### **PALM LEAVES**

Palm Schwenkfelder Church

#### **Special Points of Interest:**

• Youth News Birthdays Children's Christmas Program

Caspar's Corner—Joshua Schultz Japan Tsunami Relief Bulletin and Flower Sponsorship

Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Refugee Relief Luminary Form

Pastor's Pause United Schwenkfelder Choir Budget

### Children's Christmas Program

Join the children on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:15 am as they perform a nativity play entitled

they perform a nativity play entitled

Virtual Christmas
Written by Vicky Best
Donation made to Tear Fund

Virtual Christmas takes the familiar nativity story and gives it a fresh, new perspective. Enjoy traditional Christmas carols sung by our youth and musical instruments performed by our youth. Join us after worship for refreshments and a hoagie sale.













# Refreshments and Youth Hoagie Fundraiser

On Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, following the Children's Christmas
Program, please join us in the Adult Sunday school classroom for refreshments and
to meet the Christmas program cast. You can also purchase hoagies from the youth
to take home with you. They will be selling Italian hoagies and Turkey hoagies.

### The Nativity Story Movie Night

For youth  $5^{th}$  grade and up Hosted by Lisa Stitt & Barb Master Friday, December  $13^{th}$  at Lisa Stitt's house from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.











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Y O U T H N E W S

### Youth Thank You!

Thank you to the following youth for coming out to dip pretzels: Emily Badman, Blake Master, Kate Pence, Nicholas Pence, Brent Master, Andrew Pence, and to the "big kids" who helped too! Thank you to the Congregation for donating pretzels and sprinkles!





# Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal & Performance Schedule

All participating youth and adult helpers, please attend the following rehearsals/performances:



Sunday, December 1st 9:00am and Saturday, December 7th 9:30am

Practices/Performances for everyone

Sunday, December 8th 9:00am and Sunday, December 15th 9:00am

Saturday, December 21st 10:00am Frederick Home Performance

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00am rehearsal and 10:15am performance during worship,

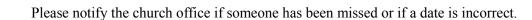
after worship refreshments and hoagie sale



### **December Youth Birthdays**

A Very Happy Birthday to...





### **Used Greeting Cards**

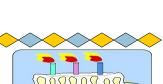
The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class needs your help. They are looking for old/used greeting cards. They will use the pictures on the cards to help create a special book of Bible verses. Please drop off your used/unwanted cards in the designated box located in the Narthex coat closet. Thank you in advance for your help with this special project!

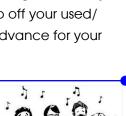


### Youth Outing

On Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> following worship, join us for lunch followed by a trip to Central Schwenkfelder Church to enjoy the music of the United Schwenkfelder Choir.

Bring money for lunch. Please sign-up in the Narthex.





### Y O U T H N E W S - (C O N T).



### Kids Get Caught Being Kind!

Members of the Congregation are invited to catch kids being kind. When you see a child carrying out an act of kindness, let them know you caught them and tell them to make a punch on their *Acts of Kindness Incentive* 



*Punch Card*! The acts are limitless! Once their card is complete, the card will be entered into a drawing and they will start a new one.



### Ladies' Aid Christmas Stockings

We are asking for your help again this year for monetary donations. We make 75 stockings each year and try to fill each of them with at least 5 items. With your donations we can do this. Thank you in advance.

Ethel Soffa, Sandra Kriebel, Miriam Hausman, Sallie Wright, Ruth Weaver.





This Advent/Christmas season the Palm Mission Board would like you to keep in your prayers two churches in Japan that have experienced tragedy from the tsunami, the earthquake and/or the nuclear disaster. We have put together a card shower to show our ongoing support for them as they continue to minister and witness in a highly



stressful environment. We have been matched by our missionary in Sendai, Japan, Jeffrey Mensendiek.

**The Shiogama Higashi Church** was established in 1930, has a membership of 10 (Japanese church membership tends to be small) and is pastored by Rev. Masaru Tsumura. At the time of the tsunami many areas of Shiogama were devastated. The church however is upon a hill, so did not suffer any direct damage. However, all around the church was destroyed. **Their prayer concerns** include prayers for church members who have been greatly affected by the disaster of 2011 and that the word of God will be shared with people in the area, and that the church will be able to carry some of the burdens of those who are suffering.

