

000 YOUR OLIVET NEWS 000

OLIVET UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
CORNER OF 12TH & NORTHAMPTON STREETS
EASTON, PA 18042 610-258-7990

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Your Olivet News Page Guide November

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What is God's Love worth to you?

Good stewardship is a way to exhibit your thanksgiving. So what is god's Love worth?

- *Nothing*
- *A couple cans of soda? - \$1.50 week*
- *A hamburger, fries and a drink? - \$5.00 per week*
- *The cost of a movie? - \$7.50 per week*
- *A large pizza? - \$12.00 per week*
- *A new book? - \$18.00 per week*
- *A new shirt? - \$30.00 per week*

Consider the blessings you have received through Jesus Christ as you discern what god is calling you to give in support of Olivet's Ministries for 2009.

"With God all Things are Possible"

Say the word Stewardship and most people stop listening. Say the word Stewardship and some people get angry. Say the word Stewardship and some begin to dread another article about Stewardship but please read on.

Good Stewardship is vital for Spiritual growth. But what is good Stewardship? Isn't Stewardship all about money, about budgets and deficits and about what we give on Sunday? And so the arguments go: are we a church or a business? Are we about making disciples or making the budget? Are we about saving souls or saving dollars? What difference does it make to my spiritual life if I don't give much to the church? Yes, how we use our money is a part of good Stewardship, but Stewardship is not only about money. Stewardship is about affirming who God is and in turn who we are called to be.

Good Stewardship means acknowledging what God does for us. Good Stewardship means embracing the incredible truth that all we have is ours because of God's generosity. That means our families, our friends, our talents and skills, our health, and yes our money and possessions are ours only because of who God is. Good Stewardship means acknowledging this truth by how we live our lives. Good Stewardship is an act of humbleness that brings us closer to God. Quite honestly if we do not practice good Stewardship, we are falling way short of what God is calling us to be.

This month we begin our Stewardship campaign and we will again ask members and friends to make an estimate of giving (a pledge if that is more comfortable language) for next year. We do this for a variety of reasons. There's a practical side; we have to be able to pay the bills and plan for next year. But the most important reason is that every person who is part of our church family needs to be given the opportunity to faithfully and prayerfully consider the blessings that God has granted to them in their lives and respond appropriately.

By now many of you have received information from the church on how to make an estimate of giving for next year. There are many reasons you why might hold back. You are on a fixed income. You've taken a hit in the Stock Market. You are mad at the pastor or the direction the church has taken. You give of your time and that's enough (read the Pastor's page concerning this). It is nobody's business what you give. But there is one reason to respond and that reason is because God loves you. In addition, practicing good Stewardship is the quickest way I know to grow Spiritually.

Times might be hard for you; I know they're hard for the church. But I hope and pray that you will trust the Lord your God and help Olivet be the church that God has called us to be. We at Olivet have a grand opportunity to: increase outreach to those in need; build a thriving worship community beaconing people to come and worship; expand our ministry to youth and children; provide means to grow Spiritually; become a church shining as a beacon of light for all to see.

Please be a part of our Stewardship Campaign. Help us to soar in faith as we strive to become the church that God has called us to be. Join us on October 26 when we will distribute our estimate of giving cards and where you can accept the challenge to make a serious faith commitment to God. On November 2 we will consecrate the gifts we have received. We need you to be a part of this vital moment in Olivet's history. Your participation will make a true difference.

Pastor Bob

OP-ED PAGE

This page calls attention to current church events. Column writers may apply!

CARING MISSION Safe Harbor Shelter

A monthly luncheon for Safe Harbor guests is delivered to 536 Bushkill Drive, Easton. Our church commitment for providing lunch is every **third Thursday, of each month..**

Actually it wasn't until 1997, when Rev. Ken Hollenbaugh joined the church staff as a Visiting Pastor, that the congregation learned more about the Shelter's program.

Ken recruited the Circle gals to make a one lunch a month commitment. That was 11 years ago.

First the ladies delivered lunch, soon the men joined them and chose a month to serve. Also, other families in the congregation joined in.

The Shelter offers only "a few days stay" so that it can accommodate more folks who need the Shelter each week.

Shelter guests are homeless people who enjoy a short respite. A bed to sleep in, shower facilities and warm food is the norm for the visit. The Shelter staff also assists guests with needed information.

Most of us can't imagine being homeless, no home, no food, no comforts.

But homelessness is a reality. One we must recognize. One we must do our best to support.

Remember our friends at the Shelter. Interested in helping? contact Ann Cirucci or Eleanor

Gardner.

Thank you Pastor Ken, dear friend, for encouraging our Circle ladies to jump into a most worthy cause. And, a BIG thanks for the continued heart-warming interest and on-going hard work.

SAINTS ABOVE:

We Remember our
Beloved Faithful:

Member **Esther Phillipine Fleming**, November 28, 2007; **Warren Dungan** (brother of June Wolbach), February 25, 2008; **Jeffrey Schoenberger** (brother of Christine McGary), February 27, 2008, and **James Yanno** (father-in-law of Eileen Yanno), October 2, 2008.

