



## This Week at Finland

**Tuesday, 7:00 pm** – Elder Team meeting.

**Tuesday, 7:15 pm** – Joy's Worship Team practice.

**Wednesday, 6:30 pm** – Christmas Eve service. All are encouraged to come enjoy congregational singing, the Christmas story from Luke 2, reflections on Christmas, a meditation by Pastor Bob, a string ensemble, and candle lighting.

**Thursday** – Have a blessed Christmas, and spend some time reflecting on and celebrating our Savior's birth.

**Next Sunday** - Ray Yoder will be our guest speaker.

### Announcements

**REMINDER:** Secret Family forms need to be turned in this morning. Sitting in the pew reading this and your form is at home? Don't despair! Extra copies are on the shelf under the mailboxes. Fill one out **immediately** and return to Mary by noon. Drawing will be done this afternoon and the form of your assigned family will be in your mailbox on Christmas Eve. Don't miss out on the fun! Anyone can participate – if you're a family of one or a dozen!

**The Skyline Boys** from VA will present a Southern Gospel Concert here on Sat., Jan. 3, 2009, 7:00 pm. We will have a time of fellowship in the basement following the concert. Please bring a dessert to share.

**The Fundraising Committee** for our building project is planning a hoagie sale the middle of January. Hoagies may be purchased at Wawa, Tosco's in Pennsburg, or Landis' supermarket. More information later.

**A box of 2008 packets from Burgess Seed Company** is on a table in the basement. Please help yourself to flower, vegetable, and herb seeds. Spring will be here before you know it. Start planning your garden now.

**Church pictorial directories:** Thanks to Lisa and David Landis and Jina Reinford for taking everyone's picture for the directory and to Kathy Mease for organizing and typing the personal information. Donna Benner also deserves recognition for the fine job she did on the center pages showing many group activities of our church. We are grateful for all the volunteer time they put into it. Please check your family's information for accuracy. If anything is incorrect, let Martha (secretary) know and a correction will be put in the bulletin. One directory was placed in each mailbox. If you do not have a mailbox and would like a copy, there are a few extra copies available in the second last mailbox slot. One per family, please!

## Dec. 21, 2008 insert

**Today, 4-5 pm,** Longest Night Service at Souderton Mennonite Church for all who experience pain and loneliness during the Christmas season.

**Tonight, 7:00 pm,** St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sumneytown invites you to a concert by The Singing Boys of Pennsylvania, presenting a rich assortment of traditional holiday music. See card on bulletin board.

**Tonight 6-8 pm** – Come see a live outdoor nativity at Zion Mennonite Church, 149 Cherry Lane, Souderton.

**Results of affirmation of ministry workers:** There were 74 responses returned. All expressed affirmation for the workers in their responsibilities. Thanks for your assistance with the discernment. Pastor Bob

**A thank you note** from Randall & Johanna Krupp (missionaries in Italy) is posted on the bulletin board.

**MAMA Project** booklets are under the mailboxes. Please help yourself.

**After the last fellowship meal,** Betty Drescher had the wrong green plastic lid for her 9X13 pyrex baking dish. If you took one home with you, please check to see that it fits your dish. If not, bring it back to church and talk to Mark Gane. He will exchange it for you. Thank you.

**A note from the Finance Committee** – When turning in receipts to the treasurer (especially Berean invoices), please note on the receipt what committee or budget category it relates to. If you are not sure, discuss it with either a Ministry Director or the treasurer. This will help Kris and make the record keeping more accurate. Thanks for all the hard work each one does to keep our church running effectively.

**Habitat for Humanity** invites you to the former Pennridge Senior Center at 8<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Streets in Perkasio on the following dates: Friday, Jan. 16, 12 noon the Business Community is invited for a tour & lunch. Saturday, Jan. 17, 10 am to 12 noon – Faith and Youth Groups are invited in for a tour and refreshments. Wednesday, Jan. 28, 6 pm – all are invited in for a tour and refreshments. Come see our latest affordable housing project. Find out how you can support our Habitat partner families and make a difference in your community.

**The Mennonite Conference Center** will be closed for Christmas from noon on December 24 through Friday, Jan. 2. The office will reopen on Monday, Jan. 5.

**Jan. 11, 2009, 6:00 pm** – Salem United Methodist Church in Zionsville, invites you to a bluegrass gospel concert by Sunny Side. See flyer on bulletin board.

# Summary of Ministry Council & Elder Team Meeting

December 8, 2008

Treasurer's Report for the month of October:

Beginning balance	\$ 99,271.44
Deposits	\$ 33,056.67
Expenses	<u>\$ 12,859.54</u>
Ending balance as of May 31	\$ 119,468.57

This includes approximately \$20,000 to be moved to the Building Fund.

Budgeted weekly offering	\$ 3,541.33
Average weekly offering	\$ 4,345.13

Building Fund Accounts:

Checkbook	\$ 71,760.78
Money Market	\$142,632.82
Savings	<u>\$355,100.90</u>
Total	\$569,494.50

Tara Gilmore presented the proposed budget for 2009. The Ministry Council and Elder Team approved it and scheduled the congregational meeting for January 28, at which time the budget will be presented.

Kathy Mease, Ministry director of Christian Ed, presented some ideas for a kick-off celebration for Summer Bible School in 2009. Rose Longacre, Ministry Director of Witness, reported that the Hometown Christmas Event was very successful with a great attendance.

Stacey Kolb reported that several names stood out in the nomination of an Elder Team member. They will be following up with those persons.

The Pastoral Search Committee will not be proceeding with the candidate in consideration. Alan Kratz stated they will continue to search for the right candidate. Pastor Bob's term at Finland will end April 1, 2009. Alan Kratz presented information related to a vision and mission for Finland. What do we want to see at Finland in five years? He challenged us to come with a vision statement, have it in front of us and relate to it.