

JUST A THOUGHT!

Happy New Year!

“Today, dear friends, we stand upon the verge of the unknown. There lies before us the New Year, and we are going forth to possess it. Who can tell what we shall find? What new experiences...what changes shall come...what new needs shall arise? But, here is the cheering, comforting, gladdening message from our Heavenly Father, **‘But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. It is a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.**’ (Deuteronomy 11:11-12)

All our supply is to come from the Lord. Here are springs that shall never dry; here are fountains and streams that shall never be cut off. Here, anxious one, is the gracious pledge of the Heavenly Father. If He be the Source of our mercies, they can never fail us. No heat, no drought can parch that river, **‘There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.’** (Psalm 46:4)

The land is a land of hills and valleys. It is not all smooth nor all down hill. If life were all one dead level, the dull sameness would oppress us; we want the hills and the valleys. The hills collect the rain for a hundred fruitful valleys. Ah, so it is with us! It is the hill difficulty that drives us to the throne of grace and brings down the shower of blessing; the hills, the bleak hills of life that we wonder at and perhaps grumble at, bring down the showers. How many have perished in the wilderness, buried under its golden sands, who would have lived and thriven in the hill-country; how many would have been killed by the frost, blighted with winds, swept desolate of tree and fruit but for the hill- stern, hard, rugged, so steep to climb. God’s hills are a gracious protection for His people against their foes!

We cannot tell what loss or sorrow and trial are doing. Trust only. The Father comes near to take our hand and lead us on our way today. It shall be a good, blessed new year!”

He leads us on by paths we did not know;
Upward He leads us, though our steps be slow,
Though oft we faint and falter on the way,
Though storms and darkness oft obscure the day;
Yet when the clouds are gone,
We know He leads us on.

He leads us on through all the unquiet years;
Past all our dreamland hopes and doubts and fears,
He guides our steps, through all the tangled maze
Of losses, sorrows, and o’erclouded days;
We know His will is done;
And still He leads on.

N.L. Zinzendorf

Coming Event...! Master Plan

Now knowing where we stand financially, the Facility Team will present to the church several options in completing our Master Plan Phase 1A. Please plan to be present at this very important meeting. (Date to be announced at a later date.)

A New Year begins...and 2012 begins with a bang! God is so very good to each one of us. 2011 with all its good and perhaps not so good, at times, is now history. What do we have... we have the present and we have whatever future God gives us.

I encouraged you, **“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”** Philippians 3:13b, 14 NIV.

What an exciting year we have had, and what an exciting future ahead of us.

How will we get there? How will we get where God wants us to be? Well, according to the Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:4-6... we must: **“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”** **“Do not be anxious about anything”** **“In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God”**

The result: **“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”** Philippians 4:7 NIV

I am overwhelmingly and tremendously excited about what God is doing at Mt. Harmony. There is life change. There is creativity. There is flexibility. There is a team spirit. There is unity for the cause of Christ. I am the most blessed pastor on the planet to have such a loving and caring congregation. And you are the most blessed of churches to have a Heavenly Father who loves you so very much, who genuinely cares about you, and who wants the very best for you. God has a plan and purpose for Mt. Harmony and I believe He is working it out right before our very eyes. The great thing is we get to be a part of it, He chooses to work through us... Yes, the God of the universe, of all creation chooses to use us as His instruments to accomplish His divine will. All I can say is... WOW! I am looking forward to all that God wants to do in and through this Body of Christ. What an awesome God we serve!

Thank you to each and every one of you who made this Christmas a time of celebration and worship. The music was outstanding, from the Preschool Choir, Children’s Choir, Worship Choir and our Senior Adult Celebration Choir. What can I say about the Christmas at the Keyboards... It was wonderful. The Worship Center was beautifully decorated. What a Christmas celebration we have had!

On behalf of the church staff, we want to thank you for a wonderful year and the Christmas bonus given to us this year. Your thoughtfulness and generosity were and are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

The New Year begins! Jump in with both feet, get plugged in, share Jesus and build God’s Kingdom. I look forward to seeing each of you on Sunday with a smile on your face and your Bibles in hand.

Press on,
Pastor Randal

PASTORAL MINISTRIES

Deacon of the Week for January 2011

Donny Cole	January 1
Eric Crisp	January 7
Ray Gray	January 15
Jerry Harrell	January 22
John Haulbrook	January 29

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

New Year’s Day	January 1
AM Sunday School/Worship Only	
No PM Service	
Church Office Closed	January 2
Deacons’ Meeting	January 10
Church Conference (Date may change)	January 11
Wednesday Activities Resume	January 11
Sanctity of Life Sunday	January 15
Day of Prayer for the SBC	January 29

PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

Mother’s Morning Out

A Planned Program for Preschoolers

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We provide a safe and loving Christian environment for preschoolers, ages 8 weeks - 4 year olds. Registration forms are available in the Welcome Center and church office.

AWANA

Awana stands for “Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed”. It is a fun and exciting program that helps churches and parents work together to develop spiritually strong children who faithfully follow Jesus Christ.

The clubs will resume their activities on Wednesday, January 11 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. If your child is not a member of one of the clubs, now would be a perfect time to enroll them.

Puggles® recognizes the learning ability of 2- and 3-year olds by introducing biblical precepts at church and equipping parents to teach them at home. Toddlers love having their very own Awana club just like their older siblings.

Cubbies® celebrates the spiritual potential of preschoolers (3- to 5-year olds) by helping them develop respect for God, His Son and His Word.

Sparks® ignites the curiosity of early elementary-age kids (K-2nd graders) to learn about the people and events of the Bible, building a foundation of wisdom for knowing Christ.

