Despite having to close our doors due to the big winter storm on January 24, our new year is off to a wonderful start. Though the Annual Meeting was delayed a week it didn’t dampen our thanksgiving for the amazing reports we heard of God’s blessing upon our church. We were also able to present a plan for the continuation of the revitalization of St. Stephen Reformed Church. Our theme for 2016 is “Walking Together in the Light.” The objective will be to develop practical means to enable us to get to know one another. All agree that this is an important emphasis due to the fact that we are growing so quickly! Please see the Annual Report for more details.

In the month of January, Sunday School took center stage as classes are now available for all ages at St. Stephen including all children. Many thanks to all who have stepped up to help and especially to Susan Ressler who will be serving as our Children’s Sunday School Coordinator as we get things going. The addition of children’s Sunday School enables parents with children to go to adult Sunday School class in which we have begun an overview of the Bible entitled “Dust to Glory” featuring R.C. Sproul. The first two weeks of the series there were at least 80 in attendance. We invite you to join us as we grow together in the knowledge and application of His Word.

Though we regret losing Jenny Florio Reed as our Children’s Ministry Director I am pleased to announce that her sister Elizabeth will be leading the 10:30 Kingdom Kids ministry beginning in February. She is in her final year at Lancaster Bible College and will focus on the Kingdom Kids part of our children’s ministry. Please be praying for her and for the entire scope of our efforts to minister to the children of our church and community.

This month efforts are underway to launch our new Women in the Church ministry. This is yet another exciting development in the revitalization of our church. Please sign up for the Women’s Brunch on February 20 to hear more.

Before you know it, Easter will be here. Let us look to our Risen Lord to continue to advance His Kingdom in us and through us for His glory. As always, I am deeply grateful for your partnership in ministry as we continue to see Him do great things among us for His glory.
February 2016 Worship Planning
St. Stephen Reformed Church

February 7 - Holy Communion
SERMON: “It Begins”

February 14
SERMON: “A Day in the Life of Jesus”
SCRIPTURE: Luke 4:31-44

February 21
SERMON: “An Amazing Catch”

February 28
SERMON: “So What?”
SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:12-26
Best Wishes to the following February Birthdays.
Please help us keep our records up to date by notifying the office if any Birthdays listed are incorrect!

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>02/03</td>
<td>Catrina Thompson</td>
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<td>02/06</td>
<td>Tyler Cruz</td>
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<td>Logan Weaver</td>
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<td>Brian Frankhouser</td>
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<td>Charles Nemec</td>
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<td>Nancy Weaver</td>
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<td>Pauline Collins</td>
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<td>Harry Bailey</td>
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<td>Amador Cruz, Jr.</td>
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<td>Diane Frost</td>
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<td>Laela Kreider</td>
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<td>Edwin Frankhouser</td>
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<td>Ruth Frankhouser</td>
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WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE for their birthday cards and anniversary wishes. It was most appreciated! Sincerely, Ruth and Russell Yost.

BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY 14 hats, 35 pairs of gloves and mittens, 2 scarves, 8 pairs of socks, 2 blankets and a variety of Hat/Glove/Scarf sets, headbands, slippers and sweatshirts were collected. Our own Head Start children had the first pick before the rest of the items were taken to the local New Holland Clothing Bank. Thanks so much for caring and sharing. The Outreach Committee.

DEAR ST STEPHEN CHURCH FAMILY, Thank you, so much, for your concern for us and for the kindness you’ve shown. Lovely cards and assurance of prayer are most appreciated as well as the Thanksgiving meal, ox roast and bean soup. The food has been very helpful and enjoyed and your prayers are much needed. Thank you, so much, for showing that you care. May God’s blessings be returned to you many times over. Most gratefully, Dick and L-Louise Martin.
NEW HOLLAND CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE KING’S CLOSET is a free clothing ministry located on the premises of New Holland Church of the Nazarene (428 Ranck Road, New Holland). This is a resource for those who might need a place to get free clothes. King’s Closet is open the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 9am – 12pm.

CASSEROLE MINISTRY: Casseroles are available for those who are sick, shut-in, or just in need of a friendly visit. The casseroles are in the freezer with a sign-up sheet. Any questions please call Ruth Pankuch.

A BLESSING and A NEED: The children's Sunday School program is staffed with faithful, excited teachers and children are coming and learning about Jesus! However, with the expansion of children's programs to two hours, we do need several additional rotating staff and helpers for the nursery and preschool room and occasional helpers or substitutes for the elementary classes. If you are willing to help and/or have questions about the commitment, please contact Sue Ressler at 703 282 6959 or susanressler@gmail.com.

REMEMBER OUR VETERANS ON VALENTINE’S DAY: Let’s show our LOVE to the veterans of the Lebanon and Coatesville VA Hospitals by providing VALENTINE CARDS. One or more cards, homemade or purchased, signed or left blank, may be placed on the table in the Kitchen. St. Stephen also has provided cookies in the past for the veterans. Any kind of cookie except for those with nuts. Cookies and cards should be left on the table in the kitchen by February 11th. Thank you for helping! Questions call Anne Orr at 354-7121 or Betty Hillard at 431-6994.

TIME TO PLAN A DAY BUS TRIP THURSDAY, May 5, 2016 Let’s travel to Gettysburg National Military Park, Eisenhower Historic Site & Ashcombe Farm. Admission to the New Visitor Center & NEW Cyclorama Experience, Luncheon Buffet at the Dobbin House, Eisenhower Farm Tour, and shopping at Ashcombe Farm all at the cost of $82.00. Flyers to take and signup sheet are on the table in the narthex along with more information needed to plan your trip with departure and return times. There is a $50. deposit to reserve your seat and a deadline for registration and payment set at April 1, 2016. Contact: Cheryl Weaver for more information 354-8704.

PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Randy and Cindy Sierk, 121 Germantown Avenue, Christiana, Pa. 17509. Phone #610-593-2128. E-mail address: rlseirk@epix.net

CHARLENE AND CLAIR LEAMAN invite you to join them for “Why Jesus?” a 2016 bus trip to Bangor Maine. Itinerary details and cost are on the insert included in this week’s bulletin or see the church bulletin board for information.

ST STEPHEN EASTER HUNT / LUNCHEON this year is set for Saturday, March 19th at 11:00. This year we have plenty of plastic eggs in fact there are already 2,572 all ready to be stuffed with candy so we will only need candy donations. You’ll notice containers in the narthex for your convenience. Please only purchase small candies that will fit into the plastic eggs. No gum or hard candies as little ones could choke. More information will follow in the remaining church bulletins as we get closer to the event pertaining to stuffing the eggs, dessert contributions for the luncheon and of course the help needed that day. Thank you, the Outreach Committee.
St. Stephen Reformed Church
Presents:

Gettysburg National Military Park & Eisenhower Historic Site

May 5, 2016

Package includes:
• Motorcoach transportation
• Admission to the New Visitor Center & NEW Cyclorama Experience
  A colossal painting in the round, longer than a football field – will immerse you in one of history’s most pivotal moments.
• Luncheon Buffet at the Dobbin House
  Enjoy a delicious buffet in this Historic 1776 stone home beautifully and authentically restored.
• Eisenhower Farm Tour
  Eisenhower National Historic Site is the home and farm of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Located adjacent to the Gettysburg Battlefield, the farm served the President as a weekend retreat and a meeting place for world leaders
• Ashcombe Farm
  Enjoy a bite to eat or shopping at this ever-changing operation with quality products and services in all departments, including a full bakery, deli and gourmet foods, plus expanded garden supply, perennials, and a well-stocked nursery from spring into fall.

Price per person: $82
Depart at 7:45 AM from St. Stephen Reformed Church
And return at approximately 7:45 PM

Contact: Cheryl Weaver 354-8704

Deadline for registration and payment: April 1, 2016

$50.00 Deposit to reserve your seat.

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
Phone number: ___________________________ E–Mail Address: _____________________________ Number of people: _____
Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Wallace Ford told a powerful story about a people who lived in a community that was enclosed in a glass dome. Although the dome limited them greatly, they knew that they would die a horrible death on the outside, and that story passed from one generation to the next. They had lived with the dome for so many years that they long ago stopped noticing the limits it placed upon them.

There was only one offense so heinous that the penalty was to be cast outside the dome. One day, to everyone's horror, someone committed that very offense. The punishment was swift. The entire community escorted the offender to the edge of the dome and pushed them out into the world beyond. Then they all pressed their noses to the glass to watch them die. At first, the offender lay on the ground face down, cowering in terror, wondering how death would come, every muscle clenched against the inevitable.

Nothing happened. After a bit, the offender rolled over, looked around, and then, to the amazement to everyone inside, the outcast stood up and soon began dancing and singing and shouting. Banging on the outside of the dome, the offender shouted, "Come out, come out! It's wonderful out here. Lots of room, fresh air, warm sunshine!"

