Chloe Soliday
Jeff Decker

DISTRICT CONFERENCE DELEGATES

	Term
Mary Garvey	2018-19
Rick Laabs	2018-19
Carolyn Lidston	2019-2020



Your Deacons



Deacons serve the congregation by establishing connections with its members and friends, and reinforcing the caring community of the church. We thank all our deacons for their care and commitment!

Sandy Brechbiel

Jeff & Daisy Decker

Carol Fultz

Mary Garvey

Joanne Krugh

Carolyn & Bruce Lidston

Andy Murray

Barbara Parlett

Barbara Purdy

Cheryl Ritchey

Sally Stewart

Deacon Co-Chairs—Daisy Decker & Barbara Purdy

Secretaries—Joanne Krugh & Carolyn Lidston



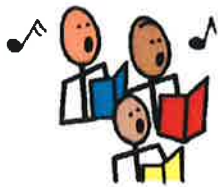
CONGREGATIONAL FORUM

Sunday, January 27 at 8:45 a.m.

Please plan to join us in Fellowship Hall.
Coffee and pastries served at 8:45 a.m..

The meeting begins at 9:00 a.m.

It's a new year, and we need to approve a **new budget!** We will receive **annual reports** and **hear from our pastors.** Please plan to join us for this important time. Activities for our young people are planned during the Forum (Room 102).



Choir... We're on hiatus the first weeks of January.

Join us when we return to weekly rehearsals beginning

Thursday, January 17th at 7:16 p.m.



"Be still, and know that I am God." ~Psalm 46:10

January 20, 6:00 p.m.

A quiet and meditative time of worship using scripture, silence, prayer, and repeated phrases of simple, beautiful music to create a transcendent and peaceful worship experience.

All are welcome!



Sunday School Spotlight

with Jeannie Lashlee

Recently I talked with the Stone Church Sunday School Teachers via modern technology (aka e-mail) to learn more about what's offered on Sunday mornings. Over the next few months in this Sunday School Spotlight, I'll give you a taste of what's happening in some of our classes. Read on, and discover where you can get plugged in as we start the New Year!

Currently, we have five classes:

Pre-school and Early Elementary class taught by Jeannie Lashlee,
Llamacats led by Pam Grugan,
Senior High Class with Rick Laabs,
Sojourners led by different teachers but coordinated by Henry Thurston-Griswold,
and an Adult Bible Study taught by Pastor Ben.

(Later this Spring Pastor Cindy will be offering a Membership Class for all who are interested as well.)

We'll start out this month with my conversation with Pam Grugan of the Llamacats...

Question: What Sunday School class do you teach? Who is the class for?

Pam: Becky Plane and I learn with participants in grades 4-7. We call ourselves The Stone Church Llamacats.

Q: Hold up. What's a "Llamacat?"

Pam: The participants chose the name they wished to be known by.

Q: What is something you would like others to know about your Sunday School class?

Pam: Our Sunday school class focuses on what's relevant to our participants and to our church family. A couple years ago... we chose a different setting and moved from the Anna Mow Room on the second floor to the John Naas Room on the first floor. The Christian Ed Team approved funding to make improvements to the space we occupy each week. We were permitted to purchase furniture, lighting and a new carpet. The Llamacats sewed pillows and made decorations to contribute their personal signature. In the spring of 2018 we invited members of the congregation to an "Open House" to celebrate our new identity with us.

Q: Do you have upcoming plans for your Sunday School class?

