



## Making room for Jesus

By Naomi Smith

For the past two years, my husband, Jason, and I have hosted the Smith family for a Christmas gathering. Jason's parents live in Pittsburgh, his sister in Buffalo, and his brother in New York City, so our home in Dillsburg serves as a fairly central meeting place. Not wanting to monopolize the event, we suggested meeting elsewhere this year. But Jason's sister voted to come to Dillsburg again, explaining that this annual visit has become something she has "very much come to treasure."

Hosting so many overnight guests in our home is no small undertaking. I need to ready three bedrooms for our visitors—plus make space in the master bedroom for our family of five to squeeze in for a few days. I must buy extra food and plan larger meals. Hosting this clan means the hot water kettle will often be on, the plans will often be in flux, and we will get way too much chocolate in our stockings. Yet it also means precious time together: games played, trails hiked, stories read and lives connected.

In the Christmas story as it is traditionally told, we picture Mary and Joseph making a last-minute, grueling trek from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Mary great with child and riding on a donkey. We

imagine the bedraggled couple arriving in Bethlehem and Joseph frantically pounding on doors to no avail. We picture baby Jesus coming into the world in a humble stable, the only place they could find lodging for the night.

This story has its origins in the gospel of Luke, although Luke offers only a few of those details. He writes, "So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them" (Luke 2:4-7, NIV).

Did you catch that? Although the King James Version states that Mary laid Jesus in a manger "because there was no room for them in the inn," most scholars think a more accurate translation of "inn" is "guest room." The Greek word Luke uses here, *kataluma*, is the same word Jesus uses when he asks, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" (Luke 22:11, NIV). Bethlehem was a small town and likely did not have a commercial inn. What is more, Joseph had extended family in town, and no self-respecting Jewish family would have turned away a relative. Luke's account seems to indicate that the guest room of Joseph's relatives was already occupied—probably by other family members—and so Mary gave birth elsewhere. Most peasant houses of this time had simple dwelling spaces: one main upper room for cooking, eating, and sleeping, and another lower room to house the animals at night. Between these two rooms was a



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**Rev. Rob Douglass**  
Senior Pastor



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Pastor of Children's  
Ministry



feed box called a manger, which is where newborn Jesus was placed.

Imagining the Christmas story in this light changes the urgency and injustice of the traditional version. But it also brings the story much closer to home for me. Like Joseph's relatives, I am hosting a houseful of extended family members this Christmas. Like them, I am making room not only for guests but also for messy realities and relationships. And like them, I am making room for the unexpected in my life. Did Joseph's family know they were hosting the Messiah of Israel, the Lord and Savior of the World? Perhaps not, but I *do* know whom I am welcoming into my home this year.

This Christmas, I am making room for Jesus.

## *Christmas Around the World*

### *is almost here!*

Our women's holiday event, Christmas Around the World, takes place at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 6 in the fellowship hall.

Even if you forgot to RSVP, please join us for this fun and festive evening featuring Christmas treats and traditions from around the world. Remember to bring an extra shoe to celebrate St. Nicholas Day! (You'll take it home still wearable!)

Sponsored by LIFT, DBIC Women's Ministry -- Laugh, Inspire, Flourish, Trust

## *Dillsburg Brethren in Christ*

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**Doulos Editor:** Carolyn Kimmel

**Layout:** Anne-Marie Brandt

Please send submissions for the  
January 2019 issue to:

**carolynkimmel@comcast.net**

or place them in Carolyn's church  
mailbox by **December 8th.**

## *Sermons & Scriptures*

Dec. 2:	What Makes a Beautiful Christmas	<i>John 1: 1-14</i>
Dec. 9:	Beauty and Glory	<i>Hebrews 1: 1-4</i>
Dec. 16:	Beauty and Form & Children's Program	<i>I John 1: 1-3</i>
Dec. 23:	Beauty and Delight & Choir Ministry	<i>Matthew 2: 1-12</i>
Dec. 24:	7:00pm Beauty and Wonder	<i>Luke 2: 8-20</i>
Dec. 24:	9:00pm Beauty and the Sublime & Communion	

# Leadership Council Report

By Avis Whitesel

Highlights from the October Leadership Council:

- A motion was made, seconded and passed to bring a new excess funds procedure to Congregational Council in January.
- After spending time dreaming together with Ministry Council about ideas for the possible purchase of the property on 23 E. York Street, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to bring a recommendation to Congregational Council that DBIC purchases the property on 23 E. York Street, Dillsburg.
- A motion was made, seconded and passed to transfer \$5,000 from the General Fund to the Deacons' Fund to address significant needs in our congregation.
- We discussed the January 19 Congregational Council. We will be asking for suggestions for people to serve on Leadership Council.

