

# PERRY PRES

A Publication of Perry Hall Presbyterian Church  
December, 2014

Friends:

Greetings again in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray His peace and grace and joy remain with each of you as we begin this new church year. It was good to begin Sunday School again and to be in rehearsal for choir and hand bells and for the Presbyterian Men and Women meetings getting organized again.

I again rejoice at how much our congregation has been blessed. Folks have been working hard to improve the looks of the church grounds. The mini-golf course is having a very good year income wise. New folks are getting ready to join the church after we had five youth join this past spring and summer. Our budget seems to be doing well, new community groups are renting out our facility and best of all the congregation has elected a Pastor Nominating Committee which has been working very hard. Please keep them in your prayers as they seek the person who will be called as the next installed pastor for Perry Hall Presbyterian Church. We are moving toward that date and as we do, I believe, the excitement and anticipation will grow.

In the meantime, we continue our ministry here and continue to look for ways in which we can serve our Lord Jesus Christ both within the membership of the church and beyond the walls of the sanctuary into the communities in which we live. I think part of that preparation is first, to pray for our church and then secondly, to be involved in some form in the life and mission of the church.

I think after prayer it begins with the need to be together by being in worship. Worship is central to the life and meaning of our church. Attendance is important because we confess our sins and hear the words of forgiveness, hear the scriptures being read and interpreted for meaning in our lives, to be challenged by the gospel, to be with friends and to greet new members and visitors, to sing, and to be nourished by fellowship and the presence of the Holy Spirit. I know there are many reasons why folks cannot attend yet we need to take the time

for our personal spiritual health and the health of the congregation.

And then beyond worship, if at all possible, to be involved in at least one form of ministry which builds up the church such as the choir, hand bells, committees, ordained elders and deacons, teaching, grounds upkeep, calling on people, mission efforts and pledging. As we give so do we receive.

I conclude with some words about giving and receiving. The Finance Committee of session has set Sunday, November 2 as Commitment Sunday. On that Sunday, as we receive communion, we will come forward to make that financial commitment for 2015. Your commitment will determine the health and vitality of Perry Hall Presbyterian. You have received a letter from the Finance Committee which has outlined the hopes we have for next year. Remember that our pledge is not about budgets as it is about how much we love our church because of the deep love Christ has for us and we have for Him. I know you will pray deeply on this and will come prepared to give with joy and thanksgiving.

We have been richly blessed. Let us respond with grace and generosity in the use of all of our gifts and talents in helping the ministry of Perry Hall Presbyterian Church move forward in this year and in the year to come.

Thanks be to God.

Peace,  
Pastor Joe



**Interim Pastor – Rev. Joseph Condro**  
**Music Director – Nancy Barnes**

**Secretary – Kim Kalinowski**  
**Church Office – 410-256-5780**

## PRAYER CONCERNS

John Ahlfeldt  
Martha Ahfeldt  
Kenny Avaritt  
Roland Avaritt  
Cathy Barnes  
Sandy Coradi  
Dawn Crist  
William Crosby  
Lillian Elligson  
Dewey Gardner  
Amanda Lawrence  
Marje Lentz  
Freedra Lester  
Zachary McNeil  
Gail Smith  
Skip Snyder  
Gen Tusing  
Karen Waldon



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Helen Smith  
Caroline Krivda  
Vance Stemple  
Marjorie Mowrey  
Bob Smith  
Tracey Doty  
Jim Bolton  
Stefan Cotsoradis  
Rachel Cotsoradis  
Megan Ahlfeldt  
Corinne Keppeler  
Sharon heimiller  
Kathreen Brown

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Eunice and Les Shanks

## Hymn Tunes

By Bob Barnes

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, # 9 in the Presbyterian Hymnal, is Latin Hymn dating from the 9th century, when it was one in a series of seven antiphons sung during the Advent season, at Vespers. Each of these antiphons started with the word *O* followed by a Biblical title for the Messiah: *O Sapientia -Wisdom; O Adonai – Lord; O Rex – King; O Emmanuel – God With Us.*

The text in the 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal is a composite/ Stanzas 1 and 2 are by John Mason Neale, and Stanza 3 is a translation from Henry Sloane Coffin.

Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890, was the son of a Congregationalist minister, but was ordained in the Church of England. During his lifetime he was the authority on Anglican plainsong, and he established a choral tradition in English parish churches.

John Weaver was born in 1937 in Jim Thorpe, then Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania, the son of a Presbyterian Minister. He grew up in Baltimore, and during his military service was organist at West Point. Since 1970 he has been music director at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Source: Lindajo H. McKim, *The Presbyterian Hymnal Companion*.

## Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC),

Please know that there is not much we can discuss about this process, but we will keep you informed as often as we can, when we have information that can be released. We ask that you continue to keep this committee and the journey we are on with God, leading us to the right person to lead our beloved Church in the future, in your daily prayers.

If you do have any questions or concerns, please contact Nancy Ellis. If it is a question that can be answered, she will answer your question. If you do have any concerns, she will take them to the PNC.

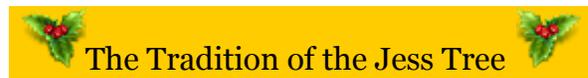
**NAME THE CAROLS**

1. Oh, member of the round table with missing areas
2. Boulder of the tinkling metal spheres
3. Vehicular homicide was committed on Dad's mom by a precipitous darling
4. Wanted in December: top forward incisors
5. The apartment of two psychiatrists
6. The lad is a diminutive percussionist
7. Sir Lancelot with laryngitis
8. Decorate the entryways
9. Cup-shaped instruments fashioned of a whitish metallic element
10. Oh small Israel urban center
11. Far off in a hay bin
12. We are Kong, Lear, and Nat Cole
13. Duodecimal enumeration of the passage of the yuletide season
14. Leave and broadcast from an elevation
15. Our fervent hope is that you thoroughly enjoy your yuletide season
16. Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are proclaiming tunefully
17. As the guardians of the woolly animals protected their charges in the dark hours
18. I beheld a trio of nautical vessels moving in this direction
19. Jubilation to the entire terrestrial globe
20. Do you perceive the same vibrations which stimulate my auditory sense organ?

21. A joyful song of reverence relative to hollow metallic vessels which vibrate and bring forth a ringing sound when struck
22. Parent was observed osculating a red-coated unshaven teamster
23. May the Deity bestow an absence of fatigue to mild male humans
24. Rose-colored uncouth dolf is aware of the nature of precipitation, darling.

B	I	R	T	H	W	P	J	F	E
A	E	D	H	O	I	D	S	K	M
B	H	T	S	U	S	U	D	A	Y
Y	K	W	H	N	E	B	R	C	R
R	I	V	E	L	M	Y	E	B	R
S	U	S	E	J	E	Q	H	X	H
E	D	T	P	D	N	H	P	O	J
S	T	A	B	L	E	Y	E	L	U
F	J	R	D	O	I	G	H	M	E
O	Y	A	N	G	E	L	S	D	P

- Birth    Jesus    Wisemen    Herd    Stable
- Bethlehem    Angels    Mary    Baby    Star
- Gold    Sheep    Myrrh    Rib



Jesse Trees are a very old Christmas Tradition and first started in medieval times. They are used to help tell the story of the Bible from creation to the [Christmas Story](#).

The name comes from Jesse who was the Father of the great Jewish King David. One prophecy in the bible, in the book of Isaiah, says:

**1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.**

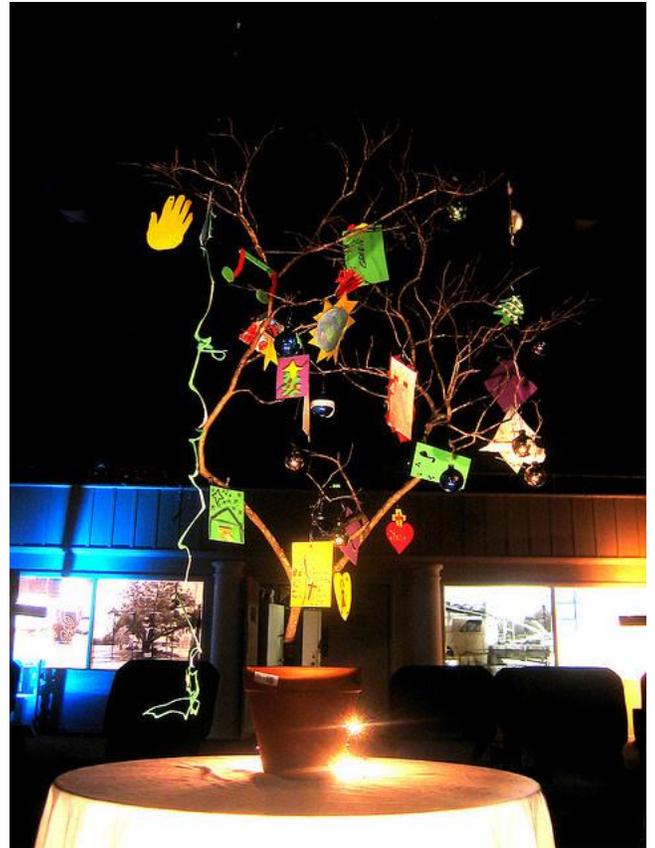
**2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD--**

**3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;**

**4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.**

**Isaiah 11:1-4 (NIV)**

A branch is a sign of new life and new beginnings. Jesus was a decedent of King David and Christians believe that Jesus is this new branch.



