

Is there more to life than this?



ALPHA: Just an introduction to the Christian faith?

by Tracy Defina

Alpha is a wonderful tool for bringing seekers into the knowledge of Christ. However, as a participant in this fall's program, I have come to see it as much more.

We are blessed to have more than a third of the 80 participants from outside our church family. That leaves some 50 participants who are members of our church and presumably for the most part, Christians. Do we really need this "introduction to the Christian faith?" Yes, it is an amazing tool for "Christians" to claim our inheritance.

Consider the following reading from A.W. Tozer: *"Did you know that it is possible for a Christian believer to live day after day, clutching the book of Ephesians, and still not realize that he is spiritually lean and hungry? If a pastor or evangelist suggests that this person could be in a more prosperous spiritual state, his reaction may be bristling: 'Am I not accepted in the Beloved? Is not God my Father, and am I not an heir with God?' Holding the text of the will is not enough. It is necessary to come into the procession of the riches. Suppose a rich man dies, leaving a will which passes on all of his millions to his only son. That boy borrows the text of the will from the attorney and carries it around with him. He is satisfied with the text of the will, but it has never been properly executed. Thus the son has never presented his legitimate claims to the inheritance. He may be going around ragged, hungry and weak. In actual experience he has received nothing. He simply holds the text of his father's will!"*

Alpha reminds us that:

- God really exists.
- Christ was born and died for us that we might live free from guilt, anger, addiction and anything that keeps us from His JOY.
- The Bible is the Word of God.

Alpha then teaches us to commune with Christ, to

have a living, breathing relationship with Him through:

- Reading His Word, the living Bible.
- Praying often and listening expectantly.
- Becoming filled with the Holy Spirit and sensitive to His desire to guide us in our lives.
- Being an active member of a Church, the family of God.
- Sharing the Gospel.

Broken hearts were healed, relationships were strengthened, joy was restored, fears relieved and hurts comforted! Thank you to all those who made this opportunity possible for so many!

~ Small groups who generously provided and served food, faithfully and lovingly.

~ The Alpha team, who committed their time and love for His people to be servants week in and week out, organizing, leading, supporting, singing, playing music, praying, setting up and just plain showing up!

~ An anonymous donor for scholarship funds for the Holy Spirit weekend.

~ The Lord, for providing tools and teaching and servants for us to know Him better, that His will might be done on earth and here at Good Sam, as it is in heaven!

Take the opportunity to "Claim Your Inheritance!" If you are interested in serving on the Alpha ministry team please contact Tracy Defina, 610-644-4040 x212 or tracy@good-samaritan.org.

Alpha coming soon:

Why Christmas? Cookies and Carols
6:00pm Sunday, December 13

~

The Marriage Course: January 2010

~

Alpha Home Groups: Spring 2010

~

The Alpha Course and Beta (a follow up to Alpha)
Fall 2010

Notes from the Parish Administrator

by Jeff Moretzsohn

YEAR END MUSINGS...

Sanctuary Fund: The Sanctuary Fund pledge drive comes to a completion at the end of t2009. It should be noted that as of this Samaritan newsletter there is a shortfall of \$260,000. Our best estimate indicates that we will fall short of covering the outstanding debt by as much as \$220,000. It should be noted that we have already been in conversation with our bank about increasing our long term debt. While this is an option, we would prefer to not have the increased burden on our operating budget. All gifts above and beyond original pledges will help reduce this probability. As always, if you have not contributed to the renovation of the sanctuary and would like to, it would be deeply appreciated.

Christmas Tree Sales: At the November meeting the vestry passed a resolution to direct the proceeds of the Christmas Tree Sale as follows: 50% to the Helps Ministry Designated Fund. These funds are distributed by the Helps counselors to assist with critical needs within the community. The remaining 50% of the proceeds will be allocated to the Clergy Discretionary Fund accounts, historically known as the "Almoners Fund." As stated in the Episcopal Church Business Manual, *"The appropriate and traditional use of clergy discretionary funds is to address needs among congregation and community members. Payments for food, rent, utilities, medical bills and the like for persons in need are typical uses of these funds."*

Year End Giving: Just a reminder that year-end stock transfers and gifts of appreciated assets must be received from the brokerage firm prior to December 31st. It will help our internal controls if you notify Susan Crumpler (610-644-4040 x217 or susan@good-samaritan.org) of your intent, as historically brokerage firms do not inform us who has given the stock.

