

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 1, NO.7 • WWW.EMMITSBURG.NET • DECEMBER 2009

NEWS

Father Murphy dies of heart attack

Father Paul Michael Murphy of St. Joseph's Catholic Church died on Nov. 12
Page 3

COMMENTARY

Pondering the Puzzlement

Education is important, school is not. **Page 8**

Words from Winterbilt

This is the time of each year we are reminded to be thankful... **Page 8**

ARTICLES

Pastor's Desk

Be filled with Joy and spread the Glad Tidings – The Savior Is Born! **Page 9**

Master Gardeners

Christmas Gifts for Gardeners. **Page 10**

Unsung Heros

Bun Wivell: A good man who isn't hard to find. **Page 15**

History

Reflections on Emmitsburg Christmas Traditions of Old. **Page 18**

Mount Creative Writers

The Perfect Christmas Present. **Page 20**

The Sky at Night

The Geminid Meteor shower peaks on the morning of Dec. 14th. **Page 32**

JOURNALS

The Retired Ecologist

1979 I started listing the birds I saw each day on monthly charts. **Page 12**

Mom's Time Out

How do we teach our children the Real Meaning of Christmas? **Page 24**

Stages of Life

Losing Mom. To grieve and mourn is to love deeply. **Page 27**

The Old Tenant House

Not to refinish the floors would be like a birthday cake without candles. **Page 28**

Four new businesses in Emmitsburg

James Rada, Jr.

The last quarter of 2009 has been an active one for Emmitsburg's business community. A number of new businesses have opened or reopened under new names.

Maple Leaf Saddlery and Apparel relocated from the Hagerstown area to open in downtown Emmitsburg at 302 West Main Street. When you enter the store, you'll find yourself looking a full-size horse showing off some of the tack that the store offers.

"You had to really search to find me before," said owner Mariah Neff. "I like the feeling here in Emmitsburg. It's a quaint, old fashioned town."

Neff points out that her new location is convenient to Thurmont, Waynesboro and Gettysburg. Maple Leaf offers western clothing, hats, books, saddles and tack. Neff also cleans and shapes western hats.

One difference she has found between Emmitsburg and Hagerstown is "there's a lot more people riding English on this side of the mountain than on the other side," Neff said.

The store is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and



Bob Hance and Bob Gauss prepare the annual Carrage House Inn manger. See Evening of Christmas Spirit article on page 4.

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. You can also call the store at (301) 447-6535.

Though Bob Hance has owned One More Tavern for about three years, he recently brought in a new manager, did some renovat-

ing and reopened the restaurant/bar as Smokehouse Alley.

"We've also got a new menu, though we retained the two most popular items from One More Tavern—the roast chicken and hamburgers," Hance said.

New manager Marty Qually is focusing on using locally grown foods to create the new menu items. Plus, a lot of the new choices are smoked meats using Smokehouse Alley's huge smoker.

continued on page 4

South Adams artists shows talents

James Rada, Jr.

Southern Adams County showed off its artistic talents on Nov. 21 and Nov. 22 with its third annual Foothill Artists Studio Tour. The driving tour allowed visitors to meet local artists

in their studios, talk with them, enjoy the displays and purchase any pieces they might want.

"There are some collectors who come and know about the tour," said painter Dorothea Barrick. "They come because the art is so much more affordable on the tour."

Barrick's paintings and prints feature a variety of themes. Most are unique pieces of art that would enhance a home.

The studio tour began at the Willow Pond Farm where visitors could come and sample homemade herbal drinks, foods and other products. They could also purchase the products at the farm's gift shop before getting a map and beginning the tour.

"The tour is something we de-

veloped to try and highlight our local artists," said Madeline Wajda, who owns Willow Pond Farm with her husband, Tom. The tour featured six artists who worked in a variety of media, including Shiela Waters, Erin Brown, and Hiroko Kumagai Rubin.

Shiela Waters who specializes in calligraphy and miniatures paintings had just finished a large show at the Strathmore Mansion in Montgomery County, which was a retrospective on her 60 years working in calligraphy and illuminations. She displayed many of the pieces in her home studio for visitors on the tour.

"I got into calligraphy because I was asked to do a sign for a store and I became interested," Waters said. She has al-

ways wanted to be an artist and her fondest memories as a child was sitting and drawing. In fact, many of those drawings were on display at her studio.

Erin Brown turned her experience working for a greeting card company into drawing her own whimsical cards. She also makes larger prints in her same unique and colorful style. These prints are perfect for framing.