The first Jesse trees were large carvings, tapestries or even stained glass windows put in Churches that helped illiterate people (people who can't read or write) to learn about the bible from creation to the Christmas Story. But now Jesse Trees are used as a kind of [Advent Calendar](#). You can use a normal [Christmas tree](#) or a banner in the shape of a tree. Each day through advent (or sometimes just on the four Sundays of advent) a special decoration or ornament (similar to a [Chrismon](#)), that tells a story from the Bible, is hung on the tree. There are very many different stories and symbols you can use.



## Poinsettias at Christmas



Poinsettia plants are native to Central America, especially an area of southern [Mexico](#) known as 'Taxco del Alarcon' where they flower during the winter. The ancient Aztecs called them 'cuetlaxochitl'. The Aztecs had many uses for them including using the flowers (actually special types of leaves known as bracts rather than being flowers) to make a purple dye for clothes and cosmetics and the milky white sap was made into a medicine to treat fevers. (Today we call the sap latex!)

The poinsettia was made widely known because of a man called Joel Roberts Poinsett (that's why we call them Poinsettia!). He was the first Ambassador from the USA to Mexico in 1825. Poinsett had some greenhouses on his plantations in South Carolina, and while visiting the Taco area in 1828, he became very interested in the plants. He immediately sent some of the plants back to South Carolina, where he began growing the plants and sending them to friends and botanical gardens.

One of the friends he sent plants to was John Barroom of Philadelphia, who gave the plant to his friend, Robert Buist, a plants-man from

Pennsylvania. Robert Buist was probably the first person to have sold the poinsettias under their botanical, or latin name, name 'Euphorbia pulcherrima' (it means, 'the most beautiful Euphorbia'). It is thought that they became known as Poinsettia in the mid 1830's when people found out who had first brought them to America from Mexico.

There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettia's and Christmas come together, it goes like this:

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. 'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus.

The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

The Poinsettia is also the national emblem of [Madagascar](#).



As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer. It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me. As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago.

At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have lot of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration. I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honor. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, beautifully wrapped gifts. But, do you want to know something? I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honor and they didn't remember to send me an invitation. The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside they closed the door in my face and I wanted to be with them and share their table.

In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me. Since I wasn't invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner. They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a grand time. To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling Ho-Ho-Ho! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying: "Santa Claus, Santa Claus" as if the party were in his honor! At midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and do you know no-one hugged me. Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all

had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me. What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one? I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left. Every year it gets worse. People only remember the gifts, the parties, to eat and drink, and nobody remembers me.

I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life. I would like that you recognize the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you. Today, I only want that you believe this with all your heart. I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party. I'm still making the final arrangements.

Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party. Those who don't answer the invite will be left outside. Be prepared because when all is ready you will be part of my great party.

See you soon. I Love you!  
Jesus

-Author Unknown

THE STAFF OF THE PERRYPRES WISHES  
YOU AND YOURS ALL THE BLESSINGS OF  
THIS HOLY SEASON.

MAY GOD BLESS AND WATCH OVER YOU  
ALWAYS!

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, December 7...Hanging of the Greens  
Service followed by a light lunch.

Sunday December 14...Christmas Pageant practice;  
reception of new members.

Sunday December 21...Christmas pageant during  
worship; Joy Gift Offering; "Flash Mob" caroling in  
local stores after worship.

Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Christmas  
Eve candlelight and communion service of worship.  
(Need help with outside luminaries).

Sunday December 28...Service of Lessons and  
Carols. No Sunday School

Sunday January 4...Worship and the Lord's Supper.  
No Sunday School.

## ANSWERS TO RIDDLES

1. Oh Holy Night
2. Jingle Bell Rock
3. Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer
4. All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth
5. The Nutcracker Suite
6. Little Drummer Boy
7. Silent Night
8. Deck the Halls
9. Silver Bells
10. Oh Little Town of Bethlehem
11. Away in a Manger
12. We Three Kings
13. The Twelve Days of Christmas
14. Go Tell It on the Mountain
15. We Wish You a Merry Christmas
16. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
17. Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night
18. I Saw Three Ships
19. Joy to the World
20. Do You Hear What I Hear?
21. Carol of the Bells
22. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
23. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
24. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer