

STONE CHURCH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2017



Join us for
Souper Bowl 2017
on **Sunday, February 5,**
following worship!

This year's Heritage Fair fundraiser will feature a scrumptious variety of 11 homemade soups, homemade bread and jam, and desserts. Although there is no cost for the meal, your generous donations will support Middle PA District and the life-changing ministries of Camp Blue Diamond. Everyone is invited to share in this joyful time of fellowship. Many thanks to our volunteer chefs, crew, and donors for helping to make this event possible!

If you aren't able to partake, but wish to make a donation to Heritage Fair, you may do so through the Church Office. Checks should be made out to Stone Church of the Brethren with Souper Bowl in the memo line.

**We will celebrate the Ordination to Set Apart Ministry
in the Church of the Brethren
of
Lauren Seganos Cohen
Sunday, February 5
2 p.m.**



All are invited

Pam Reist, a Pastor of the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren, will offer the message.
Connie Maclay will represent Middle Pa District to lead the service of ordination.

**RESERVE February 26 on your calendar!!
CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT
following worship**

Sill Boardroom, von Liebig Center (Juniata Campus).

Leadership Team and Discovery Team encourage all members, attenders and friends of Stone Church to retreat into conversation, discernment and discovery about the transitions we're living into. Bring a sack lunch (See the January 22 Forum report on the next page) to learn more about this important gathering for all interested Stone Church members and friends!



**Don't forget to take the survey!
See inside for details!**

January Congregational Forum Highlights

On Jan. 22, we gathered before worship to hear annual reports from pastors and ministry teams, approve the 2017 budget, and hear Discovery Team's latest report – including Stone's emerging vision and mission statements!

You may read the annual reports by stopping into the office or opening Jan. 20's Friday Flash. We thanked the pastors and teams for their service to Stone Church and care for God's work in this world.

We approved the 2017 budget. Discussion included:

- significant witness giving that happens outside the budget (~ \$25,000 as well as donated food, clothing, school supplies, etc., *in addition* to what we give through the witness budget)
- need for working internet and computer equipment for staff, and the possibility of adding a team and/or budget line
- ~\$10,000 increase to staffing budget, which is the result of a full 12 months of expected interim employment (rather than a partial year like 2016)

Leadership Team and Discovery Team spent time with this vision and mission this fall and encourage you to do the same. They have answered YES to the following questions and invite you to consider them, too:

- *Does this feel like a good fit at Stone Church?*
- *By affirming this vision and mission, are we headed in the right direction?*
- *Do you feel comfortable using this as a model for next steps regarding staffing decisions?*

The conversation continues at a congregational retreat: Sunday, Feb 26, following worship in Sill Boardroom, von Liebig Science Center (Juniata Campus).

Vision: Stone Church seeks to be a Christ-centered community where all are spiritually nourished, equipped and empowered to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.

Want a more pleasant reading experience? View the vision and mission on our website under "ministries" or stop by the office for printed copies.

Mission Statement

Discipleship and bearing fruit

- Answering our call as disciples, our vocation as ministers
- Living not only for ourselves but the greater work of the Kingdom of God
 - Seeking opportunities to cultivate justice and peace

Equipping, empowering and growing in community

- Experiencing God's grace through robust love for one another
- Equipping with Biblical stories, wisdom of Christian and Brethren traditions, and tools for peace and justice
- Empowering with hope and visions of God's Kingdom of justice and peace on earth

Spiritual nourishment and rooting

- Knowing that we are beloved by God through compassionate relationships with self and others
 - Articulating how God works in our lives
 - Feeling led by Jesus, hearing our call to discipleship

January 11, 2017 Leadership Team Meeting

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

Respectfully submitted by Chris Gibboney



Leadership Team embarked upon another “intentionally lengthened” meeting to include a report from the Discovery Team where they would (drum roll please...) bring their recommended staffing model. This time, Leadership Team handled regular business first with Discovery Team joining us at 7pm.

We gathered in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm for a working dinner with delicious Lasagna served by Sharon Bookhamer and Yvonne Stein. Minutes were distributed electronically in advance to expedite things. Grace was offered and there was a little bit of quiet time to review minutes if needed. I will pause here to echo Discovery Team’s findings and mention that gathering around the table with church friends provides a fantastic opportunity to get to know one another a little better. These small groups (like Leadership Team, Ministry Teams, Choir, Deacons, Sunday School Class, Men’s Breakfast, Older Adult Luncheons, etc.) are a vital part of the community that we hold so dear!