**Sendai Hosana Church** was established in 1880, has a membership of 56, and is pastored by the Rev. Atsushi Nagao. Sendai Hosana Church is the oldest church in the conference. The parsonage was badly damaged due to the earthquake, and the pastor and his family had to live in temporary housing until the parsonage was rebuilt. In January, they were able to dedicate the new parsonage. During and after the disaster, the Hosana Church helped to house volunteers who came to volunteer with the relief effort of the Fukushima nuclear disaster through the Emmaus Center (the center Jeffrey runs). This year some of the pillars of the church died. **Their prayer concerns** include that the faith will be passed onto the following generations, that the comfort and love of God will be granted to all members of the church and that the children who attend church will be nurtured in the faith and will one day be baptized.

Please keep in your prayers these two congregations. We pray that God will bring joy into our lives as we share in fellowship through prayer.

#### **PALM LEAVES**





### United Schwenkfelder Choir 84th Annual Concert

Sunday, December 8, 2013 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Central Schwenkfelder Church Worcester, PA

The United Schwenkfelder Choir will present its 85th annual concert on Sunday, Dec. 8th, 2013. The 80-voice, non-denominational choir, representing membership in 30 churches from Montgomery and Bucks counties, will perform a program of traditional and contemporary Christmas music at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Central Schwenkfelder Church, located on 2111 Valley Forge Road (Route 363), Lansdale, just north of Skippack Pike (Route 73). A free will offering will be taken. For additional information, contact choir president Dennis Alderfer at 215-393-9974, or www.united choir.org.

## <u>Luminaries for Christmas Eve</u>

Every Sunday from November 24<sup>th</sup> until December 16<sup>th</sup>, you will have the opportunity to contribute \$5.00 per line for a luminary to decorate the church driveway on Christmas Eve. This is one of the fundraisers for the Palm Schwenkfelder Church Relay for Life Team. Your contribution may be made "in honor of" or "in memory of" friends or loved ones. There will be a special insert in the Christmas Eve bulletin acknowledging your gifts. Please place your order in the office lock-box before the deadline of Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, or order your luminaries at the Relay for Life Team table located in the Narthex after worship services until December 16<sup>th</sup>. You can fill out the form included in this bulletin to place your order. And then put your order form, along with your check, in the drop box on the door of the church office. Please make checks payable to: PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH - Memo: Relay for Life Team The Upper Perkiomen Relay for Life will be held May 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

#### Palm Schwenkfelder Church Relay for Life Team Luminaries for Christmas Eve

Donor's Name	
Phone No	
"In Honor of" 1	RE
2	
3	
4	
5	AMERIC
"In Memory of" 1	SOCIETY SOCIETY
2	FIGH
3	
4	
5	
Cost Per Line: \$5.00 Total Donation: \$	

A TEAM EVENT TO FIGHT CANCER

Please make checks payable to: PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH Memo: Relay for Life Team

### Caspar's Corner — Joshua Schultz

The Schwenkfelders and the Schwenkfelder Society went through many changes throughout the nineteenth century. Pastoral leadership was important as they made their way through these

"...and a case can certainly be made that the most significant Pastor/Leader of the group during these challenging times was Rev. Joshua Schultz."

changes and a case can certainly be made that the most significant Pastor/
Leader of the group during these challenging times was Rev. Joshua Schultz. He was also the first Schwenkfelder Pastor of whom we have photographs.

Born in 1808 on a farm in Upper Hanover Township near the train station in Palm, he was the great-grandson of immigrants George and Anna Hoffman Schultz. He was fortunate to be sent to a private academy in Chestnut Hill and there he studied English, Latin,

higher Mathematics and Astronomy, among other courses of study. Following his own graduation from the academy, he taught in the public schools. The Genealogical Record of the Schwenkfelder Families states that "...Joshua Schultz became a great lover of books and literature, an industrious reader, and being gifted with a comprehensive mind and a retentive memory, he soon acquired a great deal of general information and knowledge, of which he made good use during his life"

He married Anna Schultz in 1835 and together they had five children, four who survived to marry and raise families of their own. His father provided him a farm which he worked throughout his life. For many years the Schwenkfelder Society in the Upper District sought to call Joshua to the ministry. In 1827, the minutes of the General Conference tell us he was elected as a teacher for the children. In 1833, Joshua was elected to the position of Pastor. But each time. his father would not allow him to serve. Finally, in 1842, when once again called by the community to serve, Joshua disobeyed he father's wishes and, at the age of 38, he accepted the call to the Schwenkfelder ministry in the Upper District.

It isn't very clear why Joshua's father David was opposed to his serving as a Pastor, but his opposition was expressed in his will which he changed shortly after Joshua accepted the call.

"Joshua accomplished many things during his 50 years as one of the three pastors of the Upper District of the Schwenkfelder Society..."