Automatic Funds Transfer: If you take advantage of giving to Good Samaritan through automatic funds transfer from your bank account or by credit card, please note that your recurring gifts end December 31st. Please remember to fill out a 2010 pledge card and new AFT form, which are both available in the office and online at www.good-samaritan.org

Garven Farewell: Please plan to be at Good Samaritan on Sunday, December 20th when we celebrate and offer thanks for the Garvens' ministry at Good Sam. Additionally, we will offer prayers for Chris, Debbie, Alec, Sarah, Caleb, Vance, Zach and Zoe as they prepare to move to Florida. We will gather at 10:30am in Ashton Hall for food, fellowship and remembrances.

November Membership Statistics

Births:

Zachary Ian Garven on 11/16/09
to Chris & Debbie Garven

Zoe Annaliese Garven on 11/16/2009
to Chris & Debbie Garven

Baptisms on November 1, 2009

Olivia Nicole Cepielik

Kelly Shu-Hua Dougherty

Helen Jane Lauppe

Hanna-Mae Grace Legaspi

New Members:

Patricia "Tish" Harding
originally from the Presbyterian Church

Deaths:

Nancy Wechsler in 2006 (just received word)

Glenn Gleason on 10/31/2009



Christmas Trees!

Christmas trees will again be available for purchase on the church grounds from Friday, December 4th through Sunday, December 13th. All donations above and beyond the cost of the trees go to support our Helps ministries and Clergy Discretionary Funds.

The tree lot will be open Fridays: 5:00pm-9:00pm, Saturdays: 9:00am-8:00pm, and Sundays: 9:00am-6:00pm. Many volunteers are needed to operate the tree lot, don't miss this opportunity to fellowship with the community and your fellow parishioners.

Please contact Alison Gleichman at 610-293-0442 or email alicatez@verizon.net for more information and to volunteer your time.

Less Stuff / More Joy! Alternative Christmas

by Carol Kuniholm

For the past few years, GoodSamYouth, in partnership with the Good Samaritan mission committee, has organized an Alternative Christmas Gift Catalog to encourage strategic investment in specific needs in our partner diocese of Kitgum and Bolivia. Last year, this took place as a part of the Global Christmas Party.

For a variety of reasons, the Alternative Gift Catalog and Global Christmas Party won't be happening this December, but it's still possible to use your Christmas gift budget to give alternative Christmas gifts that are appreciated by recipients and contribute significantly to struggling children and families around the globe.

You can do that in a variety of ways: you can buy fair trade items that promise to pay producers a fair and living wage, or buy crafts and clothing from developing countries through alternative markets rather than commercial importers, so the artisans receive a fair price for their work.

My favorite Christmas shopping destination: 10,000 Villages, in Media or Exton, with household items, jewelry, clothing and other items produced by small cooperatives in impoverished communities. 10,000 Villages items are also available at Global Gifts in Wayne, or online (www.tenthousandvillages.com).



Perhaps you'd be interested in "adopting" a child under the care of Ninos Con Valor, is a Bolivian organization providing food, shelter and critical health care for children with AIDS. Ninos was started in 2005 by Good Sam parishioner Endel Liias, when he served as a missionary in Bolivia and has recently been incorporated into Good Samaritan's supported mission organizations. Your gift of support is a great way to multiply your giving. (www.ninosconvalor.org)



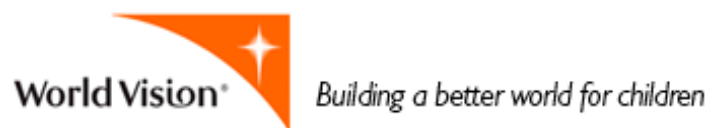
There is no better gift that you can share than God's Holy Word. Why not consider giving a friend, relative or stranger a new Bible. Visit American Bible Society's alternative store at www.give.americanbible.org. Give doubly by giving in the name of your friend or relative.

Another way to give, for those on your list who have everything they need, or are trying not to collect too much "stuff": alternative gifts that provide livestock, food, education, tools, clean water, or other essentials for children and families in developing nations.



