

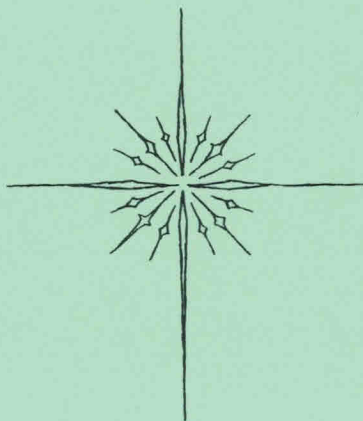
Pilgrim Promoter

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Volume LIV

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Number 4



The Christmas Heart

The Christmas heart is a
gentle heart;
Malice and envy have no part.
Coldness and bitterness
cannot stay
Where the spirit of Christmas
holds full sway.
Joy will enter and grief depart
When Christmas candles light
the heart.

—Author unknown

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Winter, 2019-20

As I write this devotional thought, the “impeachment inquiry” regarding President Trump dominates the news with accusations and acrimony flying back and forth daily. I am reminded of the spiritually dark clouds that hung over the nation during the investigations of Presidents Nixon and Clinton, and I pray that the current climate will somehow change.

The unknown author of “The Christmas Heart” on the cover has drawn a word picture of what President George H.W. Bush called a “kinder, gentler” nation, where “Malice and envy have no part, /Coldness and bitterness cannot stay.” The only way to such a change of heart toward each other is through the reconciling ministry of God’s Holy Spirit in individuals. Christ came to make it possible by taking all our sin on Himself, cleansing us of it, and replacing our “hearts of stone” with “hearts of flesh” (see Ezekiel 11:19), so that we really can—in Christ—“be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).

May the “Christmas candles” truly represent His Spirit at work in you and me—not only at the holiday season, but every day of our lives—to the blessing of many others, and the glory of God! (see Luke 2:14)

Pastor Dirk

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2019

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Operation Christmas Child Outreach. We received 26 gift-filled shoeboxes. They are now on their way to the Samaritan’s Purse headquarters and will soon be delivered to needy children around the world. Pray for the child who will receive your shoebox that they will learn of the true meaning of Christmas and God’s love for them. Thank you for helping make an eternal difference in the lives of these precious children!

Carol Knaus

NEW ADDRESS

*Rickey & Edna Hebron, 7432 Beverly Road, Philadelphia, PA 19138
Phones: (Rickey) 215-287-9390; (Edna) 267-901-2711

If anyone would like a church directory (print or electronic), please email secretary@pilgrimbaptistphilly.net or see Nathan Spalding.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

***Joel Watson** graduated November 22nd from Universal Technical Institute in Automotive Technology

***Molly Coates** graduated November 27th from The Beauty Institute

WINTER WARMERS

Warm your heart and your spirit at the following:

- ❖ **Sat, 12/7** – Kouples Klub at Humbers’, 12:00pm
- ❖ **Sun., 12/8** – Adult Sunday School, 9:45am. Paul Humber will teach about Christmas from a N.T. chapter you may not associate with Christmas. Come learn something new!
- ❖ **Sun., 12/15** – Sunday School attenders make cards, greetings for those not able to be physically with us, 9:45am
 - Advent/Christmas Open House at parsonage, 12:15 – 3:00pm. Celebrate with others Christ has come to dwell with!
- ❖ **Sun., 12/22** – Sunday School Christmas Program, 9:45am
 - Kaffee Klatsch, 10:30am
 - Choir Christmas Anthems featured in Worship, 11:00am
- ❖ **Tue., 12/24** – Christmas Eve Candle-light Worship, 7:30pm. Christmas Offering to be received.
- ❖ **Sun., 12/29** – NAB Missions Sunday: Prayer for missionaries in S.S., 9:45am. Quarterly Offering for NAB in Worship, 11:00am.
- ❖ **Tue., 12/31** – New Year’s Eve Worship & Communion, 7:30pm
- ❖ **Sat., 1/4** – Silent Prayer in sanctuary, 7:00am – 2:00pm
- ❖ **Jan or Feb** – Anchormen sponsor Bowling for all ages at 1:00pm on a Saturday in Southampton. Watch for the date and sign up!
- ❖ **Mon., 1/20** – Church Council, 1:00pm
- ❖ **Sun., 1/26** – Annual Church Business Meeting, 1:15pm (lunch at 12:15pm)
- ❖ **Sat, 2/1** – Missionaries Dr. Rick & Debbie Bardin give Report, 10:30am. Lunch to follow.
- ❖ **Sat., 2/8** – Kouples Klub at Mansolinos’, 12:00pm
- ❖ **Sat., 2/22** – Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall, 9:00am. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS to donate.
- ❖ **Sat., 2/29** – Joel Watson’s 5th Birthday (x4)! 😊

“RISE UP, O MEN OF GOD!”