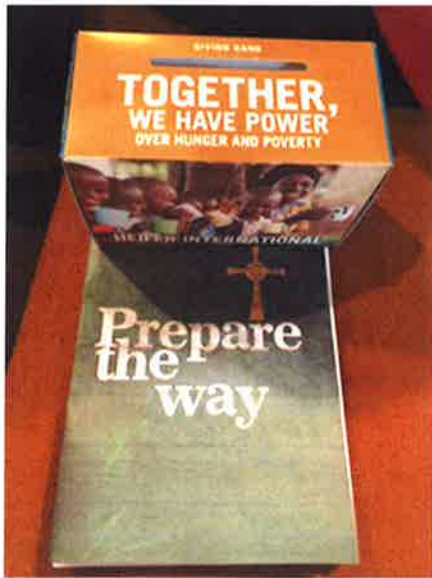
Pam: This year we are joining the Church of the Brethren at large as we seek to identify our compelling vision. We are asking ourselves three questions: "Who are we; what do we believe; and what are we called to do." By investigating the work we do at the Stone Church, we are developing our understanding of what motivates us to participate. For example, Jerri and Dean Wenger came to visit our Sunday school class and shared information about Heritage Festival, which helped us to understand the work of our Middle Pennsylvania District. Another Sunday, we dissected our church bulletin to identify specifically how we live out Jesus' message by deciphering what we practice weekly at Stone Church. Finally, we participate in the work of the church by presenting an opportunity for our membership to give from our abundance to Heifer International. In this way we live into who we are, what we believe and what we are called to do.

FILL THE ARK

with *Heifer International* this year

A missions giving program that offers real-life solutions to world hunger and poverty and illustrates how one person, one family and one congregation can make a difference in today's world.

As you read in last month's Newsletter, the youth Sunday School class (the Llamacats) are trying to **fill an ark** with cows, sheep, oxen, water buffalo, pigs, beehives, goats, ducks, rabbits, guinea pigs, geese, chicks, llamas, fish, and a Community Animal Vet Kit – a feat requiring \$5000 in donations. Each Sunday they've done a skit to help us visualize this quest.To date, they are very close to achieving this mission goal – thanks to the very generous involvement of their extended community. Final details will be in the NEXT newsletter because, at the printing of this newsletter, one week remained to complete the quest. But we did want to give you an update, and share some of the excitement!!!



"With us in spirit..."

Below are members of our church family who, though they are not often physically able to join us in worship, remain with us in spirit. Remember them in your prayers, and with cards and visits! Please contact the church office (814-643-3390 or stonechurch@verizon.net) to add others you know.

DeLois Fluke
11325 Raystown Rd.
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Jean Prendergrast
930 Mifflin St.
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Thelma Wallace
5754 Wallace Dr.
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Westminster Woods
John Bowser
Joanne Dolnikowski
Bill and Sue Martin
Yvonne McKensie
Denny Rock

Arista Care (814-643-4210)
1229 Warm Springs Ave, Huntingdon 16652
Howard Crouch – Room 265
Orpha Hearn – Room 251

Floyd McDowell
Olney Assisted Living
16940 Georgia Ave.
Olney, MD 20832

2018 Alternative Christmas Gift Bazaar "Season of Love"

How do you measure a year? The musical, "Rent", would say 525,600 minutes. It's difficult to measure a year of blood, sweat, and tears (just kidding, it's all fun and laughs) that goes into the actual 5 hours of bazaar day, but here are some highlights from your ACGB Team (*Emily Elder, Roxann & Jon Yon, Becky Plane, and Jeff & Daisy Decker*):

- \$17,705.61 was collected at the bazaar, of which, a portion of the Heifer money was allocated to the Llamacats Ark project.
- 14 different soups = 211 cups + 23 loaves of bread + 115 scones = \$971 to the local fuel fund!
- 21 vendors making a global and local impact!
- 100+ volunteers for set up, tear down, and working the day of the bazaar!
- **40+ hours the ACGB team met at church to discuss, organize, train, and plan over the year!**
- 20+ hours worked by ACGB team individually at home to email, call, plan, type, and coordinate!



December 7, 2019 - next bazaar - please save the date!

2018 Christmas Pageant!

"Come and See," based on the book "Mary's First Christmas" by Walter Wangerin, Jr.
Presented by Mary Garvey and the Stone Church Players!





Summer Camp 2019

It's never too early to start dreaming about summer camp! The schedule (including a new Cooking Camp for 5th and 6th graders) was published in last month's newsletter, on the Church bulletin board, and online at www.campbluediamond.org. In case you're looking to make vacation plans or decide in advance which camp will fit into your schedule best, take a look. Online registration begins January 7, brochures will be mailed by January 10, and Early Bird Discounts are available until February 28.

Hiring Summer Staff--Apply Now!