Heifer International (www.heifer.org) was the forerunner of the alternative gift movement, providing cows to help

build battered nations in the wake of World War II. World Vision offers an extensive alternative gifts catalog (go to www.donate.worldvision.org and click on "gifts catalog") providing clothing, school supplies, livestock, mosquito netting, and a wide range of other gift options for children and families in need in the US, and around the globe.



For more ideas about ways to use your Christmas budget to do good, check the Advent Conspiracy website (www.adventconspiracy.org).

And for some fun ideas for celebrating in new ways with your family and friends, take a look at www.buynothingchristmas.org

If you'd like to be involved with planning a 2010 Global Christmas Party, contact Carol Kuniholm (carol@good-samaritan.org). The goal is to have a team in place by May with a vision for a church-wide celebration next December.

Year-end Gifts

In the course of year-end tax planning, some of you will find yourself considering special one-time donations. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep the Church of the Good Samaritan in mind. Please notify Susan Crumpler of the impending stock gift along with your intention as to its use.

Please Note: The brokerage information for donating stock gifts has changed. The forms on the website are current. You may also contact Susan Crumpler for the updated information. Automatic Funds Transfer forms are also available on the website: www.good-samaritan.org.

~~~~~

Maybe the IRS is not your friend, but there are several IRS regs which may help you with your year-end planning for gifts to church.

First, congress passed legislation at the beginning of 2008 that permits tax free withdrawals from IRAs for gifts to charitable entities made during 2008 and up to December 31, 2009. There are some terms and conditions, such as: You must be over 70 ½, you cannot give more than \$100,000, and since the transaction is a tax free withdrawal, the gift cannot be claimed as a deduction on your tax return. Still, there is a tax advantage and this opportunity expires on December 31. Think about it, and call Jeff, Susan or Bob Anewalt if you wish to discuss. You can also check out various websites, including: [customsites.yahoo.com/financiallyfit/finance/article-108118-3140-0-smart-year-end-tax-moves](http://customsites.yahoo.com/financiallyfit/finance/article-108118-3140-0-smart-year-end-tax-moves)

Second, consider gifting appreciated securities, and consider prepaying your 2010 pledge in 2009, possibly qualifying to get the IRS tax advantage a year earlier. Prepaid pledges are an obvious but necessary benefit for the church. Clearly we couldn't function if everyone paid their pledge at the end of the year. A pledge received early benefits us all year long because the cash on hand helps our liquidity during the year. (Even though we have the cash on hand we only book the monthly portion of the pledge each month, so a portion of a gift received early is recognized every month as current month income). Forms for communication to your broker or fund manager are available on the Good Sam website. Again, contact Jeff, Susan or Bob Anewalt if you want to discuss this further. *-submitted by Bob Anewalt*

## Advent Reading Suggestions

The church library has a variety of resources for individual and family use during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Some of them are:

**We Hear the Christmas Angels: True Stories of their Presence** contains twelve accounts of God's care and provision at Christmas. (242 Bence)

**Handel's Messiah: A Devotional Commentary** Handel's Messiah is often performed during the Christmas season. These comments on the Scriptures sung in the Messiah will help us understand why Jesus was born and lived. (242.33 McCabe)

**The Mystery of the Holy Night** is a collection of meditations on Christ's birth written by German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. (242.33 Bon)

**A Child is Born: Meditations for Advent and Christmas.** These thirty meditations for daily use provide morning and evening commentary on various passages of Scripture and focus attention on the meaning of Christ's coming. (242.33 Shepard)

**A Decembered Grief:** Living with loss while others are celebrating. (248.8 Smith)

The children's corner in the library has a shelf of Christmas picture books including:

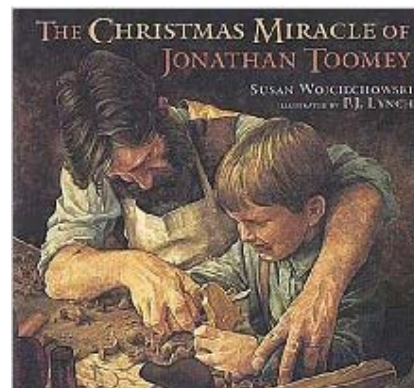
**The Story of Silent Night** by John Travers Moore is an illustrated telling of the story of the writing and first use of Silent Night.

Madeleine L'Engel's **The Twenty-four Days before Christmas** is the story of a family preparing for Advent and a new baby.