ProJeCt WISH LIST For Food Bank

The Holiday months of November and December are in sight. More people are feeling the pinch of a struggling economy. Heads of families are out-of-work. Food for holidays is a worry.

The Food Bank's Wish List includes: tuna, jelly, cereal, and dry milk. A canned ham is a good beginning for a holiday meal.

Put items in the barrel found in the Auditorium

SCRIP PROGRAM Holiday Gift Cards

The Scrip Program has been in operation at Olivet for a bit less than a year.

The average profit per month is now **\$85.38**. We can do better than that.

Haven't participated? Start now! Each store or business on our long list, offers its own rebate %. You pay for a gift card and get full value for your money. Cards may be ordered on the **2nd month**, and will arrive in **1 or 2 weeks**. Call Dottie @ 610-258-7625.

Safe Harbor

Thanks to all participants of Safe Harbor Lunch Program. Especially, Phyllis Kalnas for coordinating the **September** Safe Harbor luncheon, and to helpers Karen Carnes, Judy Yarka and Jo Rush.

Also, the **October** lunch was coordinated by Jane Werkheiser, with the help of Dee Sutphin, Jo Rush, and Joanne Crawford.



From the Pastors Desk

An Overflowing Blessing

A story is told about the Dark Ages when Christianity was making an impact on Northern Europe. The savage tribe of Franks was converted to Christianity when they submitted to baptism, by walking through a river. But they were not sure they wanted to give up their savage battle attitudes. So many would go into the water holding their battle axes out of the water saying “This hand has never been baptized,” so that they could swing the axes again in slaughter.¹

Many Christians today have this attitude with their call to discipleship. Many draw the line somewhere. Some secular matters need to be kept separate from our Spiritual lives – there is a line that devotion to God ought not to cross. One of the prime examples is the way we feel about and protect our money. Far too many Christians are ready to jump headlong into the water, but we hold our wallets up in the air figuring our Christian calling does not interfere with what we do with our money.

When I was at Seminary, one professor mentioned that in his church he always advocated, not only contributing but actual tithing (giving 10% of one’s income to the church). In one service as the congregation was singing a hymn, he held his hands up to get people to stop singing. He said, “I only want the tithers to sing this song, because only they are getting its message.” At the end of the service an old-time member of the church came forward to greet the pastor. She said, “Pastor, I know you said you only wanted the tithers to sing that song, but I sang it anyway even though I’m not a tither because the Lord knows what’s in my heart.” To which the pastor curtly replied, “Yes and he knows what’s in your wallet too.”

Now I don’t know it it’s because I’m a little bit more polite or a bit more of a coward when it comes to confronting people, but that sort of direct attack on someone’s giving to the church seems inappropriate to me. Nevertheless Olivet struggles because many people in our congregation think that giving to the church is not that important. We might say we don’t have to contribute much because “the Lord knows what’s in our heart.”

The problem with that line of thinking is that it enables a safe faith that we don’t really want to put to the test. In the book of Malachi, God tells people reluctant to give to, “*Bring the full tithe to the storehouse . . . and thus put me to the test . . . see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down an overflowing blessing.*” (Malachi 3:10) That is not to say that giving to the church is an investment strategy that will increase your wealth. Rather it is an affirmation that you trust that God will provide you the means to do what God calls you to do. The bottom line is this: Good stewardship of our time, our talents and our treasures is a way to grow in faith. Failure to be good stewards in any aspect of our life leads us short of the growth that we need in order to become the people God desires us to be.

In this season of Stewardship, I encourage prayerful consideration of what God is calling you to pledge for next year. Put God to the test, and respond as God is

¹ William R. Phillippe, “A Stewardship Scrapbook” (1999, Louisville, KY: Geneva Press) 114.

calling you to respond. Then embrace the blessing that will pour down on you as you move closer to being the person God has called you to be.

OYEA!!!

October 26 – Regular Youth Meeting

6:00 – 7:30pm

We will start working on the youth worship service for November – please bring your ideas!

November 7-9 – Camp Brainerd Combined Youth Retreat

7:30 pm Friday – 12:00 noon Sunday

Registration is due to Brainerd by October 31.

Financial assistance is available if needed – please see any youth leader or Pastor Bob for information.

Drop-off and pick-up is at Camp Brainerd.

See www.lehighpresbytery.org/campbrainerd for the registration form.

November 16 - Regular Youth Meeting

6:00 – 7:30pm

We will continue to work on the youth worship service.

Please plan on attending.

November 23 – Youth Worship Service

Youth arrive at church at 9am to prepare for the 10am worship service.

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

Fall weather brings football, band competitions, cold weather and . . .

Camp Brainerd's Combined Youth Retreat!!!

Come join teens from other youth groups around the Presbytery for some fall fun, games, hanging out, songs, campfire, worship, and Bible study.

In November we will also be preparing for our Youth Worship Service, which will be in November 23rd.

Please plan on attending our regular youth meetings on Oct 26 and Nov 16 as we plan and prepare for *your* worship service. Remember to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to the worship service.