The full minutes of the Leadership Council meeting are located on the bulletin board in the lobby.

If you would like additional information or to follow up on any items, please contact a Leadership Council member: Mike Beachy, Clarence Brubaker, Pastor Rob Douglass, Phil Engle, Christie Gustafson, Gary Lebo, Sharon Miller, or Avis Whitesel.



## 12/12: Countdown to Joy!

On the 12th day of the 12th month, join us as we start marking the 12 Days of Christmas leading up to the joyous celebration of our Savior's birth!

On 12/12, Eat But Don't Run! Plan to stay for an evening of carols, puppets, games and a special appearance by our own T. H. Stoltzfus as he shares the Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas Carol like you've never heard it before!

Stay tuned for details! Mark your calendars now to join us for **12/12: Countdown to Joy!**

## Want to see your words here?

We're looking for **writers** for the **Doulos** in 2019!

Stories of God's faithfulness, leading, perfect timing, presence in the midst of trials and more can go a long way in lifting others up in their faith journey. If you have had these experiences in your life, consider putting them down on paper—or computer screen—and sending them to Carolyn Kimmel for inclusion in our church newsletter.

If you would like to sign up to write a Doulos cover story in the new year, please contact Carolyn at [carolynkimmel@comcast.net](mailto:carolynkimmel@comcast.net).





**\*Thank you** for your support of Matt and Julie Walsh. We are grateful to be engaged in ministry together with you!

*Bruce Johnson, President, SIM USA*

**\*We are so thankful** for your part in helping to foster the common good through the lives of our students and alumni! **Thanks** for your recent donation to the Messiah College Collaboratory operations.

*Jon C. Stuckey, Executive Director of Development, Messiah College*

**\*Thank you** for your recent gift to Peace Promise. We are very grateful for your partnership with us. By sharing your resources, you enable Peace Promise to provide tangible help and genuine love to men and women victimized by sexual exploitation.

*Patty Seaman, Executive Director, Peace Promise*

## New Hope Ministry Musings...

by Ginny Spurrier

Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed to New Hope's Thanksgiving baskets by donating boxes of stuffing. We more than met our goal of 200!!

Please continue to remember the families who are guests of New Hope in your prayers that God would grant them grateful hearts.

Next comes the Christmas Blessings Express, which you have also contributed to by purchasing items on the tree in the Narthex. The gifts are due earlier this year. Please place them in the red bin beside the tree, or you also have the option of dropping them off at the New Hope Center, no later than Friday December 7.

On behalf of New Hope Ministries, thank you for your loving generosity that's evident by your giving. Be in prayer that each guest who receives gifts will be drawn to receive the greatest GIFT of Jesus this Christmas.

## Secret Pals Reveal Coming Soon!

**WANTED** – Ladies who like to have a good time but like to keep a secret! What is the secret? It's the Ladies' Secret Pal Program.

What is the Secret Pal Program? It's for all post-high school ladies of the church and provides an opportunity for ladies to make new and lasting friendships.

How does it work? We gather once a year in January for an evening of dinner, fun, and fellowship to reveal our current Secret Pal and to pick a new name for the following year. During the year, you pray for your Secret Pal, give notes of encouragement throughout the year, give a \$5 gift on her birthday and a \$10 gift at the end of the year party when your name is revealed.

When is it happening? The dinner party will be held on **Tuesday, January 22, 2019**, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You should have received your personalized invitation in your church mailbox. If you do not currently have a mailbox, see Nina Hoover or Sue Lawver, and they will be happy to give you an invitation.

Please let Nina Hoover know by January 16 whether or not you can join us for this fun evening!

## DECEMBER EAT 'N RUN MENU

Serving time is 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to allow reset time before the rest of the evening's activities. Helpers will eat together at 4:30 p.m.

Please contact Anne-Marie Brandt or Sarah Hoover if you are able to assist in setup, meal prep, serving and clean up.

*The meal is free and open to the community.*

**DECEMBER 12, 2018**

WE WILL HAVE  
GLUTEN-FREE  
OPTIONS!!

BAKED HAM  
SWEET POTATOES  
GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE  
BREAD/ROLLS  
DESSERT



There are many wonderful and stirring things going on in our ministry to women in clubs, and I'm excited to share with you this month!

First, some very good news! The board of directors for Peace Promise has decided that they have the funding to hire Patty Seamans fulltime as client services director. This has been a long time coming. We are very thankful to our Father and to those who have supported Peace Promise over the years. This will allow the ministry to women being exploited in clubs and elsewhere to receive a greater level of care and place them one step closer to their next phase of ministry.

More news which is both bitter and sweet involves a café in Lemoyne. A young woman who attended Patty's church recently passed away unexpectedly. Her parents decided that she would want her café given to Patty and her husband, Jason, who is pastor at the Exchange in Wormleysburg. She had been a regular attender there and had been ministered to in very meaningful ways. There are legal issues with the family that must be addressed, but barriers are not expected in finalizing the transition of ownership of the business. Patty sees this as a possibility for women who leave the clubs to receive job training and income. Please pray that the Lord will allow this to bear fruit.

Another very encouraging example of the work Peace Promise is doing among the women they serve concerns a woman (D) with whom they have had some history but who had not been at the clubs for some time. They discovered that a man with whom she became connected was selling her, and that her father, who is an alcoholic, made her leave the house. She was found dancing in a club that was being ministered to by the organization, She's Somebody's Daughter (SSD). Because she mentioned Patty Seamans and Peace Promise, SSD contacted Patty and together they rescued her from this abusive situation. Patty went to get her and when D saw her, she just melted in Patty's arms and sobbed. She has now, on her own, made the decision to enter a Christian-based residential program for rehabilitation. Please pray for D, as she has a mountain to climb, but she knows she is not alone. This has also provided the opportunity for Peace Promise to partner with SSD.

For any of you who would like to extend love to the ladies who are served by Peace Promise this Christmas, we have their annual Christmas Wish List. If you are interested in donating any of the following items for their gift bags, please let me know so I can make note of what is covered. You can purchase the items and place them in the Change Purse basket next to the bench seat in the lobby.

We need 40 of each of these items: Body wash, candles, fuzzy socks, scarf & mitten or gloves. This is overall need is not expected from any one source.

We need homemade cookies (three dozen each) and four people to write four Christmas notes each.

Lastly, I would like to thank those of you who have offered to write notes to the women we seek to bless. There are enough of us now that it is not a burden to anyone. Also, it is nice for them to be getting notes from more than just one person.

Thank you, Dillsburg BIC. You are a beautiful blessing to these women, many of whom do not receive any other Christmas gifts. God bless you and Merry Christmas!



# the Book Nook

by Harriet Conrady



You can't go outside and garden anymore; nor can you mow grass or pull weeds. So you might as well curl up in a warm blanket and read a good book from our church library. There are many new books . . . even some not listed below. What better way to spend cold, windy days!

## NONFICTION

- **Stories and Scenes from a Brethren in Christ Heritage**, by E. Morris Sider. This is the latest book to be published by the BIC Historical Society. Sider has been a professor at Messiah College and served as archivist for the BIC church for 21 years. He can tell stories! If you want to read about love feasts, camp meetings, conferences, evangelistic meetings, separation from the world, etc., read this book. There are lots of pictures, too!
- **You Are What You Love**, by James K. A. Smith. The sub-title of the book explains the theme of the book, *The Spiritual Power of Habit*. Throughout the book, Smith explains not only what it is that we should love, but also how we can learn to love what we should.
- **1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Believers Church Bible Commentary**, by Paul M. Zehr. From the series foreword, "The term *believers church* has often been applied to the Anabaptists and later the Mennonites, as well as to the Church of the Brethren and similar groups. The writers chosen for the series stand in this tradition."

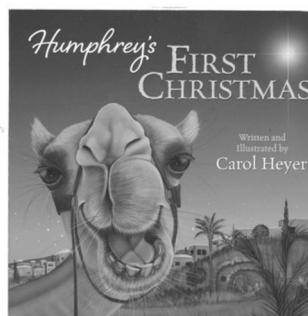
## FICTION

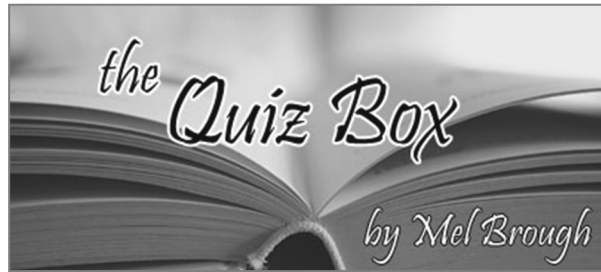
- **The First Love**, by Beverly Lewis. Maggie Esh needs some hope. She's pretty despite struggling with illness. When tent revival meetings come to the area, the words of the preacher cause her to reconsider what she knows about faith. Can she learn to trust God? You will meet Ruth Zook and Glenn Brubaker in this story, but keep reading. You will learn that you don't know these people!
- **Miramar Bay**, by Davis Bunn. When Connor Larkin boards a late-night bus in downtown L.A., he's not sure where he's going or what he's looking for. Putting his acting career – and his fiancée – on hold, he's searching for part of himself he lost on the road to success.

## For Children

- **Humphrey's First Christmas**, by Carol Heyer. We know the story of the three wise men who brought their gifts to the baby Jesus. But what about the camels who carried them? Here is the story of Humphrey the camel and his long, cold journey to Bethlehem.

See you in the library!





Our first quizzing event was the PA Capital Kickoff Tournament at Harrisburg BIC on Saturday, November 10. There were nine teams in the tournament. We had six quizzes in the morning which determined our seeding for the double elimination quizzing. At the end of the day, we finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Tyler Whitsel was third top quizzier and Ryan Brubaker was eighth top quizzier.

The next quizzing event will be a practice tournament at Souderton BIC church, 494 Cherry Rd, Souderton, on Saturday, December 1 at 9 a.m. We will be quizzing on John Chapters 1-6.

Please mark your calendars with these important dates.

Saturday, Jan 5 – Mixer tournament with Allegheny and Atlantic Conferences at Grantham BIC

Saturday, Feb 9 – Practice tournament at Dillsburg BIC

Saturday, March 2 – Practice tournament, location TBD

Saturday, April 13 – Allegheny Open Tournament at New Hope BIC – All day

Saturday, May 4 – Charlie Crider Memorial Tournament at E-Town BIC – All day

Saturday, May ? – Regional Conference finals, if necessary, location TBD

Friday, June 21 – Sunday, June 23 – Denominational Finals at Bongiorno Center, Carlisle

Verse of the month: John 10:9 – “I am the gate. If anyone enters through Me, he will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture”

Berean Study Bible

A great way to financially support the quizzing ministry at Dillsburg is to purchase Giant gift cards. Please see Avis Whitesel to purchase gift cards or if you have any questions.

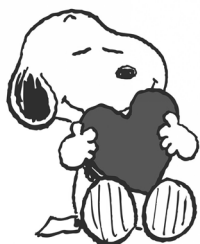
To be eligible to quiz, you must be between the ages of 12 and 19 sometime during the quizzing year, which is defined as beginning Nov. 1 and running through Oct 31. Quizzing provides an opportunity to study God’s Word, fellowship with other youth, participate on a team and experience positive competition.

If you have any questions about quizzing, please contact one of us:

Mel Brough	717-432-4864	mabrough58@gmail.com
Brent Whitesel	717-432-9048	abwhitesel@gmail.com



## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Al & Tracy Emig	December 2
Ray & Peggy Knepper	December 16
Matt & Julie Walsh	December 18
Jim & Faithe Spurrier	December 22
Stan & Sherry Eyster	December 23
Nathan & Rachel Pease	December 23
Tim & Arlene VanDyke	December 24
Paul & Kimberly Tucker	December 27
Jay & Judy Smith	December 30



Happy  
Birthday



Andrew Miller	December 1	Jason Smith	December 14
Lincoln Horst	December 4	Peggy Knepper	December 16
Ron Shannon	December 4	Laura Bayer	December 19
Gail Brubaker	December 5	Tony Beers	December 19
Julie Walsh	December 5	Jane Tucker	December 19
Reuben Smith	December 5	John Spurrier	December 19
Avis Whitesel	December 7	Jordyn Moyer	December 20
Dulci Brubaker	December 9	Wendell Hoover	December 20
Susan Hatch	December 9	Julie May	December 21
Angelina Delp	December 11	Daniel Gabikiny	December 22
Don Spurrier	December 12	Christie Gustafson	December 23
Julie Cook	December 12	Clarence Brubaker	December 23
Nicole Rank	December 12	Walter Sharp	December 26
Randy Fish	December 13	Abi Johnson	December 27
Sylvie Brubaker	December 13	Lauren Renard	December 28
Tanya Moesch	December 14		



# December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:00 am Classes 10:30 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir	<b>3</b> 3:00 p.m. Middle School Mondays 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Poole's)	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm Impact Christmas Party	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:15 Faith Finders 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Christmas Around the World (Women's event)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Doulos Deadline
<b>9</b> 9:00 am Classes 10:30 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir	<b>10</b> 3:00 p.m. Middle School Mondays 6:30 pm Human Trafficking Meeting (Strayers') 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Poole's)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:15 p.m. Eat 'n' Run 6:15 Faith Finders 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 am Classes 10:30 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir	<b>17</b> 3:00 p.m. Middle School Mondays 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Poole's)	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm Leadership Council	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive	<b>20</b> 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 6:30 pm Deacons Meeting	<b>22</b> 9:00 am Prayer Walk
<b>23</b> 9:00 am Classes 10:30 am Worship	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
			CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED			
<b>30</b> 9:00 am Classes 10:30 am Worship	<b>31</b>					
	OFFICE CLOSED					