Applications for 2019 positions are now available at www.campbluediamond.org. Interviews and hiring will begin in January, with preference given to those who apply by February 15. For those who love CBD and enjoy working with kids, nothing is better than working at Camp (and getting paid to do it)! Counselors, tower director, maintenance, lifeguards, naturalist and crafts' director are needed. Applicants must be at least 18 (maintenance 16), committed Christians, enjoy kids, and be able to live in harmony with others. Staff members grow in faith as well as leadership and communication skills. For those interested in teaching, ministry, social work or just being a parent someday, it's terrific on the job training! Pay is \$185 - \$235/week, depending on the job and experience. Room & board provided. Summer camp runs June 6 – July 27.

Youth Retreat – One, Though Many: Being the Body of Christ Despite Differences

All youth in grades 9-12 are invited to kick off the year right by coming to the Youth Retreat on January 11-13, 2019! Join Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District as we welcome Tyler Goss. Tyler has been a part of National Youth Conference and the Youth Peace Travel Team. Together, we will explore how we are the body of Christ and what that means for how we interact with one another and the world around us. Come for this awesome weekend full of games, singing, crafts, karaoke, friends, sledding/tubing and much more! Cost is \$70 if you register by December 31, or \$80 after that. **More info on the church bulletin board and at www.campbluediamond.org.**

Jr. High Retreat – February 8-10, 2019

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth graders are invited to Camp Blue Diamond's Jr. High Winter Retreat in February. Our guest speaker will be summer counselor David Fehr, who is a seminary student at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Flyers will be mailed in mid-December. In addition to David, Brian and Amanda will be there, plus your favorite summer camp counselors. There will be lots of music, great food, games, crafts and winter fun like sledding and tubing! Be sure to save the date!

Upcoming Events

Youth Retreat for grades 9-12	January 11-13
Jr. High Retreat for grades 6-8	February 8-10
Jr. Retreat	March 1-2
Annual Dinners	March 22-23
Father/Son Retreat	April 12-13
Quilt & Craft Camp	April 26-28
National Young Adult Conf. at CBD	May 24-26
Senior Adult Day	May 31
Hoss's Fundraiser	June 9
Heritage Fair	September 21

Have questions?

Contact your Camp Representative, David Meadows, at 814-599-6017 or meadowd@juniata.edu.



*"No Farms
- No Food"*



Cartoonists have long drawn the closing year as a bent-over bearded old man carrying a scythe while the new year is a strapping bright-eyed baby in a diaper.

How will you remember 2018? Was it a good year for you? Or do you welcome the new year? Personally, I won't miss 2018. I was hospitalized with an ulcer in March and for back surgery in July. More surgery is pending.

I got a card from June and Bill Peters. June was critically hurt in a car accident years ago and still is undergoing treatment. The Heartline Hallmark card was engraved with these words: *"Even small steps will get you where you're going..."* No physical therapist could put it better.

But thinking about hospitals brings me to FOOD and farms and an organization that is trying to preserve our disappearing farmlands, the American Farmland Trust (AFT). This year's record-breaking storms, floods, massive forest fires, disruptions in bee populations, and uncommon outbreaks of pests have heightened concerns about climate change and all of these factors' impact on farming.

Earlier this year, the 38-year-old AFT released a report, *Farms Under Threat*. It showed America had lost nearly twice the amount of farmland previously believed – three acres every minute between 1992 and 2012. Development disproportionately occurred on agricultural lands, with 62 percent of all development occurring on farmland, AFT noted that every meal on American tables contained food grown on America's farms.

We need land to grow the food, AFT President John Piotti declared we need; healthy soils to nourish the crops and livestock, clean water on farms, and farmers to make it all happen... "But the land, soil, water and people we need to grow our food are at risk," Piotti said.

In my case, and probably yours as well, I've been eating from a very early age.