Pilgrim is still awaiting a man/men who will organize or provide a breakfast on a Saturday morning. Pastor will gladly share devotional thoughts and lead in a time of sharing. Please see him to volunteer. Let’s get together to get to know each other better!

CAN YOU DO THIS? EVEN BETTER??

Pilgrim is looking for a volunteer to take over regular secretarial duties (weekly bulletins, office management, etc.) as Nathan transitions out as church secretary.

Not ready for a weekly commitment? Are you creative or artistic? Consider taking over *only* the Promoter and giving it your own look! The next Promoter will be completed in February if we have a volunteer.

Please see Nathan or Pastor Spalding if you feel God leading you to use your gifts in either capacity.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Please inform Pastor of any members or attenders not listed)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 – Itania Dorilus | 15 – Dirk Spalding | 22 – Carol Knaus |
| 4 – Dan Overlander | 19 – Merrie Coates | 29 – Dana Lepore |
| 11 – Ruth Lepore | 21 – Suzanne Knaus | 30 – Kristin Spalding |

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 5 – Albert Knaus | 13 – Angela Porter | 24 – Wanda McCullough |
| 12 – Anthony Coates | 22 – Molly Coates | 26 – Irene Kiesel |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

17 – Rev. Dirk & Barb Spalding (1976)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 10 – Joseph Ballantine | 13 – Drew Menzel | 29 – Joel Watson |
| 11 – Dee Mitchell | 24 – Ellen Howell | |

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

4 – Dave & Joanne Ballantine (1978)

PRAISE and PRAYER – Winter, 2019-20 (December - February)

NOTE: New individual prayer requests will only be put on the list for 1 quarter unless an update is received by Pastor by the 3rd Sunday of the 3rd month. *Thanks* for praying and for helping to keep the list current.

PRAISE God for:

- * God's effecting His plan for the world, including our Salvation – also, Paul Humber's mission trip to Nepal in Nov.
- * Our church:
 - Weekly Ministries, incl. Sunday School, Bible Study, Prayer, Choir, CRT, Youth, Food Pantry
 - 26 "Christmas Child" shoeboxes filled
 - Willing church officers, board members (Nominating Committee's discernment & church's affirmation/elections)
 - Faith in God's provision (Budget Committee & church vote)
- * Our nation: - Many freedoms & blessings, including the responsibility of praying for our leaders
- * Our families:
 - Thankfulness for our blessings & concern for others' needs
 - Graduations: Joel Watson (automotive) and Molly Coates (cosmetology)
 - Jobs for Paul & Ruth Lepore
 - College & career students: Gina Lepore, Matthew Charles
 - Graduate School student: Joe Ballantine; Serviceman: Demetrius Cardwell
 - At a distance: Courtney Ballantine, Harry & Irene Kiesel, Dolly Willing, Edna Witzke, Zoe Wright
- * Answered prayers: (Please inform Pastor....) improved health: Drew Menzel's friend's wife, Mickie (stomach healed); Marlene Williams (shingles gone); Cathy Menzel (M.S. exacerbation gone); Dee Mitchell (surgeries recup'd); Prudence Humber (2 cataract surgeries successful); Jesse Mansolino (shoulder healed)

PRAY for:

- * Multiple ongoing "unspoken" (anonymous) requests
- * Salvation from sin, and Eternal Life for family, friends, all contacts
- * Growing love for God, time with Him in prayer (esp. Sats., 10:30am & Day of Silent Prayer, 1/4)
- * Marriages and families' relationships to honor God, set godly examples
- * Pilgrim's Church ministries, to further God's work – incl. Missions, esp. school building in Haiti
- * Missionaries' safety & fruitful ministries (see Bardins here February 1st)
- * International, National, State, & Local Authorities – to promote **world peace and stability**, esp. an end to multi-year violence in Cameroon, and recurring violence in Haiti
- * Job situations: Bruce Brown; Chris Coates; Dale Ainsley (green card awaited); Courtney Ballantine; Joe Ballantine; Peter Humber (to have some Sundays off work)
- * Housing : Dorilus, Howell, & Mignott families
- * Food Pantry (see weekly bulletins for items needed) and Deacons Benevolent Fund: to help meet families' needs
- * God's Touch – members & attenders of Pilgrim (shut-ins or current needs):
Anonymous requests (ongoing); Dave & Joanne Ballantine (increasing need for wisdom & resources for his mother's care); Chris Coates (arthritis, Meniere's); Maeghan Coates (continued recup. fr. knee surg.); Yvonne Desouza (knees); Ruth Lepore (knees); Kathy Lynch (leg blood clot concern); Cathy Menzel (M.S.); Drew Menzel (God's wisdom); Marie Ossel (baby, job & classes); Megan Overlander (M.S.); Lynwood Roberts (legs); Dolly Willing (M.S., speech & phys. therapy); Edna Witzke (103rd healthy year); Zoe Wright (rheum. arthritis, polymyalgia)
- * God's Touch – friends, relatives, co-workers:
Anonymous requests (ongoing); Dave Ballantine's mother, Doris (markedly worsening Alzheimer's dementia); Rev. Randy Brubaker (dialysis & chemo); Chris Coates' father, Jim (infection to heal); Merrie Coates' brother, Jack (charcot foot); Liz Wilkins D'Angelo (FL—home recup. after leg amputation); Raymond Dorilus' sister (can't speak, not eating); Itania Dorilus' teacher, Winifred (cancer); Ellen Howell's son, Mark (radiation treatments); Lynwood Roberts' friend's friend (liver cancer); Mansolinos' neighbor, Ann (liver cancer); Cathy Menzel's brother, Thomas (colon cancer); Pastor's mother (physical strength, recup. from pancreatitis & pneumonia); Dolly Willing's brother-in-law, Bill Bainbridge (Parkinson's)
- * N.A.B. related: Rev. Larry Burd (ministry to Atlantic Association pastors/churches); Alice Zeeb (Alzheimer's)
- * Grief: families of Lynda Kosik's great-niece, Emily (d. 9/3); Merrie Coates' brother, Mick (d. 9/6); Marlene Williams' daughter, Catherine (d. 10/7)
- * Your Requests:

December

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 9:45 SS all ages 11:00 Worship & Communion 1:00 Musical Talents 3:00 Christmas Concert, Levick & Oakley | 2 4:30 Youth Girls at Coates' | 3 | 4 7:30 Bible Study @ Menzels' | 5 2:00 Christian Released Time 7:30 Choir Rehearsal | 6 | 7 12:00 Kouples Klub at Humbers' |
| 8 9:45 SS all ages 11:00 Worship 12:15 Deacons 1:00 Youth Boys | 9 4:30 Youth Girls at Coates' | 10 7:30 Bible Study @ Menzels' | 11 | 12 2:00 CRT 7:30 Choir Rehearsal | 13 | 14 10:30 Prayer Gathering |
| 15 9:45 SS all ages 11:00 Worship 12:15 Open House at parsonage 1:00 Youth Boys | 16 4:30 Youth Girls at Coates' | 17 7:30 Bible Study at Menzels' | 18 | 19 2:00 CRT | 20 7:30 Choir Rehearsal | 21 10:30 Prayer Gathering |
| 22 9:45 SS Christmas Program 10:30 Kaffee Klatsch 11:00 Worship – feat. Choir Anthems 1:00 Youth Boys | 23 4:30 Youth Girls at Coates' | 24 7:30 Christmas Eve Worship | 25 | 26 7:30 Choir Rehearsal | 27 | 28 10:30 Prayer Gathering |
| 29 9:45 SS all ages 11:00 Worship – Missions Sunday 1:00 Youth Boys | 30 4:30 Youth Girls at Coates' | 31 7:30 New Year's Eve Communion | Jan. 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 7:00a Silent Prayer in Sanctuary 'till 2:00 |

2019