Eve Bunting's **Who was Born this Special Day** is a short children's story about the birth of Jesus.

The story of a woodcutter, making a new crèche and new joy are told in **The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey**.

Check out the library for more Advent and Christmas books and videos.



## Light Up a Life Friday, December 4 ARC Memorial Tree of Lights



by Val Anewalt

On Friday, December 4, Aiding Romania's Children (ARC) will host the annual lighting of the holiday Memorial Tree at Good Samaritan. From that evening through Sunday, January 10, the lights on the tree will shine in memory of our loved ones who have passed on, as well as for special people whom we wish to honor with a tree light for 2009.

Everyone is welcome to the tree lighting, which will begin at 6:15pm on the west lawn of the church. Immediately following the lighting there will be a reception in Room 223 (up the stairs in the Atrium). Please come and enjoy refreshments and fellowship with the ARC Board members and friends.

Aiding Romania's Children ministry began at Good Samaritan in February 1999 with a parish-wide "Love Feast," when a hospice worker from Rutland, Vermont, shared her slides and experiences caring for AIDS children at Victor Babes Hospital in Bucharest, Romania. From that fundraising event, a group of Good Samaritan parishioners formed a non-profit organization to provide funds and humanitarian assistance to HIV/AIDS children, some orphaned and living in the hospital, and others who live in dire poverty with parents who often are equally sick. Since 2000, thanks in large part to contributions from many caring Good Samaritan parishioners, Aiding Romania's Children has continued to care for HIV/AIDS children and young adults in Bucharest and surrounding villages. To learn more about the ministry, please go to our website [www.aidingromaniachildren.org](http://www.aidingromaniachildren.org).

Invitations to the Memorial Tree event are sent out before Thanksgiving to people who have participated in the past. If you are new to this event and would like to receive an invitation, and/or include names of loved ones on the Memorial Tree, please contact ARC President Val Anewalt at 610-696-0718 or email [vhanewalt@aol.com](mailto:vhanewalt@aol.com). All donations to Light Up A Life go directly to help the HIV/AIDS children in Romania, and are fully tax deductible.

## Make Time for the Freedom in Christ Retreat February 5-7, 2010

by Pam Hicks

*"I offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the entire team who gave of themselves so beautifully to make the Freedom in Christ retreat a real place of meeting God and receiving healing, hope, encouragement and renewal. I did not come with a whole lot of baggage, but I did need to be encouraged; and just the opportunity to be away and so incredibly CARED FOR by the whole team was a huge blessing". FIC attendee*

Freedom in Christ is a 3-day retreat led by clergy and lay leaders from The Church of the Good Samaritan, and is designed for those who are serious about growing in their relationship with Jesus.

The gospel writers Luke and John tell the story of Lazarus, a friend of Jesus who had died. Jesus called to him in the tomb, and even after his body had been wrapped, he was raised to life and came back to his family. (*Luke 16 & John 11*)

The Freedom in Christ program, developed by the Lazarus Center in Ambridge PA, uses principles from this powerful story to craft a life-changing weekend:

- Often "stones" block us from realizing our passion and purpose. *Freedom in Christ works to dislodge and roll away the things that keep you from growing.*
- Only Jesus can call a person into life. *Freedom in Christ provides a rich environment for Jesus to speak and work in your life.*
- We often need others to help "unwrap" us, to allow us to fully step out into new life. *Freedom in Christ has a team of dedicated caregivers to help guide you in your next steps of growth.*

Whether you feel like you've been dead for years, seem stuck in the mud of your spiritual life or are on your journey and just ready to take the next step, we invite you join us for this truly unique weekend. Experience Freedom in Christ for yourself!

Information, registration and scholarship request forms are available in the church office or online at [www.good-samaritan.org](http://www.good-samaritan.org).

*The following is a report from a Water Ministries team from CEED, the organization from whom Men's Ministries purchases Ugandan Gold Coffee as a means of supporting our brothers and sisters in Uganda.*