T&T engages third-through fifth-graders by answering their questions about God and the Bible, guiding them through this pivotal life stage to grow in Christ’s grace.

The annual dues are \$15 per clubber or \$30 family maximum. The cost of a uniform is \$10-\$13, and the cost of the handbook is \$9-\$13. There are other optional items for purchase.

If you have any questions about Awana, please see Alison Lewis. You can also email her at awana@mtharmony.org.

UPWARD

It’s finally here! Upward Soccer registration begins January 1, 2012. The cost is \$90.00. If you have questions, please send an email to upward@mtharmony.org.

HELP WANTED!

Do you enjoy working with preschoolers? We can use your help for extended session (during the morning worship service). We especially need workers on the first and third Sundays for the ones, twos, and threes.

God Hear My Prayer

God in heaven hear my prayer,
Keep me in thy loving care.
Be my guide in all I do,
Bless all those who love me too.
Amen.

--Traditional



Thanks so much to everyone for the magnificent support of our music ministries during December. Our congregation gave wonderful support to every program throughout the month. And, every member of our Preschool Choir, Children’s Choir, Worship Choir, Celebration Choir, Handbell Team, Instrumental Team, Mixed Ensemble, Christmas Keyboards Team, Technical Crew, and Stage Crew just outdid themselves in leading our church and our community in the worship of the Christ of Christmas. To God be the glory for the great things He has done!

And now, it’s time to look forward to a fresh start in 2012. The music ministries of Mt. Harmony are looking for some new faces to join us in the new year. Think about making a resolution to get involved in one of our choirs or groups as we start a new season of music in January. Do you play a band instrument, or did you play one in the past? We have a spot for you and need you in our instrumental group that starts back up on Wednesday, January 11, at 5:45 p.m. Our Mixed Ensemble will begin meeting again that night as well. And, of course, our Worship Choir is open to anyone who enjoys praising the Lord through song. We will also be practicing that same night at 6:30 p.m.

We do have some slots to fill if you have ever played or wanted to play handbells. This group will resume rehearsals on Sunday afternoon, January 22, at 4:45 p.m. We have plenty of room for YOU to join us in making a joyful noise of praise in 2012!

Our Celebration Choir will kick off the new year with choir rehearsal on January 11 at 11:30 a.m. Are you free on Wednesdays and want to have a good time praising the Lord and sharing God’s message of love through song? Then we have a place for you in our Celebration Choir. We’ll be looking for all of our current choir members and some new friends from within our church and community to join us as we start learning some new music to share in our worship services. We will also make plans for our group to share outside our walls throughout 2012. Plus, we have plans to attend several music festivals and retreats throughout the year as well, and we will continue our all-important monthly covered dish luncheons.

Finally, the fall semester of Preschool and Children’s Choirs was one of our best attended in many years, thanks to the influx on Wednesday night of children attending the Awana program. These choirs will also kick off the winter semester on January 11, and we are in need of one more worker in our preschool group. If you feel God leading you in that direction, please see me as soon as possible.

Thanks again for your love, support, and encouragement. 2011 was a great year for our music and worship ministries, and I’m eagerly anticipating what God has in store for each of us in 2012!

With a Heart of Thanks & Praise,
Nelson

STUDENT MINISTRY

Hello everyone,

It's a new year in Student Ministry! We are so excited to see what God is going to be doing in the lives of our students this year. Our next big event will be Disciple Now weekend in March. The dates are March 2nd-4th, and the cost is \$35 per student. This is a great time for our students to hang out with students from several different churches. We will be having a dodge-ball tournament again this year, and we will also be participating in a service project during the day on Saturday. Students will be challenged from God's word to stand up for Jesus Christ and live for Him everyday. This event is open to all middle and high school students (6th-12th grade).

I want to encourage you to come and be apart of Sunday School this month. We are currently making our way through the book of Acts, and it is awesome! The focus of our study is Biblical Community. What is community? Why is it important? How did the early church function? All of these questions and many, many more are detailed in this great study. Please join us @ 9:15am on Sunday morning in the Student Center below the Fellowship Hall. See you soon!

Love you guys,
P.J.

Check It Out!

Did you know that there is a wealth of information on our website? Just log on to www.mtharmony.org. You will find "The Connector", the monthly calendar, the weekly worship folder, schedule times, and information on our different ministries.

Also, be sure and "check out" our library. We have a wide variety of books for all ages. We have many of the newest, best selling books by popular Christian authors.

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OUTREACH MINISTRIES

If you would like to volunteer for **SAVE IT FORWARD** in January, here are the dates:

Jan. 16th Packing for Harmony Leland 1pm-4pm
Jan. 17th Distribution @ Harmony Leland 3:45-5:30pm
Jan. 18th Distribution @ Pebblebrook HS 3:45-5:30pm

NOTE

I just wanted to give some more information about each day.

Workday: On these days, all of the food that has been collected for the week will be sifted through and sorted and placed on the shelves in the correct places. It is kind of like stocking shelves at the grocery store. All of the expiration dates will be checked on all items, and the UPC (barcodes) codes will be marked out with a Sharpie marker.

Packing: On these days, you will take the items from the shelves and place them inside the reusable bags set aside for each family. Each family's bag will be set aside for distribution.

Distribution: On these days, you will take the bags from the pantry and give them to the families. The families will come and pick up at the school, and you have the opportunity to meet families first hand.

If you need more info, please email me at pj@mtharmony.org

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Mr. Nelson Fleming
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Mrs. Allison Todd
Organist

WALK WITH THE LORD IN THE NEW YEAR!