The will, which is in the collection of the Heritage Center, makes Joshua and his brother Rueben, co-executors. Joshua's farm, however, was not willed to him, but to Joshua's heirs and so, throughout Joshua's life, he never owned the farm on which he made his living. This will Joshua

contested in the county court and brought in the Schwenkfelder Society to bear upon Reuben to change the will, but after many years of indecision, the will was upheld as written. As a result of this controversy between Joshua and his brother and ultimately, between the Society and Reuben the Schwenkfelder Society struck Reuben and his wife from the membership roles of the Society.

Joshua accomplished many things during his 50 years as one of the three pastors of the Upper District of the Schwenkfelder Society, the most important being his role in printed by-laws for the Schwenkfelder Society. First printed in German in 1851, he translated the bylaws into English and printed that in 1882. His work in gathering together the various formal motions passed at General Conference meetings since 1782 laid the foundation for what we know today as The Schwenkfelder Church. He was the first Pastor to create and maintain a membership list for the Schwenkfelder Society. His list of members in the Upper District dates from 1851. He was in favor of the reinstitution of

Communion in Schwenkfelder worship and wrote about his views in a small printed pamphlet. Later, he also printed a pamphlet of writings by George Weiss and Balthasar Hoffman, the first two Schwenkfelder Pastors in America, to support his position.He was not shy about expressing his Schwenkfelder faith and entered into an extended public exchange of letters in the Neutralist, a German language newspaper printing in Skippack, in 1858 with

Rev. Daniel Weiser, Pastor of the New Goshenhoppen Reformed Church in East Greenville. Upholding and explaining his deeply held convictions, he stressed Schwenkfelder themes throughout the correspondence including the Glorification of Christ, reading Scripture spiritually, proclaiming a spiritual interpretation of the Lord's Supper, and stating his belief in adult baptism.

The exchange was subsequently printed in 1861

Throughout his fifty years of very active ministry he witnessed the first Genealogical Record of Schwenkfelder Families (published in 1879), the beginnings of the *Corpus Schwenkfeldianorum* project (1884), the reinstatement of Communion in the Worship Service (about 1888) and the discovery and purchase of the Schwenkfeld Bible in 1890

He died in 1892 at the age of 84 during a funeral

service for one of his parishioners in the pulpit of the Kraussdale Meetinghouse

- the very same pulpit in which he preached his first sermon.

Caspar's Corner is provided monthly to The Schwenkfelder Church by the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center.



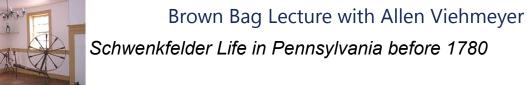
It's "that" season again; when snow, sleet, ice, wintry mix (whatever *that* is), and just plain old lousy weather can make getting to church difficult, or even dangerous. So, In the event of said crappy weather, please use the following media sources to find out if any events at the church have been postponed or cancelled.



WFMZ-TV Channel 69 www.WFMZ.com WNPV Radio 1440 KYW Channel 3 www.KYW1060.com KYW Radio 1060 WPVI Channel 6 www.WPVI.com WCAU Radio 1210 WCAU Channel 10 www.WCAU.com



### S L H C L E C T U R E S E R I E S





On Wednesday, December 11th at noon come to the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center to hear

Schwenkfelder Life in Pennsylvania Before 1780. Schwenkfelders in eighteenth century Pennsylvania lived a life that was in some ways similar, some ways different than the life they abandoned in Germany. This illustrated slide lecture looks at a variety of their life experiences and attempts to convey what life among the Pennsylvania Schwenkfelders was like during the colonial period. Some of the topics covered are contacts with Silesia, homes, occupations, religious practice and family life.