Hiroko Kumagai Rubin creates art from fabric, much of it has a Japanese theme. Other pieces include unique pillow-like mushrooms and hand bags. Rubin said she wanted to be an artist since she was a child. "My mom was an artist and I grew up watching her," Rubin said



Postal Customer

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Emmitsburg, MD
Permit No. 94

NEWS

Letter to the editor

I just had to write you to let you and your staff know that I had picked up a copy of the Emmitsburg News-Journal publication, the November, 2009, issue, recently after dining at the very wonderful Carriage House Inn in Emmitsburg, and found your publication to be an absolutely excellent publication!! Kudos to you and your staff for the wonderful job that you do!!

We make the fifty mile journey to dine at the Carriage House Inn in Emmitsburg every several months. We just happened to see your publication offered in the entry foyer to the restaurant on a recent visit. What a true joy it was to sit down with your paper after returning home and find such quality content and excellent writing better than I have seen in

many many years!! The people of Emmitsburg are indeed very fortunate!

I should also tell you that my senior mother, age 82, felt the same as I did upon finishing your November, 2009, edition. We have just not seen a paper like yours in . . . well . . . decades!! "Mom" is originally from Philadelphia!

You and your fine staff can certainly pride yourselves on your excellent work! It was a true joy to read a newspaper of this caliber!! The treasures one finds in small towns!!

Warmest wishes to you and your staff for the coming holiday season!

Most sincerely,
Lou Ann M. Riedel
Dallastown, Pennsylvania

Looking for a special Christmas present for a friend or family member who once called Emmitsburg home? Consider giving them a subscription to the Emmitsburg News-Journal!!

With an annual subscription you can keep them up to date on the news and events of our community plus give them hours of exceptional articles to read. Give your friends and relatives a reminder of how great our community is - send them the Emmitsburg News-Journal!

Emmitsburg
NEWS-JOURNAL

1 East Main Street
P.O. Box 543
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
Office Number: Hillcrest 7-6565 (301-447-6565) Fax: 301-447-1730
www.emmitsburg.com and www.emmitsburg.net

News, events, history, humor and culture for the Historic Toms Creek Hundred geographical area: Emmitsburg, Zora, Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Harney, and Rocky Ridge. The Emmitsburg News-Journal is published the first day of every month by Toms Creek Hundred LLC.

Senior Advisers
Eric Glass, Taneytown Stairs
Dan Reaver, Emmitsburg Glass

Managing Editor, Michael Hillman
Michael@emmitsburg.com

Assistant Editor, Katherine R. Au
Katherine@emmitsburg.com

English Editor, Katelyn Phelan (MSM Class of 2010)

News Editor, Jim Rada

Chief Financial Officer and Cleanup Hitter, Zenas Sikes
Zenas@emmitsburg.com

Advertising, Sharon Graham
Sharon@emmitsburg.com

Graphic Design and Layout, Brian Barth
bbarthdesign.com

Copy Editor, Pat Howes Bell

Copy for advertisements must be received not later than the 18th of the month. Advertising rates are furnished upon request. Newspaper mailed free of charge via Standard U.S. Postage to residents of Emmitsburg, Zora, Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Southern Adams County, Harney, Rocky Ridge, Detour, and Sabillasville. Subscription rate for patrons outside of distribution area is \$45.00 per year for shipping and handling.

Letters to the Editor, notice of upcoming events, news stories, and interesting and creative articles are welcome and may be submitted via regular U.S. Mail to P.O. Box 543, Emmitsburg, MD 21727, by email to editor@emmitsburg.com, or at our office on the square - 1 East Main Street.

Borough news

James Rada, Jr.

The Carroll Valley Borough Council has decided to revisit what types of animals it would allow to be kept on residentially zoned land because of a request by resident Richard Sprouse to keep chickens at his house. Current zoning only allowed domesticated animals and so Sprouse had been told he needed to get rid of the chickens.

Because of some differing opinions on the council, the council members asked the planning committee to take a look at the issue and make a recommendation. Councilman Frank Buhrman, who is the liaison reported to the council on Nov. 10 that the committee had voted 5-4 that changes to what types of animals are kept should be considered.

Buhrman pointed out that it was not an easy vote for the committee. He said, "We have a very deep and significant division over the overall issue."

As the council discussed what they should do, it was pointed out that there is a deed restriction on the residential properties that prohibits farm animals on them. Be-

cause of this restriction, even if the council had voted to allow chickens on residential properties, the property owner would have been in violation of the deed restriction and could have been sued in civil court.

The council decided in the end to leave the current zoning in place so as not to create confusion for residents.

Hospital no longer doing blood alcohol testing for borough

Carroll Valley Police Chief Richard Hileman informed the Carroll Valley Borough Council that after 18 years, Gettysburg Hospital will no longer be performing blood alcohol testing for Carroll Valley or any other municipality.