### A Cup of Cool Water (Matthew 10:42)

It is really HOT! We are very near the equator in Uganda and the sun is directly overhead. Shade is scarce and we are dripping with sweat. The well drilling is being severely hampered by the fact that we can't get enough water to make the drilling mud, and can't drill without it.

It's January, the middle of the dry season; left to our own resources we would never have found water. Luckily the Bakiga tribe is very resourceful and hard working. They gesture us to follow them on foot. We walk and walk and walk for about 3 miles. They stop! So where's the water? One of them plucks a papyrus root out of the ground and shows us that it is moist. He offers it. We decline politely! He plunges it in his mouth and sucks hard then smacks his lips as though he has just savored nectar. Water!

We explain that we need free flowing water for drilling. The tribe huddles and there is much discussion and gesticulation in various directions. A decision is made and off we go pushing through 10 foot reeds. It seems we are struggling onwards for hours. Gradually the ground is becoming soft and squishy. Someone produces a hoe and starts to dig. We've found oil! It must be oil because it is thick and black. But wait! The surface of the oil is moving. One of the tribe scopes up a handful and shows us that it is, in fact, water with hundreds of tadpoles, little fish and other creatures of indeterminate species eating each other and fighting for survival in the palm of his hand. We are shocked, but then a 10 year old boy bends down, scoops up the living soup with both hands and swallows it in one gulp. He grins. The tribe tells us this is the first gulp of water he has had for three months. He's been staying alive by sucking papyrus roots.

We shake off our shock and more determined than ever, go to work to dig a hole large enough to allow a sufficient depth of "water" to pump into the tanks on our 1 ton truck. The tribe goes to work and hacks a road for the truck.

Normally it takes 15 minutes to fill our tanks. From

this black hole it takes two hours. Pump and wait for the level to recover. Pump and wait for the level to recover. Interminable! Then a heart-rending dilemma! Hundreds of kids gather round pleading to drink the living black soup straight from the pump hose. In the end we relent and set up a line of kids who climb up on the truck and drink the stinking concoction from the hose as we pump it into the tanks.



Finally the tanks are full and we set off for the drill site up on the hill beside the church and school. We've never operated the rig with tadpoles and fish in the drilling mud so we're not sure how the system will work, but it does.

We drill and pray, drill and pray. This place is dry and the water table by the church is deep. Finally at 150 feet we hit water. Everybody shouts out praises to God!

Next week we will double check the water recovery rate and we ask for prayer that it will be good. Then we can finish the water pump and these dear brothers and sisters in Christ will have a clean water source available all year round.

From 150 feet down the water will be cool and clean. "A cup of cool water!" So be it, by the grace of God!

And God answered our prayers. Yesterday we went to check on the newly installed pump. It is working and producing clean water right outside the church and the primary school, and it's at the very end of the dry season. It is a really good time to test that we have good, clean water.

*Please know that through your generous donations to Café Good Sam and the purchase of Ugandan Gold Coffee (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in Ashton Hall), you are making a huge difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Uganda!!! -submitted by George Scheffey*



## Financial & Employment Ministries

by Michael Floriani

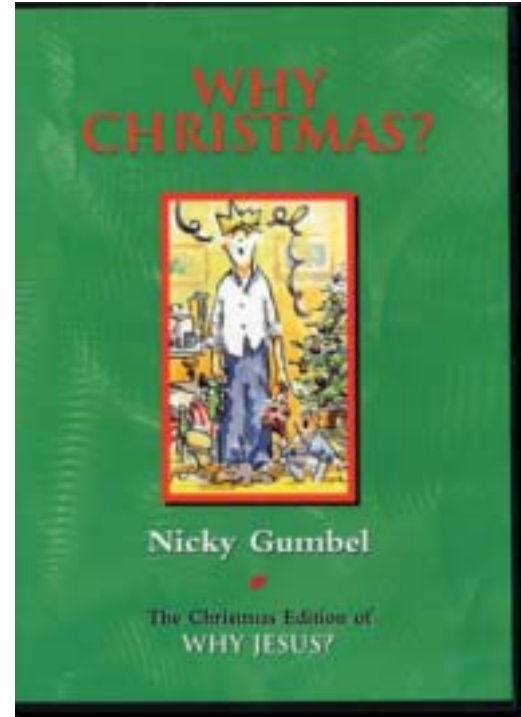
Every day we hear about the impact of the recession and its effect on the local and national employment climate. Nationally, unemployment is reaching double-digit figures; locally, the impact of unemployment is being felt all around us and within the church community. The pain of losing a job is one of life's great stressors. It touches not only the person who loses their job, but also the families, friends, and loved ones who care for them or depend on them for financial support. To help those affected by such events, several ministries are available to the church and local communities. These ministries, especially when dealing with events of unemployment, should be utilized before situations escalate to greater levels. At Good Samaritan the following resources are available to help those in need.