### **Budget Proposal**

Income				
llicome	2012	2013	2013	2014
	Actual	Budget	Projected	Budget
Offering envelopes - Operations	196000	200000	191000	200000
Organiz. Contrib Operations	7965	7500	7500	7500
Sun Sch Offerings - Operations	1008	1100	980	1100
Plate Offerings - Operations	7086	7500	6670	7500
Day School Utility Donation	2770	2970	2970	2970
Endowment Interest	20000	25000	55000	25000
Rentals - Church & Hall	150	1000	250	1000
Flowers and Bulletins	2439	1820	2080	3380
Faith Budget	9677	29037		32637
From: 100th Anniv Book	1587			
From: Electronic Equip Upgrade Escrow	15579			
Miscellaneous Income	169	200	160	200
Totals	264429	276127	266610	281287
Expense	2012	2013	2013	2014
<u> </u>	Actual	Budget	Projected	Budget
Our Ministry to the Denomination				23.393
General Fund	500	500	500	550
Perkiomen School				
Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center	2500	2500	2500	2750
Board of Publication	2500	2500	2500	2750
PA Council of Churches	600	600	600	660
Lancaster Theological Sem.	0	200	200	200
	6100	6300	6300	6910
Our Ministry to the Congregation				
Christian Education Youth Ministry *	2047	2000	2400	2000
redui wiiiiled y	2647	3000	2100	3000
Sunday School	1197	1500	1700	1500
VBS	728 544	1000	724	1000
Confirmation Class	541 0	1000 500	200	500 500
Church Library Music	5590	4000	3400	4000
	1691	1700	1893	2000
Offering Envelopes Worship Committee	225	1000	125	2000
Diaconate Expenses	901	500	900	1200
Diaconate Expenses	13520	14200	11042	13700
	10020	1-12-00	11042	10700
* - Includes usage of youth Funds				
Our Ministry to the Community				
Palm Church Website	115	30	385	500
Pastoral Services Institute	recordit—W	100	100	100
-	115	130	485	600

#### **Budget Proposal**

Expense Continued	2012	2013	2013	2014
	Actual	Budget	Projected	Budget
Payroll Related Expenses	•			
Salaries	114872	117723	117744	121256
Payroll Service	1638	1500	1788	1700
Health Insurance	12595	13655	10383	13655
Pension - Pastors & Sexton	15000	16155	17423	16155
Social Security (Employer Share)	8236	8950	9006	8950
Travel & Professional Expenses	1865	1700	333	1700
Conferences and Seminars	607	1000	538	1000
	154813	160683	157215	164416
General Operating Expenses				
Electricity - (Heat & Light)	14812	16000	15990	16000
Oil	20278	19000	23160	19000
Property Insurance	5864	6974	6892	6974
Repairs & Improvements	8402	10300	11700	8500
HVAC Maintenance				2517
Contracting Services	21513	19000	22200	19000
Office Supplies	4496	5500	4520	5000
Copier	2131	2500	2300	2500
Telephone	3982	4080	4360	4080
Security Monitoring Fee	396	400	396	400
Water and Sewer	2920	2000	1887	2000
Janitorial Supplies	963	1300	945	1200
Flowers and Bulletins	2154	1820	2110	2550
Electronic Equip Upgrade Escrow	2220	1440	1440	1440
Snow Removal	743	4000	4850	4000
Miscellaneous	239	500	230	500
	91113	94814	102980	95661
Total Expenses	265661	276127	278022	281287
Expenses Minus Income	(1232)	0	(11412)	0



A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8th, immediately following the worship service to approve the 2014 budget and to elect new officers. Along with this copy of the 2014 budget, there will be copies of the budget in the narthex available before the meeting. Please be sure to attend this important meeting.

### Annual Report

It's that time of year again. Well, Christmas, sure, but I mean Annual Report time. So, to all department heads, committee



chairs, and church leaders, I humbly request that you submit any and all information to be included in the Annual Report by January 3rd, 2014. If possible, please email your information to the church office. And if you have any questions, please direct those inquiries to Walt Master.



On Sunday December 1st, we begin the Advent Season, once again preparing ourselves for the celebration of our Savior's birth, and making the spiritual journey with God's gifts of Peace, Hope. Love, and Joy that we might be ready to receive the greatest gift the world has ever known. In preparing my December newsletter article I was captivated by that sense of Advent Peace. Too often in my own, often intense, desire for peace, I want to define this gift of God as the absence of conflict, the feeling that everything is right in the world, and the strong sense that I can be at ease. I want Peace to be my day at the beach, where worries slip into the tide to be carried to who knows where, and every day is new.

### "...I was captivated by that sense of Advent Peace."

I admit that I am a beach person, but to be honest, a day at the beach isn't always a carefree, peace-filled picnic. There are preparations you have to make before heading out, sunscreen has to be applied, items have to be gathered, children have to get

ready, the bathroom has to be visited, stuff has to be carried over. Then on the beach the umbrella must be set up, youngsters have to be watched, and the adventurous youth like my children must be watched even more closely! There are other people that you have to be aware of too, others "enjoying" a day at the beach, music being played that might be louder than you like, fishing lines and hooks out in the water. There is the reapplication process of sunscreen upon wet, sandy skin, attempting repeat-



edly to get the kids out of the water so you can go have lunch, carrying all the stuff back over to the house, trying to get as much sand off as possible, and then the whole process starts all over again!

