

February, 2012

# The Son Light

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of  
Castle Shannon



Last year I approached you with the idea of choosing a word that would define us for the year. You liked the idea, and we chose the word "stretch." You were serious about it and stretching happened in many ways. This year the session has agreed to be defined by another word. The word for 2012 is "**excitement.**" Of course, the question that remains is, "What does that mean?"

In Mark 5:1-20 we read the story that Jesus crossed the lake and came to the shores along the Gerasenes. As they came ashore they were met by a man filled with demons. Jesus cast out those demons and the man was healed. He wanted to follow Jesus as a disciple, but Jesus sent him on his way telling him to tell his friends all about what had happened to him. We then read these words in verse 20, "*So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.*"

That is what I mean by "**excitement**". Once this man had come in contact with Jesus, his joy bubbled over to the point he could not contain it. That is what I wish for us this year. My hope is that as we come in contact with the Savior we will not be able to contain the joy that is inside, and that it will overflow among one another and then to all we come in contact with.

The verse says that "*all the people were amazed.*" Oh, that that could be said of us. What if our excitement was so

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
COMMUNION SERVICE  
FEBRUARY 22  
7:30 p.m.**

**ANNUAL CHILI COOK-  
OFF  
MARCH 3, 2012  
5:30 pm**

Time to warm up the cold winter with some good hot chili! Who will be the Church Chili Champs this year? Everyone is welcome to enter a favorite recipe or just come to help judge. We'll have games, food and lots of good fellowship!

Bring family, friends and neighbors. All are welcome.

Watch your church bulletins for entry and reservation forms.



great that people were left amazed? Is it possible that those around us don't have to hear us preach at them but see such a change and joy in our lives that they become curious as to what it is? What a joy it would be to find that all we touch want to know why we can't wait to be at the church every time the doors are open.

Every time Jesus touched a life the person who had been touched could not contain himself. Just look at the woman at the well in Samaria. After her contact with Jesus, she could not contain herself and ran into the village telling everyone to *"come see the man who told me everything I ever did."* (John 4:29) Our lives should be no different. We should be overwhelmed by the grace of God through Jesus Christ and not be able to stop bubbling over.

My prayer for all of us this year is that we might have an **"excitement"** that is uncontainable and contagious. It may look foolish and even weird to some, but as for me, I would rather be labeled foolish or weird for the sake of the Savior than to be labeled normal by the world. Share in the **"excitement"** this year and may it define us before the whole world, to the glory of God.

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Scott*

## CHRISTMAS DINNER IMPACT

George Libby received the following note from a family that has participated in delivering our Christmas Day dinners to shut-ins for many years:

"Listen, the ministry you guys have led has helped us raise two children for nearly 20 years. Do you have any idea what impact the interface...having our children spend what for their peers is a totally self-indulgent day...serving others?"

We have delivered meals to some really scary places...to some really scary people...thank God!

Thank you! Are you too close to what you are doing? Do you have any idea? Our children know the difference of how they spend Christmas Day...from how their peers spend the same day. We have worked SO HARD to build children with good hearts. Good souls.

God's people. There are a handful of things that have helped us raise two children that will be the wonderful adults all parents want. Your ministry is one BIG part of that effort.

We have stories. Here's one. A dying man held Aaron's hand while telling Aaron about his childhood, tears streaming down his face. Aaron smiled and was comfortable with the entire situation (I wasn't). Formative. Connection. A memory. One I wouldn't give up for anything. I have many more. Who is being served?

I want to tell these people their pain isn't in vain. Isn't wasted. They have no way of knowing we carry these images/feelings away for the rest of our lives. FAMILY. Read that word one more time. You are CREATING/MAKING it. You have no idea the impact you have made. I promise. Just with our family. The things we experienced! Thank you.

## FEBRUARY 2012 SERVICE SCHEDULE

### February 5, 2012 (Communion Sunday)

Scripture: 1 John 2:28-3:3

Sermon: Excitement

Synopsis: We are children of God! We should be bored with that and make sure that no one knows. That is not really an honor. I mean anyone can be adopted these days – no big deal. You may disagree with me, but this is how many people treat the news. We should show some excitement for what God has done. We should be impossible to silence. I suggest that we should also be excited about what He is yet to do. Imagine what God could do through this little church if we actually showed some excitement about being His children.

### February 12, 2012

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-14

Sermon: Superiority

Synopsis: As we have seen even throughout this past Advent, angels are held in very high esteem in today's society. Books upon books are being written about them. Movies and television shows are produced with many different portrayals of how they operate and look. Some even aspire to become one. There is One who is far superior. Jesus the Son was not created, but all was created through Him. That includes the angels. All glory and authority belongs to Christ.