- **Career Network:** Career Network is composed of a small group of individuals who discuss their job search efforts and opportunities. Led by a facilitator, the group discusses topical materials applicable to helping those to find employment. The setting is informal with an open format that allows everyone time for fellowship, relaxation and knowledge. Career Network offers participants the opportunity to post their brief summary on the church's website with a reference number associated with them. From there, anyone interested in knowing more about an individual can contact the Career Network for further information. The link to this document can be found at [www.good-samaritan.org](http://www.good-samaritan.org).

- **Financial Counseling:** Trained counselors work one-on-one (in a confidential setting) and in small groups with families and individuals to help them develop a comprehensive, biblically-based spending plan that includes giving, saving, investing, and debt reduction strategies.

- **HELPS:** Limited emergency assistance is given to individuals and families (either parishioners or nearby residents) for practical living needs including rent, transportation, utilities, and medical expenses. The committee is familiar with other resources available in the community (such as LIHEAP, food stamps, health insurance for children, services to the aging, etc.) and can assist clients in accessing those resources. The committee consists of volunteer parishioners who discern applicants' requests, provide emergency responses, and advocate for clients needing more involved support.

Love for our neighbors is shown through a commitment to serving them, especially in times of trouble and despair. These ministries follow Jesus' challenge to show mercy to a world in need.



### Why Christmas?

Please join us for Cookies, Carols  
and the Christmas message  
from Nicky Gumbel's  
Alpha **Why Christmas?** DVD  
Sunday, December 13  
6:00 pm  
Ashton Hall

Please bring a plate of cookies to share.  
There will be activities for children.

Those interested in caroling in the  
community will convene at 7:30 pm.

**BRING YOUR FAMILY,  
FRIENDS and NEIGHBORS**

## Vestry Corner

*by Ronnie Tousignant*

Mary Ernst reported that the Discernment Committee Self-Study subcommittee is finishing the compilations of the Discernment Gatherings and preparing to write the summary information for the Parish Profile. The Parish Profile committee is also continuing their work on the draft of the document and once completed and approved by the Discernment Committee, will be submitted to the Vestry for approval within the next month. Several members of the Discernment Committee will be meeting with Jill Mathis (diocesan representative) to learn more about how we can match our priorities with potential candidates. At that point, the Discernment Committee will officially move in the process from self-study to receiving names.

Fr Todd recognized the hard work of Charlene Fitzwater and the Stewardship Committee in their campaign and its focus on vision casting. He reported on the completion of the music leadership transition with the offer of Interim Director of Music position to Richard Zuch. Rich will start his new assignment in January. Bill O'Meara will be responsible for New Chapel music programs. Both Rick and Bill will report directly to Fr Todd.

Fr Todd updated the Vestry on his successful meeting with Bishop Michael and his plans to submit his name for inclusion on the list of Communion Partner Rectors (CPR). Receiving no reservations from Bishop Michael, Fr Todd was asked to keep him in the information loop going forward.

Bob Anewalt communicated the financials of the church and stressed the importance of a strong November and December to end the year as planned, and expressed optimism that we can end the year with a better than budgeted deficit. His report was unanimously approved.

Bob then presented two motions for Vestry approval: 1. in response to a request from Trinity Coatesville for a grant, he moved that the \$15,000 budgeted for December in our support of Parish Partnerships is paid to them in response to their request. Motion unanimously approved. 2. Motion in support of Clergy Discretionary Accounts – that 50% of this year's Christmas Tree Sale net proceeds is devoted to providing an additional funding source for the clergy Discretionary Funds. The Almoner's Fund, more commonly known as Clergy Discretionary Fund is established by

