

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 116  
NEWPORT, PENNA 17074

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U .S. POSTAGE  
PAID PERMIT # 3  
NEWPORT, PENNA 17074

*Miss Joan Magill  
R D #3  
Newport, Penna 17074*



# The Lamplighter

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VOL 10 UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWPORT, PENNA FEBRUARY ISSUE No. 2

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY LAMPLIGHTER

This year The Lamplighter begins its tenth year in publishing the news and views of the Church. It was not an idle undertaking.

Ten years ago there were power plays for the minds of men. Various pressure groups were using every means at their disposal to propagandize and control the thoughts of others. Many of us were annoyed with the intrusion into our private rights to think and work at our own paces.

So we had one good reason to publish. We determined to counteract the flood of propaganda by setting forth news items other than that put into average print.

We had good reasons other than that. The popular press was not giving the whole religious story and many church people were led into religious slumps by a slanted, profit oriented press. It behooved us to circulate news that was not juicy enough to make money on but which was vital for the churchmans sense of good balance. So we published.

Then there was the matter of principle. So many churches write propaganda in the form of news releases. They

take private, in-church announcements and submit them for public print with names, dates and places which are designed to: 1. advertise without really paying for the ad, 2. sell their brand of church with a certain dishonesty involved.

We do not intend to classify all news releases as such nor impugn the integrity of those who do. We simply wish to state that we have taken a very conscious and different course. Our intent was to do an in-church work with our own people, with a sharing ministry with other churches which do the same. Others have capitalized on their approach and we laud their wisdom.

There was risk, of course. We could miss being in the public eye. Here we counted on our people to be "Living Letters" to those about them. We wish above all to be known as an honest, open, caring church dedicated to the preaching of the gospel with both words and deeds. The establishment of the Deacons about that time was a very definite part of our witness. We established an arm to carry out our mission of words.

Our paper has had wide coverage. It has been remailed, referred to and

quoted and even been the inspiration for articles. We have also reprinted and used materials from like minded papers and were tempted to give the credit "stolen without apology" at the bottom.

The feedback we have received from this ministry is good. We are often surprised how a selected item of news has had impact far beyond the weight we might have had in mind when selecting it. We are pleased when we receive news items with the preface "I hope I'm not too late for "The Lamplighter". It says something. Some have told us they sit right down and read the paper as soon as it arrives. In short, we have discovered something we had hoped for and that is we have a paper which is ministry. "And that's the name of the tune!"

This year we hope to add the news of our teaching arm of the church. It will be part of a more integrated look at the church. Don't think the Church School is for kids or other world people. To the first, second and third worlds we hope to instill in your minds and hearts a fourth (really a new first) The Church of Jesus Christ. Our purpose is to be "consciousness raising" - to make you aware of your involvement and need for participation in the Way of Christ.

We trust your enjoyment is just at the threshold of a new and more productive decade. We welcome your ideas and suggestions, discuss them with the Elders, Deacons and the Pastor. We would like that.

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### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, January 23rd we were privileged to receive into our work and worship: Steven Wetzler, Wilson and Beryl Hansbury; Raymond and Sandra McComsey. We welcome them to our church and community as we plan and purpose to continue our mission for Christ with their help and talent.

### ELDERS AND DEACONS INSTALLED

Presbyterians use a very early form of church polity. Christ chose Apostles and trained them for their work. As the church grew in size and age it followed the ancient custom of having Elders to rule the church as did the Jews who preceded them in the faith. The needs of the people in times of reverses gave need to the naming of Deacons.

When the church was reformed this ancient form of church life was re-instituted. With it also came a representative democracy.

On Sunday, January 23rd we ordained and installed:

Henry Rolston, George Hensch, Bennie Carl and Alton Comp to full terms as Elders and Charles Morgan to an unexpired term of two years.

Avon Heller and Janet McHenry were ordained and installed as Deacons and Dottie Crouse, having been previously ordained Deacon, was installed to full terms.

Bill McHenry was named an auditor at the congregational meeting. We welcome those coming to periods of service to join those now serving. The Church is well served by them only as you support them in their office.

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For some time there has been discussion of a fire escape needed in the educational units. The matter had been turned over to a committee which has had the design drawn according to state specifications and the work is about to start.

A door will be opened and a metal escape built to the rear of the educational units from the patio. We know this will be welcome news to many.

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Mrs Caroline Linn will be in charge of the Church Nursery during February. The nursery gives mothers an opportunity to relax and enjoy the Service and it is appreciated.

## FUEL CRISIS AND THE CHURCH

For several years we have been hearing of fuel shortages. We have also heard conflicting reports of no real shortages. In spite of all the pro and cons we are now in one thanks to the extreme cold.

Fuel estimates are grim. In the lifetime of our children oil will run out. Even if there is a break through making it possible to extract all the oil from the ground we should have no more than 60 years supply.

This is fact even if no other nation tries to industrialize, which we can hardly hope for. The use of fuels then is a grim reality.

Reports of price gouging and increases are not to be discounted. Of course there will be much of this when fuel supplies grow short. The price rise should give us some evidence of the grim facts rather than blinding us to reality.

Since we are in the throes of a disaster it is time to do some thinking and acting. After the cold service Sunday the Session met in special session to discuss our position.

An action was taken to use the church building only on Sunday with all classes, organizations meeting on that day only. If other meetings are to be scheduled you may arrange to meet in the homes of those involved.