The pastors reported thankfulness for the Advent Season with special thanks to Loren and Donna Rhodes, Marty Keeney and Brooke Meadows. December was an amazing giving month considering the Alternative Christmas Gift Bazaar, “Give a Girl a Chance,” and the Christmas Eve special offering for fuel assistance. Despite all of the extra areas of focus, regular giving was still strong. Christy reported that Lauren Seganos has a job offer in hospital ministry and will be seeking ordination. Christy also reported that she would be on Silent Retreat from January 11 – 21. Anna Lisa reported noticing the “seasonal cycle of church” in our congregation and that January feels like a time of new beginnings.

The Congregational Forum on January 22 was discussed. These forums are a chance for the congregation to hear about important church matters and voice opinions. They also allow a deeper understanding of why things are the way they are. By the time you read this, I hope you can say that you came to the forum, heard year-end reports from the ministry teams, voted on the new budget and feel more up-to-date on the findings of the Discovery Team.

Speaking of the Discovery Team, at 7pm, we transitioned to a presentation by David Meadows. Discovery Team found that the Vision Statement and Mission Depiction guided all of their decisions. They kept coming back to it for inspiration. Leadership Team voted to approve both the Vision Statement and Mission Depiction, which will be presented to the congregation at the forum. This presentation also included a recommendation to Leadership Team of a staffing model. **February 8 at 6:30pm will be another “intentionally lengthened” meeting for Leadership Team to finalize and approve a staffing model and handle regular business.** Campus Ministry’s Pasta Dinner is at 5:30pm that evening, so sustenance (prior to the meeting) and socializing with Juniata students is an option for Leadership Team members. The journey of the Discovery Team has been deep and wide. After countless meetings, thoughtful discussions and interviews, and numerous late nights, they reported that there is even *more* to share. We look forward to hearing their other observations!

A combined Leadership Team and Discovery Team meeting will then occur the following week, February 15, at 7pm, to prepare for a **Congregational Retreat on Sunday, February 26 in Juniata’s Sill Boardroom following worship.** This is a chance for congregation members to be part of the discussion as we come full-circle from the February 2016 congregational retreat when we first brainstormed staffing models. Remember the *Dreamy Detour*? We have come a long way in a year! A search Team was formed and then took a pause. A Discovery Team was formed. Leadership Team has put in many extra hours. Each ministry team has examined strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results. Congregational giving increased in 2016. We are now more informed and ready for the next steps forward.

As we step forward together into new territory, Leadership Team asks for patience and understanding. Much time and thought was prayerfully applied to arrive at a sustainable pastoral model. We hope to see you on February 26th!



JUST 5 MINUTES!!

Stone Church friends and members: Please complete the **annual Congregational Gifts Survey** without delay! It will take no more than five minutes!! Just enter the following link address:

<https://goo.gl/forms/bDiy1IFi1zhF5Qg82>.

The survey allows you to indicate areas where you currently serve as well as those where you would consider serving (the survey is NOT legally binding!) should the need arise. This information is crucial for the Gifts Discernment Team as it seeks to identify willing hearts and hands to do the work of Stone Church. Hard copies of the survey are available in the back of the sanctuary for those who would prefer to complete it on paper and submit it to the church office.

Huntingdon Forum of Churches



Ecumenical Hymn Sing -
Sunday, February 12th, 3:00 PM
@ Most Holy Trinity Catholic
Church. The offering received
will benefit Out of the Cold.

Saturday
8 AM - February 18th
Fellowship Hall



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The February Men's Breakfast will be held on February 18, 2017 at 8 AM EST in The Stone Church Fellowship Hall. We had a great turnout in January for the viewing of the film "Little Boy", which had the theme of learning how to love your enemy. We will reflect on how that theme aligns with the refugee experiences we heard during Advent. There will be great fellowship, jokes and food. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend.

You are invited to join Stone Church members and friends as we prepare and serve a meal at Huntingdon's Community Soup Kitchen on Thursday, February 23rd at the Huntingdon Presbyterian Church on 508 Mifflin Street. You are welcome to participate ANY time between 3:00 and 7:30. Please contact Beth Williams at [814-599-9015](tel:814-599-9015) or Pam Grugan at [814-386-7435](tel:814-386-7435).