the vestry to allow the clergy to provide assistance to the members of the community who are in critical need. According to the Episcopal Business Manual: "The appropriate and traditional use of clergy discretionary funds is to address needs among congregation and community members. Payments for food, rent, utilities, medical bills and the like for persons in need are typical uses of these funds." Motion unanimously approved.

Jeff Moretzsohn reported that an AED unit will be installed in Fellowship Hall and that a team has been trained. The unit will be alarmed.

Fr. John updated the Vestry on his research and appointment to join the board of the Society for the Advancement of Ecclesial Theology, an organization fostering a renewed vision for the dual vocation of pastor-scholar. He outlined plans for classes for the Discipleship Hour, and noted the good work Tracy Defina is doing in continuing to develop and strengthen existing groups.

In the Youth Report, submitted by Steve Ross, Carol Kuniholm detailed the leadership turnover experienced by the group and how leadership changes will be met. Her report is filled with optimism as fall activities begin and growth continues as youth invite friends and their families to events and activities. A final topic for consideration for the months ahead is a potential college ministry partnership with the Coalition of Christian Outreach. She submitted a proposal that was reviewed and discussed by church leadership. Funding for this program has been included in the 2010 budget and a job description is in the early stages of preparation. The position would include discipleship and pastoral care for GoodSamYouth college-aged alumni, outreach to college students who begin attending Good Samaritan during the academic year, and possible campus outreach and ministry on targeted area campuses.

Rusty Smith, chair of the Nominating Committee, updated the Vestry on recruitment activities. The slate of candidates will be voted on by the Vestry and will be sent to the congregation for voting in time for the February 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting (in accordance with church by-laws).

Respectfully submitted, the Wardens, Church of the Good Samaritan



**“Be still and know that I am GOD!”**

*Psalm 46:10*

**A WOMEN’S ADVENT QUIET DAY  
Sponsored by the Women’s Ministry**

**December 5, 2009**

**1:00 – 4:00pm**

**Walton Hall**

Make this a gift you give yourself during this Advent season – quiet time spent with God in contemplation of the greatest gift the world has ever known and the greatest gift we will ever receive. In response to your requests, there will be less program and more time for individual quiet time this year. Focus will be on the two aspects of Advent, repentance and anticipation. Childcare will be available for a small fee (\$5 per family) and must be reserved by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please plan to enter at the Chapel entrance where you will be welcomed and provided with a handout containing everything needed for the day. Bring a Bible if you wish. We ask that after you leave the welcoming area and proceed to Walton Hall, you adopt a quiet attitude and do not engage in private conversation after entering the hall.

The day will be divided into two sections of very short meditation programs each followed by a period of private contemplation and meditation. Please be in Walton Hall promptly at 1:00pm in order not to interrupt others in their attitude of quiet. If you are unable to come by 1:00pm, please consider coming at 2:00pm for the second half of the day. There will be light refreshments available in Walton Hall throughout the meditation time. Please remember that Walton Hall will be a designated quiet zone. Out of respect for others, please remain silent when in Walton Hall or anywhere else where people may be meditating.

The day will conclude at 3:30pm. Following the dismissal in Walton Hall, several trained prayer teams will be available to pray with you for your individual concerns until 4:00pm. We hope that this quiet day will be a true blessing and we look forward to sharing a time “to be still and know that I am God” with you. If you have questions or would like to RSVP, contact Grayce Moll at 484-886-7851 or [gmmoll@comcast.net](mailto:gmmoll@comcast.net).

## Discernment Committee Update

November 16, 2009

The Discernment Committee continues to meet, either as a full committee or as subcommittees, each Wednesday evening.

A summary of the information collected from the surveys and Discernment Gatherings is being finalized so it can be incorporated into the Parish Profile. The Profile will then be presented to the Vestry for approval. The Parish Profile is the document that we will use to describe the life, ministry, and vision of Church of the Good Samaritan, and the gifts we are looking for in our next Rector.