Friends (grades 5-12) are always welcome!

Please call or email with any questions:

Kim Ward – 215-450-1223

kimberlydward@hotmail.com

Nicole and Chris Vogel – 610-967-9067

Tina Strouse



Come see what we're cooking!

Senior Highs (grades 9-12⁺) meet together on the first Tuesday of each month for food and fellowship.

Suppers are a great time to gather together, to hang out, and to chat about what's important to you.

If interested, stay longer and join choir!

Matt's always looking for fresh voices!

November 4

December 2

6:00 pm – 7:30ish

Never tried a Senior High Supper?

Come and join us!

Friends always welcome!



OYEA Calendars for sale - only \$6.00 (what a bargain!!!)

Pick one up from any member of OYEA or at the Church Office – 100% of the money we raise supports Youth Ministries of Olivet



HARVEST HOME –

Sunday, November 23, 2008

The annual Harvest Home Drive, a collection of food and monetary donations for needy families, is scheduled for **Sunday, Nov. 23rd**, during the 10:00am Worship Service.

The serviced of worship will be led by our wonderful **Youth Group (OYEA)**. And, **ProJeCt of Easton** will receive the groceries and any money collected during our special offering to help stock its Food Pantry, which incidentally, serves hundreds of people in the area and support the other important ministries of **ProJeCt of Easton**.

ProJeCt of Easton, a caring and outstanding social service agency, was formed in 1968 by a Protestant Pastor, a Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest.

These three men looked ahead. Their dream was to have the people of area churches and synagogues in the Easton area work together to help people with needs- - food is but one of the ways assistance prevails.

Year-round programs for children and adults include educational programming. And in the summer the “**SIZZLE**” Program provides education disguised as a children’s summer camp.

As in past years, we ask that dried, canned and packaged foods be wrapped in white paper. Please put checks or cash in available white envelopes labeled “Harvest Home”.

Actually, when **ProJeCt** purchases food from “**Second Harvest**”, located in Allentown, PA, a \$1 bill enables **ProJeCt** to receive \$15 worth of groceries.

Place your donations, food or money, in the baskets and/or boxes found in the front of the Sanctuary when you are called to do so.

Help Olivet support **ProJeCt**. In turn, the agency assists many people with varied and multiple problems.

The annual Harvest Home Sunday provides food relief for our friends in need for the forth-coming holidays. **Recognize its importance and give from your heart.**

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the lease to these . . . you did it for me”

Matthew 25:40

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!
November 2008



Generous sponsorships of
flowers and bulletins
which enhance Sunday
Worship are
appreciated.

NOVEMBER FLOWER SPONSORS

Nov. 02 M/M Richard Wamsley
Mrs. Lucy Deremer
Nov. 09 John T. Koch

OPEN

Nov. 16 Mrs. Julie Possimato
Don Roberts
Nov. 23 Jack and Eleanor Gardner
M/M David Markle
Nov. 30 M/M T. Harold Gafford

**NOVEMBER BULLETIN
SPONSORS -**

Nov 02 Mrs. Joseph Patoki
Nov 09 John T. Koch
Nov. 16 Robert Nansteel
Nov. 23 Alexa and Buffy Hughes
Nov. 30 Scott and Margo Wamsley

Nursery Care

Nursery Care for infants and children to
Grade 1 is available.

Experienced volunteers for November are:

Nov. 2 - Christine McGary, **Nov. 9** - Nicole
Vogel, **Nov. 16** - Mary Ellen Nunes, **Nov. 23** -
Sue Cochran and **Nov. 30** - Dorothy Ward.

COME ONE, COME ALL
ANNUAL TREE TRIM,
Sunday, Nov. 30th, 2008
5:00 pm Light supper
6:00 pm Create Ornaments for the tree
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

LADIES CIRCLE NEWS

**DON'T FORGET- -
to go to your Circle meeting !**

Early Circle
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008 - 1:00 pm
home of Barbara Boyd

Evening Circle
Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008-6:30 pm
in the Parlor

RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE

Following in the tradition of bi-
annual rummage sales, our October sale
was a huge success. Over \$ 2,000 was
raised at the first counting, and
additional dollars will be coming in.

Kay Davis and Joan Dicker, coor-
dinators of the sale, thank all who
volunteered a large number of hours to
get the event to a level of "success".
They are: Jane Helm, Heidi Wilson,
Nicole Vogel, Ann Cirucci, Hazel
Edelman, Darryl Davis, Barb Boyd, Elaine
Paul, John Paul, Dot Ward, Jeanne
Leuenberger, Karen Suydam, Gerry
DeWalt, Jack Gardner, Eleanor Gardner,
Jane Werkheiser, George Dicker, Mike
Kalnas, Phyllis Kalnas, Kathy Mindler,
Agnes Herster, Marjorie Bush, Nan
Laberteaux, Arlene Wamsley, Rich
Wamsley, Peggy Dapkiewicz, and Don
Roberts.

Also a big thank you to families who
brought in items for sale, without their
support and generosity, the Rummage
Sale would not take place.