Thank you!!

SUNDAY EVENINGS
FEBRUARY 19
MARCH 19
APRIL 9
6:00 PM
Stone Church Sanctuary

Taizé Worship



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

For those who enjoy quiet and meditative worship,
Stone Church offers Taize worship services.

This is a style of worship using scripture, silence, prayer, and repeated phrases of simple, beautiful music to create a transcendent and peaceful worship experience. Many in the Huntingdon community have been joining the Stone Church community to enjoy this growing gathering of contemplative worshippers.

All are welcome!



Happy New Year!!! The Hospitality Team met on January 12 to work on 2017 activities. By the time you read this, we will have provided coffee and pastries for the Church Forum on January 22nd. And, we will be working with the Witness Team to hold Souper Bowl on February 5th after worship (Hope to see you there!) For March, we are planning a fellowship luncheon – Date to be determined. We're hoping to have a southern fried chicken dinner with the trimmings!!

The Kitchen at Stone Church is available for use by many groups for a wide variety of events. To keep church costs down and keep the area ready for the next group, we have labeled and organized the cabinets and we provide cleaning supplies for your use. We thank you for your help in keeping the area community ready!



Food Pantry Sunday—February 19

We will ask the children to collect your items as they come for the children's circle time. The February item of the month for the Huntingdon Food Pantry is Beans, but any items may be brought for the cause of helping alleviate hunger in our community. Donations at other times may be placed in the wagon outside the sanctuary doors by the organ. **IN January**, the item was Mac & Cheese and 54 boxes of varying sizes were collected, along with 2 cans of vegetables and \$104.14 in cash were donated to this local ministry during the third Sunday monthly offering!!



Charlie and Robin Paterson officially became members of Stone Church on January 8, 2017. We are delighted to welcome them and their children, Max, age 3, and Sydney, born November 22, who were also dedicated that morning. Both Charlie and Robin grew up in this area, and are happy to return, following their work in the Philadelphia area. Charlie will be assuming leadership at Paterson Insurance Agency, and Robin has recently been promoted as Senior Director, National Great Strides at **Cystic Fibrosis** Foundation. They are making their new home at 1507 Mifflin Street.

Paterson's are enjoying being surrounded by grandparents, Geoff and Cindy Clarke and Phil and Patti Paterson. We welcome Charlie, Robin, Max and Sydney!

February Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1—Erlene Jordan | 10—Xavier Cuff | 18—Phil Paterson |
| 2—Lucas Smolcic-Larson | 13—Candice Kerestan | 19—Donna Evans |
| 3—Doris Comerford | 14—Edward Biddle | 21—Norm Navarro |
| 3—Brooke Shuck | 15—Hazel Crouch | 21—Daniel Santos |
| 4—Paul Keeney | 15—Monte Furry | 23—Grace Braxton |
| 7—Cheryl Ritchey | 15—Laura White | 27—Gene Goshorn |
| 7—Joanne Thurston-Griswold | 16—Sylvia McDowell | 28—Norman Siems |
| 8—Robert Oldring | 17—Sophie Fisher-Sneath | 28—William Meloy |
| 8—Hannah White | 17—John Wright | |

February Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3—Bill & Lori Fagan | 14—Ed Biddle & Amber Port | 19—Ron & Barbara Detwiler |
| 4—Bob & Virginia Biber *50 th | | |

We Remember.....

Paul Anderson

January 19, 1928 - December 29, 2016



Paul Anderson, died Thursday, December 29 at Westminster Woods, at the age of 88. Paul moved to Huntingdon in 2005 and he and his wife, Barbara became active members of Stone

Church. Prior to being part of our community, Paul and Barbara lived in State College, and were members of the State College Presbyterian Church. Paul worked as an Extension dairy specialist for Penn State, and was a long time member of the Loyalsock Rod and Gun Club in Sullivan County. Paul's matter of fact approach to life and for his challenging health was an encouragement for many. Memorial services will be planned for a later date, at the convenience of his family.