A further action was taken and that was to encourage one union church service in town during this emergency. It does seem clumsy for churches to remain open when there is the possibility of persons freezing in their homes. Incidentally, if any of you should run out of oil you may use the church building where the heat will be maintained at minimum levels. If such an emergency should arise-call the church office 567-3214.

As of this date the choirs have made plans to meet on Sunday for the

time being. The Pastor's class meets at 1:30 p m; the Junior Choir will meet at 2:30 p m and the Senior Choir will meet at 3 p m. and the Cherub Choir will meet in the home of Nancy Robinson on Thursday evening at 6:30 to 7 p m. The Youth Group has been meeting on Sunday evenings.

Until further notice then we ask your cooperation. We have no idea how long this crisis will continue so we set no timetable. Conservation must become a way of life for us and we may as well begin now.

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HOSPITALIZED:

Mae Noll, Mrs Anna Arnold and Mrs Kochenderfer were hospitalized since our last issue and have returned home. Mrs Earl Myers is also home following her stay at the Polyclinic. Mrs Jessie Shiffer, New Bloomfield, is also home after a brief stay at the Polyclinic. Our prayers and concern are with these children of God and we include them in our private devotions.

Mr Harley Hulbert at last reporting is a patient in the Polyclinic. He entered the hospital just as his brand new grandson, Keith Allen Marshall went home. Congratulations to Dianne and Craig. Keith was born 1/13/77.

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We reported Red Frownfelter home after his stay at the Polyclinic during December. He has returned and is presently a patient at the same institution.

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THE DEACONS collected 36.00 for the Blanket Project conducted at the close of last year. Perhaps we can now appreciate the gifts with our buildings uncomfortably cool. Mrs Dottie Swartz has been named the Deacon

LENTEN SEASON

Ash Wednesday is February 23rd and marks the beginning of a religious watch leading up to and including Easter.

As of this reading we will be holding services on Sunday evenings instead of the regular Wednesday evening.

Your Lenten folder is available at the church and will be in the narthex following the service on Sunday mornings. Our thanks to Elder Verna Loy for addressing the envelopes and getting them ready for distribution. The cost of mailing these is high and we would appreciate your securing yours after the service thereby reducing the cost of mailing.

As you know this money is used to defray our assessment for every member and we have a shortfall of some 200.00 at the present time. Enclosed is a letter and a copy of the Sanctuary booklet.

It is hoped that these aids will be used in devotions each day and the quarter given as a daily offering to God for His mercy and goodness. The prayer of a righteous man availeth much declares the scripture. Your devotions should include those of your family, friends and fellow christians both at home and around the world.

Many Christians are found in lands and climates far beyond our ordinary thought patterns. Pray for them, allow your minds to range to someone far away even though your thought is general because you have no familiar face or form to attach it to.

Lauding God is natural for His people, pray for His church and pray for your church. Great things can happen.

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USHERS FOR FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 6th.

George Hency  
Raymond Shields

William Meloy  
Robert Arbogast

FEBRUARY 13th

David Mayer  
Mike Swartz

Larry Myers  
Joe Comp

FEBRUARY 20th

David Miller  
William Baker

Pam Miller  
Tammy Baker

FEBRUARY 27th

Steven Gordon  
John Heller

Charles Morgan  
Herman Kraft Jr.

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We wish to express our thanks to Henry Rolston and Lee Kraft for cleaning out the debris from under the church and educational units. An accumulation of lumber, paint cans and other assorted items from the flood work needed to be cleaned out. The Temminex people thought it a good idea not to encourage those little animals who have been feasting sumptuously on a few places of the building.

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Dear Abe,

I just came home from the store and paid for our new arrivals necessities. I am burned up I paid four dollars for diapers and twenty four cents for the tax. I think its outrageous, that much for tax.

Signed Time For a Change.

Dear time.

Boy things have changed, we used to use saftety pins.

Abe.

Did you know? That local highways in the 18th century were mostly dirt roads and the first long distance roads were turnpikes built by corporations. These private enterprises, set up for profit, were chartered by the states.

**NEW FIRE ESCAPE TO BE INSTALLED**

Work should begin this week or next on the building of a fire escape for the educational unit. This has been a concern for years and has been acted upon within the last year.

The design was drawn by the architect retained by the session and involves placing a door where a window now is with a metal escape leading thereto to the patio at the rear of the unit.

With the growing concern over safety we know this will be good news to those with children attending the church school.

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**MATERIALS USED IN THE CHURCH SCHOOL**

For several years our church school has been using David C Cook materials. A study of available materials and teacher interest brought us to choose these materials.

The revolution in teaching materials and techniques is balanced well into the lessons. Our school is small by many standards but not out of proportion to our congregational size or

tradition. We are not, however satisfied with our school. We hope to see the school grow in size and influence.

At the present time we are having volunteers redoing the rooms which are used by the nursery and primary departments. Lee Kraft, Avon Heller, Peg Stine, the McHenry's Herman Kraft have been washing walls preparing to paint. Old materials have been cleaned out and shelves built into the closets for better use of the space available.

The teachers, of whom we will have more to say in the future, have been active in discussions for the improvement of the school. Their interest and enthusiasm must be catching. We urge you therefore to scan your neighborhood for unchurched and bring them to church school with you.

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An education is what you get from reading the fine print. Experience is what you get for not reading it.

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Sunday School Teacher: "Can you tell me what anyone must do before he can obtain the forgiveness of his sins?"

Tentative voice from the rear of the room: "Sin?"