The people inside the dome were confused and so distressed that they got buckets of black paint and painted the glass walls as high as they could reach so no one could see the person outside dancing and singing. Then they all breathed a sigh of relief and went back to the way things always had been before that day.

Change is hard and often painful. It is, however, the price we must pay for growth, and the opposite of growth is death.
Present:  Dr. Timothy Witmer, Rich Miller, Chuck Kidhardt, Jean Martin, Anne Orr, Dot Koble, Carol Sprecher, Phil Laukhuff, Gene Eberly, Cathy Eby
Excused: Steve Loewen
Absent: Bill Poole

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Rich Miller. Dr. Tim Witmer opened with devotions and prayer.

No Guests:

Financial and Treasurers Report:
Brian Frankhouser, Treasurer, presented the report. We accepted the report and voted to pay the bills. Brian also presented the budget which will be finalized prior to presenting it to the congregation on January 10th. Voting will take place the 24th of January. Some increases were made on organ and music items to meet Doug Wimer’s request. Further research will be done before purchasing a needed folding machine for the office. On Donna Burkholder’s suggestion we moved money from the Thanksgiving meal donations to the steeple fund. We agreed to give Jenny a severance pay equal to one month’s salary. Salary raises will become effective as of January 1st, 2016.

Pastor’s Report
Dr. Tim Witmer presented his report. We approved his membership review process using the enclosed letter. We also approved a request from the New Holland Band to use the church for rehearsals on January 3rd and 10th. The counters discrepancies will be handled by Bob Spotts and Bill Snyder, who will work together to come up with a description and training for the counting teams. We approved payment for videos that were taken of the celebration service.

Minutes of the November Consistory meeting were approved and accepted.

Unfinished Business:
Phil Laukhauff reported on the proposal from Brubakers to correct and update the heating of the sanctuary. We approved paying for these improvements from the building fund.

New Business
Carol Sprecher will chair the Egg Hunt this year. A directory will be forthcoming, following the reception of letters of inquiry (Membership). We voted to drop the collection taken at 9:15. Questions regarding hearing devices will be addressed after consulting with the folks at Tel Hai Nursing Home. We agreed to answer a request for financial help using the Samaritan Fund.

Committee Reports
We reviewed the Outreach report. We will be changing from Consistory to Session meetings in the New Year. Pastor Tim presented the church with a gavel noting the transition.

Following prayer by Dr. Witmer we adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Consistory secretary: Dot Koble

It's a Surprise Card Shower for....

Help us celebrate Betty Smith’s 90th Birthday on February 28th with a card shower.

Send cards to:
205 Hillcrest Road
New Holland, Pa. 17557
WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

ALTAR GUILD
Karen Bates

NURSERY HELPERS
February 7  Dick and Cathy Eby
February 14  Donna Burkholder
            and Betty Smith
February 21  Deb Kreider and Kelsey Stamper
February 28  Ammon and Sharon Stoltzfus

COUNTING TEAM
Betty Ludwig
Beebee (Mary) Buch

GREETERS
Feb. 7  8:15  Rosie Monger
       10:30  Judi Jenkins
Feb. 14  8:15  Raymell Houck
         10:30  Lois Masho
Feb. 21  8:15  Skip and Sue Beiler
         10:30  Dick and Cathy Eby
Feb. 28  8:15  Richard and Joan Laudeman
         10:30  Betty Hillard & Joanne Mellinger

USHERS
February 7, 14, 21, 28
8:15 – Gene and Viki Eberly
10:30 – *Mike Jacobs, Karen Bates,
        Dot Koble and Bruce Gingrich

March 6, 13, 20, 27
8:15 - *Bill Snyder, Bill Snyder Jr.
10:30 - *Chuck Kidhardt, Ernie Orr,
        Dave Kanaley and
        Donna Frankhouser
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<td>7</td>
<td><em>Communion Sunday</em></td>
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<td>7pm Property Meeting</td>
<td>6pm Finance Meeting</td>
<td>10:30am Outreach Meeting</td>
<td>7pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7am Men's Breakfast @ Yoder's</td>
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<td>8:15 am Worship Service</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>President's Day</td>
<td>7pm Elder’s Meeting (Session)</td>
<td>7pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>Gleanings Reports Due</td>
<td>10am – 12pm Women's Brunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 am Worship Service</td>
<td>9:30 am Sunday School Class</td>
<td>10:30 am Worship Service</td>
<td>7pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
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