2017 Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of Stone Church is a method of conveying a symbol of God's warm love and constant peace. The ministry group gathers once a month to stitch, share and pray together as we bless the shawls that were created that month. The members stitch not only at the meetings but at home during the month. We usually don't know who will receive the shawl we create, but we pray for the unknown person trusting that they will feel God's love and peace through this ministry of Stone Church. These words are spoken as the shawls are shared with the recipients: *May you know that God's peace and love are woven throughout your life.* As the members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry stitch and create shawls, participate in the giving of shawls, and read the thank you notes from recipients, we also experience the blessing of God's peace and love.

In 2016, we gave 33 shawls and 3 twiddlemuffs. Persons who created at least one shawl in 2016 include: Tinka Berger, Doris Comerford, Daisy Decker, Doris Hayden, Erlene Jordan, Sheila McMeen, Donna Rhodes, Sally Stewart, and Melva Whalen.

Since the beginning of the prayer shawl ministry in 2008, over 320 shawls have been given. Recipients express their gratitude and use their prayer shawls in a variety of ways. A recent thank you note included this message: "I do not have words to express how much nor how I will treasure your gift to me. It will be with me where I go all of the days of my life. It is so beautiful, but more than beauty, I feel so loved that you would take the time to know something so wonderful to give to me." The prayer shawl given to Andy Murray, 2016 Moderator of the Church of the Brethren, was draped across his chair as he served in this challenging role.



We are always welcoming of new members to stitch with the prayer shawl ministry! Come and join us we knit or crochet to share God's comforting presence. We usually meet on the second Monday of the month. Come, stitch, bless and be blessed!

Donna Rhodes

News From **CAMP**

Jr. High Retreat – February 24-26, 2017

All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are invited for a great weekend at Camp with special guest Andrew Wenger, who will be leading sessions around the theme of “Connecting Through Christ”. Andrew grew up at Camp and Stone Church, and he’s now a student at the Lancaster Theological Seminary. See your camp friends and Counselors, and enjoy games, a campfire, crafts, music, good food, and sled riding! Cost is \$60 if you register by Feb. 14th, or \$65 after that. ***More info on bulletin board outside church office.***

Summer Camp 2017 – Branching Out: Connecting Through Christ

Regular registration is open through June 1, and *early bird savings* are available until March 1. Families should check out the *Multiple Sibling* discount. Don’t forget that Stone Church pays half of the registration fee for our children and youth. If finances stand in the way of a child going to camp, look for scholarship information in the brochure and consider applying. ***Brochures are available at the back of the Sanctuary and/or in the Conference Room.***

Camp Needs Summer Staff--Apply Now!

Do you know someone who loves camp and enjoys kids? Nothing is better than working at CBD! Counselors must be at least 18, committed Christians, enjoy kids, and be able to live in harmony with others. Being a part of camp staff is a great experience. Staff members grow in faith as well as leadership and communication skills. For those interested in teaching, ministry or social work (or being a parent), it’s terrific on the job training! Maintenance and Kitchen staff need to be at least 16, and typically work 8 hour days, with time off in the evening to join activities. Pay is \$185-\$235/week, depending on the job and your experience. Room & board provided. Camp runs June 8–July 29. Get an application at www.campbluediamond.org. Don’t wait too long to apply! They’ve already started hiring!

Upcoming Events

Jr. High Retreat for Grades 6-8	February 24 – 26
Annual Dinners	March 24 & 25
Quilt & Craft Camp	April 28 – 30
Father/Son Retreat	May 5 – 6
Bird Watching	May 27
Senior Adult Day	June 2
Summer Staff Orientation	June 8 – 14
Hoss’s Fundraiser	June 11
Annual Golf Tournament	August 8
Family Camp	August 18 – 20
Heritage Fair	September 23

Have questions?

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

Youth activities

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL –

**** practice every Saturday 6:30-8:30, HAHS gym ****

We're excited to have new (and non-high school) players join us! This is a fun way to get exercise in winter, and spend light-hearted time together. A team will play in the district youth tournament March 11 (you can play at practice without playing in the tournament).

Thanks to David Meadows, Emily Elder and Chris Gibboney for teaching the senior high Sunday school class this spring, and to Brooke Meadows, Maylin Musser and Anna Lisa Gross for assisting!