### February 19, 2012 (George Libby)

Scripture: Romans 3:9-18

Sermon: Reflections on a Tragedy

Synopsis: What was the real tragedy at Penn State? Is Penn State unique as an institution gone wrong? Or, is the Penn State tragedy indicative of a much larger, much more insidious problem



with mankind? How did you react? What do our reactions say about each of us? What can we learn about ourselves and about God's grace through what is alleged to have occurred in Happy Valley?

### February 22, 2012 (Communion)(Ash Wednesday)

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-11

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sermon: Humility

Synopsis: Entering into the Lenten season means reflecting on our sinfulness and recognizing the need for the Savior. The worship we do, the prayers we pray, and the works for Christ that come out of our faith all must be done for the glory of Christ and with a right attitude. Both passages remind us that we are to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord. Let's make this a call to preparation this Lent.

### February 26, 2012

Scripture: Hebrews 2:1-4

Sermon: Pay Attention

Synopsis: All throughout Scripture, angels were to be listened to and obeyed. They are messengers from God and had authority in their words. We have already learned that the Son is greater than the angles, so it would be wise to pay even closer attention to what He has to say. It is time to sit up, take note, and pay attention.

**MISSION NEWS FROM FAMILY GUIDANCE**  
**(Building Strong Families and Giving Children Hope and a Future)**

**An eyewitness to change: A counselor's view of Promise Camp**

It was my first week as a Promise Camp counselor, and we had no sooner given the campers their cabin assignments when I realized I had better get on my toes quickly. We had a "situation;" his name was D'Andre. From the moment we walked toward our cabin, D'Andre attempted to incite an argument at every opportunity. On Monday, he told me that he hated camp, the staff was stupid, and if it wasn't for the fact that his mom would kill him if he did, he'd ask to go home. The boy was my "trial by fire;" for this first week of camp.

During our Wednesday evening campfire program, the gospel is shared with the kids, and they are given the opportunity to accept Christ into their lives. I could sense that D'Andre was being impacted by something he was hearing. When the chance to accept Christ came, I heard him praying the prayer loud and clear and he raised his hand high when the kids were asked to.

D'Andre was not a changed boy overnight. He was still a handful, but he was a handful that "got it." When asked later on in the week what made him realize that the gospel was true, he told me that it was because it was about love. D'Andre had never experienced true loving discipline at home. He had experienced a kind of love during camp that he never knew existed. He was told that God loved us this way all the time and was much better at it than even his counselors were. When he was able to connect the surprising love he was experiencing at camp with what God does and did for us, he decided he wanted it. He wanted more of "whatever you guys have."

A week later we had a sequel to the "situation." His name was Micah—a fourteen-year-old with a pride issue. He told me the first day of camp, "I just can't just let it go when someone says something to me, I gotta get back. Nobody says something to me, and gets away with it." He had a desperate fear of appearing weak, and he assumed that letting people talk about him without responding would weaken him. He thought that to be considered strong you had to have everyone afraid of you.

Micah is also a natural born leader and fiercely intelligent, and I wanted to impart some kind of wisdom to him, something to get him moving in the right direction. He needed to see that a leader can lead and be strong without pride – that a good and godly leader is humble, quick to forgive and quick to apologize when in the wrong. I did everything I could to demonstrate this kind of leadership to Micah throughout the week. One day he had a particularly violent verbal encounter with another counselor. I decided the moment had come for a heart-to-heart, so Micah and I walked for over an hour around the outskirts of the camp. I talked, he listened, he talked, I listened. I explained to him the meaning of the things Jesus did for us and the kind of leader He was. He led his disciples for years, and He did it with love. I described to Micah the powerful leadership qualities I saw within him. I told him what I felt he was capable of, if he could only rein in his emotions.

On our walk back, Micah was quiet and thoughtful. As we approached the Activities Center, I could see the counselor he had been arguing with standing by the stairs. He approached us as we walked across the grass and apologized to Micah for his actions. He explained that he had not been showing the right kind of leadership. Micah readily accepted the apology, but still was quiet. On Friday morning, I noticed him off on his own for a moment, and I realized that he was apologizing to the counselor he had argued with. When he boarded the bus to go home, he gave me a firm, strong handshake and thanked me.

I know that D'Andre and Micah will never forget their time at camp. It's where they met God and discovered the truth about Him and who they are in His eyes.