And yet, in the midst of all the responsibilities and worries, the preparations and complaints, the distractions, nuisances, and irritations, I still love being at the beach and experience a profound sense of peace and relaxation while I am there. This peace is not defined by the circumstances that surround the particular moment, but rather is grounded in my intention to enjoy this day as fully as possible, to be fully present with those around me, and to be open to the surprises that the waves might bring in.

"...but to be honest, a day at the beach isn't always a carefree, peacefilled picnic.

For many the month of December can be an exceptionally hectic time. There is Christmas shopping to be done, cards to send out, rehearsals for programs, concerts and cantatas, family events, end of the year preparations, crowded stores and traffic. And it is in the very midst of all the responsibilities and worries,

the preparations and complaints, the distractions, nuisances, and irritations, that we can discover our Advent Peace. This Peace is not defined by the circumstances that surround the particular moment, but rather by our intention to be fully present to God's Spirit, to be awakened to the Advent of Christ in every moment of our lives, to embrace those who make this spiritual journey with us, and to be open to the surprises and gifts that await us.

During this Advent Season, may we all be blessed to know the gift of God's Peace as we journey toward the humble manger of our Savior's birth.



### Altar Flower Sponsorship Announcement

Due to rising costs, the donation amount for Sunday altar flowers will be \$50. The new price is effective beginning January 5, 2014. Your participa-



tion in sponsoring flowers defrays the cost to the church and brightens our sanctuary with beautiful flowers each Sunday. Sponsorship of bulletins remains at \$15 per week. Please sign up for the date(s) of your choice on the new charts posted in the hallway by the church office.

Make checks payable to "Palm Schwenkfelder Church," with the notation of "flowers" or "bulletins," and place in the office lock box or offering plate prior to or on the date of your sponsorship.

Thanks for your support!



### Alternative Christmas Idea

Ariel Royer is a member of New Goshenhoppen UCC in East Greenville, PA. Since October 2, 2013 she has been serving as a Global Mission Intern with the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem/Orthodox Initiative, a ministry of the Greek Orthodox Church set up initially to assist with the Iraqi refugee population in Jordan. She is based in Amman and serves as

assistant for Refugee Response and Communications with the Initiative to enhance their communications with people outside of the situation in Jordan and beyond.

This winter, the Orthodox Initiative is hoping to distribute winter coats, cook stoves and food parcels to 1000 families. Jordan has officially welcomed over half-a-million Syrian refugees. Another 500,000 Syrian refuges are estimated to be in Jordan but are not currently registered, due to fear or lack of access. The refugees are residing in refugee camps and in local communities. Many of the Syrian refugees cannot afford to send their children to school and although they are trying to work to feed themselves and their displaced families.

Local communities have been sharing the very large burden that the government is already shouldering, in helping to care for these new arrivals. Many locals are helping the Syrian families in acquiring their daily bread. The Greek Orthodox Initiative feels that it is our moral duty as Christians and our Christian witness, to help the strangers, receive them, feed them and visit them.

With your help, we will ease the harsh winter ahead by distributing essential items like stoves, winter clothing and food parcels to the most vulnerable victims of the Syrian civil war.

The goal is simple:

1,000 Stoves	\$60 each	\$60,000
1000 Winter Clothing Bundles	\$55 each	\$55,000
1,000 Food Parcels	\$50 each	\$50,000

You can make a check out to Palm Schwenkfelder Church and write "Orthodox Initiative" in the memo. You may also indicate if you would like to support a particular aspect of this appeal, stoves, clothing or food. You will receive a card to let the person know that a donation has been made on their behalf.

Thank you for supporting this winter appeal and for supporting our Global Mission Intern, Ariel Royer in her work with the Syrian refugees.

#### PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

833 Gravel Pike P.O. Box 66 Palm, PA 18070



#### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material Please Do Not Delay

Administrator/Office Phone: 215-679-5321

Fax: 215-679-2650

E-mail: palmadministrator@verizon.net www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com

# SAVE THE DATE!

December 8th — Youth Outing

United Schwenkfelder Choir Concert

December 13th — Youth Nativity Story Movie

December 14th — Ladies Aid to Distribute Flowers

December 21st — Children's Program at Frederick

December 22nd — Children's Program at

Palm

December 24th — Christmas Cantata

December 25th — Merry Christmas!

December 31st — New Year's Eve!

Palm Schwenkfelder Church

SNOW: Welcome. SNOW OCCUPATION OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

Rev. Nicholas L. Pence, Pastor Rev. Ronald Krick, Pastor Emeritus Barbara Master, Youth Director Dan Ferry, Church Administrator Kevin Master, Sexton Ed Bieler, Director of Music Peg Jacob, Organist