We celebrate with Chloe Soliday, Eddie Rice, Leah Lashlee, Caden Pensak and Maggie Lashlee the Middle PA District Brethren youth retreat at Camp Blue Diamond in January – *ask them about it!*



Christian Citizenship Seminar is a unique opportunity to put faith in action. This year's focus is Native American Rights: Food Security. Learn about the issues in NYC, then travel to DC and talk with legislators. Scholarships are available – talk to Anna Lisa.



During the holiday season, 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 between Christmas and New Year's Sundays and then sorted for distribution to both the Huntingdon Food Pantry and Huntingdon House. Bruce Lidston delivered the Food Pantry items and our youth delivered the Huntingdon House items. Thank you to all for your generosity as you prayed for and contributed to this event.





“If I Have Not Love”

February 14 always makes me recall Paul’s advice to the Corinthians: “I may have faith strong enough to move mountains; but if I have not love, I am nothing.”

I’m happy to see 2016 end. It was one of the worst years I can remember, from my poor health to a national election I’m trying to forget. It reminds me of this item seen in a church bulletin: “Low self esteem support group will meet Thursday. Please use the back door.”

In the movie *Kissing a Fool*, actor David Schwimmer says, “Love cannot be found where it doesn’t exist, nor can it be hidden where it truly does.”

My momma always said, “Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’re gonna get.” – Forrest Gump.

“It is not our abilities that show what we truly are...it is our choices.” – Dumbledore, from *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

“Why are you trying so hard to fit in, when you were born to stand out?” – from the movie, *What a Girl Wants*.

“Great men are not born great, they grow great.” – Mario Puzo, *The Godfather*.

Those of us alive in 1947 may remember a great Christmas movie, *The Bishop’s Wife*, starring Cary Grant as an angel, James Gleason as a cab driver, and Loretta Young as the bishop’s wife Julia. The cabbie says, “The main trouble is there are too many people who don’t know where they’re going and they want to get there too fast!” A family friend, a professor played by Monty Woolley, offers, “For some time now, every time I pass the cemetery, I feel as though I’m apartment hunting.” Angel Cary Grant says, “Sometimes, angels rush in where fools fear to tread.” Julia responds, “Yes. The trouble is, people grow old.” But the angel replies, “Not everybody. The only people who grow old were born old to begin with.”

Reportedly, a church bulletin actually read: “Please place your donation in the morning envelope along with deceased person(s) you want remembered.” Well, those of us belonging to parsonage families may recall similar typos; they are a fact of life. But please, do not forget to keep your *Messenger* subscription up to date. See Debbie at the church office.0

---Gene Goshorn---
February 2017

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 5:30p BBBS/ S.M.A.R.T. 7p JC Women's March Campaign follow-up-Rm 201 7:16p Choir	3 6-11p Boy Scouts Soup prep-FH/ Kitchen	4 8-11a Boy Scouts make soup-FH/ Kitchen 6:30p Youth Volley- ball-HAHS gym
5 10:30a Boy Scouts (Scout Sunday) Noon-Souper Bowl 7p Bells	6	7 5:15 Worship Team- Rm 201	8 3:30p Citizen's Cli- mate Lobby-Rm 201 5:30p JC Pasta Din- ner 7p Leadership Team- Rm 201	9 4p Gifts Discernment -Rm 201 5:30p BBBS/ S.M.A.R.T. 7:16p Choir	10	11 6:30p Youth Volley- ball-HAHS gym
12 12p Deacon Meeting- Rm 201 7p Bells	13	14 <i>Christy off</i>	15 7p Leadership Team- Rm 201	16 5:30p BBBS/ S.M.A.R.T. 7:16p Choir	17	18 <i>Christy at District Retreat</i> 8am Men's Breakfast -FH
19 <i>Christy at District Retreat</i> 6p Taize Service 7p Bells	20	21 12p Older Adult Luncheon-Rm 102 5:30 Witness Team- Rm 201	22 10a Staff Meeting	23 5:30p BBBS/ S.M.A.R.T. 6p Soup Kitchen 7:16p Choir	24	25 6:30p Youth Volley- ball-HAHS gym
26 Noon-Congregational Retreat-Sill Ball- room/Von Liebig JC 5:30-7:30p Boy Scouts-FH 7p Bells	27	28				

Stone Church of the Brethren
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February 2017



CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

February 26

following worship

at

Sill Boardroom, von Liebig Center (Juniata Campus)

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