We are also currently planning and evaluating the “next steps” in the discernment process and shortly will determine how to best proceed in the following areas:

- Advertising the Rector position;
- Receiving names of potential candidates;
- Method and timetable for vetting and screening the candidate pool for selection for interviews;
- Process for interviewing and recommendation of a candidate to the Vestry;

During the process of recruiting, interviewing and selection of a candidate to be presented to the Vestry, our work will be confidential so that we can maintain the integrity of the process and respect candidates’ rights to privacy in seeking a new position. We ask for your patience during this time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued prayers.

The Discernment Committee

**The Good Samaritan Dance Ministry will present a Christmas Concert of worship dances to traditional and contemporary carols on Monday December 7 at 7:00pm in Ashton Hall with a reception to follow.**



## Wonders in the Impossible

by Charlene Fitzwater

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

*Romans 15:13*

Nancy Filkin sparkles as she talks about the women’s retreat for 2010! “I’ll have to tell you sometime about how God gave me the title for the retreat,” she exclaimed. “We’re going to hang the retreat on one verse and really unpack it.” We’ll do that by watching Jesus interact face to face with three women who were in impossible situations. We’ll look at what Jesus is like and what the women are like in each of the three stories. It will help us get a deeper understanding of Romans 15:13.

Nancy, who will be our speaker for the retreat, has a passion for scripture and loves to explore the deep meaning of words. She completed doctorate of ministries work at Gordon Conwell in effective ministries to women and has a bachelors in history and a master in English. Nancy was formerly on staff as interim director of women’s ministries at Good Sam.

Mark your calendars for the women’s retreat in Avalon, New Jersey from March 19-21, 2010. The setting is wonderful, food delicious, and company delightful. The Holy Spirit will be with us as we get together. Plan to come discover the wonders!



**presents**  
**4 Great Gift Ideas**



*Helping Improve Lives, One Child at a Time*



**A**

\$10

A week of food for a growing child in Pedacito de Cielo or Corazón del Pastor.



**B**

\$25

A month of medical and dental care for a child at our home for immunodeficient babies.



**C**

\$50

School Start-up pack for a girl at our home for orphaned and abandoned girls, Corazón del Pas-



**D**

\$100

Practical assistance to a rural family living in extreme poverty.

When you choose to give an alternative gift this Christmas, you will receive a photo card indicating on the back the impact your gift is making in Bolivia. The card is blank inside, so you can personalize your Christmas greeting as you wish and give it to your loved one(s).

Amount given: \$

Gift: A B C D  
 (please circle one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to Sponsor a Child for \$30 a month:

Boy: Age (0-4) \_\_\_\_\_

Girl: Age (0-4) \_\_\_\_\_ (5-9) \_\_\_\_\_

(10-14) \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs? \_\_\_\_\_ (\$40/month)

Please send all checks, along with this form, to:

Ninos con Valor,  
 c/o Cynthia Journey  
 8 Tuck's Point Rd  
 Manchester, MA 01944

If you would prefer to use a credit card, please visit our website and follow online instructions: [www.ninosconvalor.org/altgift](http://www.ninosconvalor.org/altgift)

## Give the Gift of Life this Christmas

To find out other ways you can make an impact in the lives of Bolivian children, please visit our website: [www.ninosconvalor.org](http://www.ninosconvalor.org) or write us at [Christmas@ninosconvalor.org](mailto:Christmas@ninosconvalor.org)



## **The Church of the Good Samaritan**

212 West Lancaster Avenue

Paoli, Pennsylvania 19301

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# ***December 2009 Events Calendar***

**December 4**

**ARC Memorial Tree Lighting  
Veggie Tales Family Movie Night**

**December 4-6**

**High School Fall Retreat**

**December 5**

**Women's Advent Quiet Day**

**December 6**

**Middle School Game Night**

**December 7**

**Sacred Dance Concert**

**December 13**

**Alpha Why Christmas?**

**December 15**

**Samaritan Deadline**

**December 24**

**Christmas Eve Services**

**11:00am Children's Service**

**5:00pm Family Service**

**8:00pm New Chapel Christmas**

**11:00pm Candlelight Service**

**December 25**

**Christmas Day**

**10:00am Christmas Service**

**December 28**

**Prayer with the Vestry**