"They could no longer meet the accreditation standards for performing blood alcohol levels," Hileman told the council.

Hileman looked into having another local hospital perform the tests, but that did not work out. So he plans on having NMS Laboratories in Willow Grove do the testing.

This change means that an officer will have to take suspected drunk drivers to Gettysburg Hospital to

have their blood drawn. Then the officer will have to transport the blood back to the borough office and store it securely until it can be shipped to the laboratory. This will cost the borough \$85-\$200 for each test.

Though the borough will eventually be reimbursed for the costs, there will be a time delay between paying for the new tests and getting the reimbursement. To cover this time gap, the council approved at Hileman's request \$2800 in next year's budget to cover testing costs until reimbursements begin to be received.

New trash hauling contract approved

The Carroll Valley Borough Council approved a new trash hauling contract with Parks Garbage Services. The new contract means that all residents will be charged a single rate of \$46.38 per quarter whether they recycle or not. This new rate includes recycling services. The rate represents a \$4.47 per quarter increase for residents who did not recycle previously and a \$1 per quarter reduction for residents who did recycle.

About town

James Rada, Jr.

The Emmitsburg Town Council approved a parking meter holiday during their Nov. 16 meeting. Drivers will not need to put coins in the parking meters in town from Sunday, Dec. 13 to Sunday, January 3, 2010. The commissioners do this annually to encourage shoppers to come into town and shop at town businesses.

Comprehensive plan approved

After roughly five years of debate and study, Emmitsburg's comprehensive plan was finally approved at the meeting of the Emmits-

burg town council on Nov. 2. The plan still needs to have the okay of the State of Maryland. Once approved, the plan will act as a 20-year plan for land use and development of Emmitsburg, though the plan will be updated well before that time.

Youth curfew made enforceable

The Emmitsburg Town Council amending the town's youth curfew ordinance to make it enforceable. The changes are not noticeable to most people. Minors are still prohibited from being unsupervised in public places between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. There are exceptions for youths

returning home from work or cultural activities, on an errand for a parent or guardian or are married.

The need for the change was that the original curfew was unenforceable by Frederick County Sheriff's deputies.

The amended ordinance is modeled after a similar curfew in Charlottesville, VA. It is an ordinance that has stood up in federal court.

Penalties for violators are a verbal warning for the first offense and any further offenses are considered misdemeanors. Parents who allow their children to violate the ordinance and business owners who allow minors on their premises during curfew hours can also face misdemeanor charges, which are

punishable by up to 90 days in jail and fines of up to \$500.

Commissioners approve helmet law

The Emmitsburg Town Council approved an ordinance on Nov. 16 requiring all residents to wear helmets when riding a bicycle, scooter, skateboard or roller skates. First-time offenders will be given a verbal warning. All offenses thereafter are punishable with a \$25 fine.

Town adopts enforceable filth and rubbish ordinance

The Emmitsburg town council unanimously approved a text amendment to bring the enforcement portions of the town code into line with state regulations so that the

Tree lighting on Dec. 4

The Carroll Valley Citizens Association will sponsor the Carroll Valley Borough tree lighting at the borough office at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4.

courts will uphold the town enforcement of its regulations. The council also unanimously approved a text amendment to the town's filth and rubbish ordinance.

Committee vacancies filled

Carolyn Miller was unanimously reappointed by the Emmitsburg Town Council to the Emmitsburg Parks and Recreation Committee. She has been serving on the committee since 1998. Former Emmitsburg commissioner Joyce Rosensteel was unanimously appointed to the Emmitsburg Planning Commission to fill the seat vacated by Town Commissioner Tim O'Donnell who defeated Rosensteel for town commissioner in the September election.

Subscription/Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email _____

1-year subscription (\$45)

Donation (\$ _____)

Please mail this complete form along with your check made payable to:

Emmitsburg News-Journal

P.O. Box 543

Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Thank you for supporting the Emmitsburg News-Journal!

Father Murphy dies of heart attack

James Rada, Jr.

Father Paul Michael Murphy of St. Joseph's Catholic Church died on Nov. 12 only a few months short of serving in the priesthood for 50 years.

According to Father Vincent O'Malley, Murphy went to bed the night before he died feeling "under the weather." When he did not come down the next morning, the other priests went to check on him and found Murphy on the floor of his bathroom. He had suffered a heart attack and could not be resuscitated.

"We all very much will miss Fr. Paul. He is remembered for his gentleness, kindness love of singing, his great singing voice, and carrying and playing his guitar wherever he went," O'Malley wrote on the St. Joseph's Parish web site.