--- Eugene R. Goshorn ---

January Birthdays:

3—Emma Santos
4—Jeff Decker
6—Orpha Hearn
6—Sandy Loughlin
8—Ashlee Fultz
9—Christy Dowdy
9—Charles Swigart
11—John Bowser
11—Bob Biber

12—Katherine Swigart
13—Sabin Fisher
14—Lois Harbaugh
14—David Quarry
15—Robert Ritchey
18—Robin Paterson
20—Guen Porcelli
21—Cindy Clarke

22—Ryan Wetzel
23—Celia Cook-Huffman
25—Robert Lamey
25—Will Thurston-Griswold
27—Cecelia Grugan
28—Heather Rice
30—Jean Corbin
31—Tinka Berger

January Anniversary: 11—Belle & Jim Tuten

Food Pantry Sunday—January 20

We will ask the children to collect your items as they come forward for the children's time. The item of this month for the Huntingdon Food Pantry is **Mac & Cheese** but any items may be brought to assist needs in our community. Donations at other times may be placed in the wagon outside the sanctuary doors by the organ.



In **December**, the item was Soup and 68 cans of soup, In addition, **\$134.00 in cash** was donated toward Heifer International.



Grocery Gift Cards— Every card helps our church! (We get 5% to use in our ministries!)

Purchase a Stone Church Grocery Gift Card on Sundays at the back of the sanctuary or in the church office – and Stone Church gets 5% of your grocery receipt total when you buy your everyday groceries – at either Weis or Giant!



Communities of faith responding to climate change

Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light is making plans for our 8th Annual PA to DC Bike Trip from May 10-15, 2019. For the second year in a row, we'll have two groups, one originating in the State College area and one in the Philadelphia area making the trip to raise a faith voice for action against climate change. This public statement of concern is also a fundraiser for PA IPL and riders spend a day on Capitol Hill advocating for policies that will turn the tide of climate change and protect Creation and God's most vulnerable people. This year, we hope to recruit more riders and still have a diverse group so are asking potential riders to fill out an application form between now and January 28. The participants will be selected and make commitments by mid-February.

To learn more about our work or to fill out the application, go to PAIPL.us and type "bike trip 2019" in the search this site box.

January 2019

February 2019

January 2019

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 30	31	Jan 1, 19	2	3	4	5
		OFFICE CLOSED			OFFICE CLOSED	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am 10:30am Sunday School 10:45am 11:45am Worship Service 11:00am 11:30am Special Meeting (Sanctuary)		7:00pm 8:00pm Habitat for Humanity	7:00pm 9:00pm Leadership Team (Room 201)	6:00pm 7:00pm Democratic Committee (Rm 102) 7:00pm 9:00pm Democratic Committee (Fellowship Hall)	OFFICE CLOSED	8:00am 10:00am Men's Breakfast (Donna's Family Restaurant, 9048 William Penn Hwy # 6, Huntingdon, PA 16652, USA)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am 10:30am Sunday School 10:45am 11:45am Worship Service 3:00pm 5:30pm Boy Scouts (Gathering Space)		12:00pm 1:30pm Older Adult Luncheon (Room 102)	10:00am 10:30am Staff Meeting	7:16pm 8:46pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	OFFICE CLOSED	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Food Pantry Sunday (Mac) 9:30am 10:30am Sunday School 10:45am 11:45am Worship 1:00pm 4:00pm Boy Scouts 6:00pm 7:00pm Taize Wors 7:00pm 8:00pm JC Contem		6:30pm 8:00pm Deacons (Room 102)		5:30pm 7:00pm B.B.B.S (Fellowship Hall) 7:16pm 8:46pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	OFFICE CLOSED	
27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2
9:00am 10:30am Congregational Forum (Fellowship Hall) 10:45am 11:45am Worship Service 2:00pm 3:00pm Ecumenical Hymn Sing (Sanctuary)				5:30pm 7:00pm B.B.B.S (Fellowship Hall) 7:16pm 8:46pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)		

Dec 30 - Jan 5

Jan 6 - 12

Jan 13 - 19

Jan 20 - 26

Jan 27 - Feb 2

Stone Church of the Brethren
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STONE CHURCH NEWS

January 2019

Special Meeting (details on page 3)
Sunday, January 6 – following worship
Sanctuary

Congregational Forum
Sunday, January 27 – 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall (Coffee at 8:45 a.m.!)

2019

For all members and friends of Stone Church!