Greg King, Senior Counselor, Promise Camp 2011

## *Being Thankful...*

### **CHRISTMAS DINNER THANK-YOUS**

“Dear Pastor Scott,

Thank you so much for the Christmas dinners and the people who delivered. It was a blessing. Joe and Mary Jo stayed a bit to bring joy and love. I felt it. Please thank them and all who cooked the delicious food and an abundance beyond words.

It was the first time to ask for these meals and to share with a lonely neighbor. Christmas is a time for family and friends, but for those with neither, God provides.

I pray all who cared for someone like me at a sad time in one’s life, they may be blessed by the Lord in the coming year in all they do. Thank you, too. I enjoyed talking to you by phone. You cheered me up. Please keep me in prayer as I will pray for you and your work.”

Alice Burkhardt

“Just a few words for your Christmas dinner. I appreciate your members delivery of my Christmas dinner. I can’t thank you enough for your kindness in giving some of your time up delivering the meal. It was very good and I thank you again.”

Michael Lanick

### **A NOTE OF APPRECIATION**

Dear Session and Church Family,

We want to express our deep thanks for the gift card given to us for Christmas. It was a true blessing. Thank you,

Pastor Scott and Kimberly

*I've  
So much to be  
THANKFUL  
for*

### ***A NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION FOR 2012 – “BE THANKFUL”***

- Be thankful that you don’t already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?
- Be thankful when you don’t know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.
- Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.
- Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.
- Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.
- Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.
- Be thankful when you’re tired and weary, because it means you’ve made a difference.
- It’s easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.
- Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive. Let us, therefore, find a way to be thankful for our troubles, and then our troubles can indeed become our blessings.

## ***PASTOR'S BIBLE CLASS***

Mark your calendars! Beginning Wednesday, March 7, at 7:00 PM a new study class is being started, and you are invited to dig into God's word together in an interactive class format. Our focus will be on the books of the Old Testament. We will look at current scholarship and our relevance within the pages of these books. This is open to all who wish to attend. Please invite anyone you feel might be interested to come to join us.

### *Some Words to Contemplate*

#### ***THE SILENT SERMON***

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks the preacher decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preacher's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fire place...and waited.

The preacher made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone, then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The preacher glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back

in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the preacher reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday."

We live in a world today which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

### ***A Thought for Today***

A retentive memory may be a good thing, but the ability to forget is the true token of greatness.

--Elbert Hubbard

# LENT 2012: THE SEASON OF HOPE

## CASTLE SHANNON AREA CHURCHES' LENTEN LUNCHESES 2012

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THEME OF THE DAY</u>	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>PREACHER</u>	<u>LUNCHEON HOST</u>
FEBRUARY 29	WHAT IS HOPE?	PASTOR KEMP	PASTOR HUTCHINS	EMMANUEL LUTHERAN
MARCH 7	HOPE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL	PASTOR SHETTER	FATHER DOMINIK	THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CASTLE SHANNON
MARCH 14	HOPE FOR THE FAMILY	FATHER SMOLEY	PASTOR SHETTER	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
MARCH 21	HOPE FOR THE COMMUNITY	PASTOR HUTCHINS	FATHER CEDOLIA	ST. ANNE'S CHURCH
MARCH 28	HOPE FOR THE WORLD	FATHER DOMINIK	PASTOR KEMP	ST. WINIFRED'S CHURCH

**WORSHIP BEGINS AT 12:05 PM**

WITH LUNCH SERVED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP AT:

EMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
935 PINE AVENUE, CASTLE SHANNON  
(412) 531-1080

A \$4 DONATION FOR LUNCH IS REQUESTED.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CASTLE SHANNON AREA MEALS ON WHEELS, INC. OPERATING AT EMMANUEL

# February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>  <i>*Barbara W.</i>	<b>2</b> 1:00 Presby Mtg  6:45 Choir  <i>*Nancy H.</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Ministry
<b>5</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 WORSHIP (Communion) <i>*Betty W.</i> <i>*Rose C.</i>	<b>6</b> 6:30 Youth Group  <i>*D.J. C.</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  <i>*Larissa P.</i>	<b>9</b> 6:45 Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  <i>*Grace L.</i>
<b>12</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 WORSHIP	<b>13</b> 6:30 Session Mtg	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  <i>*Lauren M.</i>	<b>16</b> 6:45 Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Ministry
<b>19</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 WORSHIP  <i>*Carol Y.</i>	<b>20</b> 6:30 Youth Group PRESIDENT'S DAY (church office closed)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Communion Service  <i>*Kenny P.</i>	<b>23</b> 6:45 Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 WORSHIP  <i>*Shannon L.</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 12:05 Lenten Luncheon (Emmanuel Lutheran)		<b>*Known birthdays</b>	