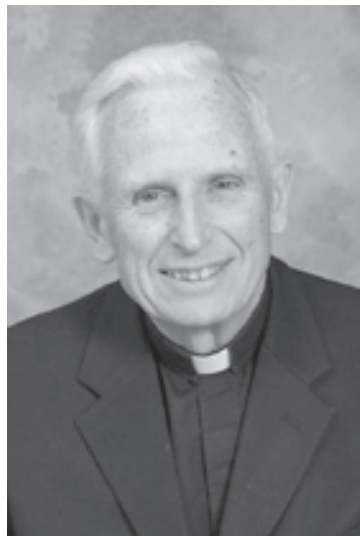
Murphy had been at St. Joseph's since 2007 and would have been in the priesthood 50 years in May 2010. He was ordained in 1960 and earned his licentiate in philos-

ophy at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland in 1963.

"It's a great loss to the community. He was a great man. Well known to Catholics and non-catholics alike," said Emmitsburg Commissioner Glenn Blanchard.

Father Murphy served as instructor and director of novices at St. Vincent de Paul Novitiate in Ridgefield, CT, and Mary Immaculate Seminary in Northampton, PA, from 1963-1967. He was a preacher of parish missions, novenas and retreats in Springfield, MA, from 1967-1968; Groveport, OH, from 1968-1969; in Spring Lake, MI, from 1969-1971; and in Philadelphia, PA, from 1972-1974.

Murphy taught part-time at Niagara University from 1975-1981 and at St. John's University on Staten Island from 1981-1988. He served as a parish priest at St. Mary in Greensboro, NC, from 1988-1989; at Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia from 1971-1972 and again from 1989-1991.



He served in pastoral ministry at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA, from 1991-2007.

A funeral Mass was offered on Nov. 16 at St. Joseph's. Memorial contributions in memory of Murphy may be made to Central Association of the Miraculous Medal, 500 E. Cheltenham Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144, or St. Joseph Church for the benefit of the poor, P.O. Box 376, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

Carroll Valley budget cuts by nearly 4 percent

James Rada Jr.

Carroll Valley Borough recently advertised that its tax rate for 2010 will remain the same at 8 mills. However, within that budget, borough officials have had to do a lot cutting and juggling to maintain a balanced budget.

"Therefore, the effect of the lessening economic downturn on the local economy; and the impact of the state decisions (or non-action) on the community and Borough government, dictated that the Borough approach this next year's budget with the same cautious, fiscally conservative, and "business smart" approach that a municipal government of limited means must pursue in good, or in bad times," Borough Manager Dave Hazlett.

The budget projects slow growth in property tax revenues, a continuing reduction in admissions tax revenue, higher fuel costs, little or no new construction and a reduction in state funding. The total effect is

that the borough's revenues are down 4.69 percent to \$1,653,017.

To keep the budget balanced, borough officials had to reduce their expenditures by 4.06 percent overall, though certain line items are increasing.

"The increases in fuel/utilities have had a compounded effect through-out this budget. Most obviously, fuel costs to keep the Borough vehicles running has skyrocketed compared to 3 years ago," Hazlett wrote.

Though electricity won't be deregulated until next year, costs have already begun rising. Like fuel, this has a ripple effect across the budget.

The Fairfield Area School District receives 65 percent of Carroll Valley's property taxes and Adams County receives 23 percent. This leaves only 12 percent of the property tax revenues for Carroll Valley to spend on running the borough.

If approved during the December borough meeting, the budget will go into effect in January 2010.

Monocacy Valley VFW honors Tuskegee airmen and all veterans

James Rada, Jr.

A couple hundred people turned out at Monocacy Valley Memorial Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6918 on Nov. 8 to honor the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Post Commander Albert Angell told the audience, "This day above all is to celebrate the choice one makes to choose to serve our country."

District 7 Ladies Auxiliary President Betty Overholtzer said, "Your sacrifices have kept the horrors of war away from my doorstep."

The post chose to honor the service of the Tuskegee Airmen with Cyril Byron of Randallstown as the keynote speaker. Byron was a student at Morgan State in Baltimore when his draft notice came. He chose to join a group of black airmen.

At the beginning of World War II in 1939, the U.S. had no African-American military pilots.

"When WWII started, we had three black officers in the entire armed forces period," said Maj. William Patterson, a Tuskegee Airman who also spoke at the VFW ceremonies.

President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the Army Air Corp to admit African-Americans in 1941, though many of his commanders didn't believe African-Americans had the intelligence or courage to take on the challenges of being pilots.

Despite this belief, the War Department set even higher requirements for African-American pi-

lots than their white counterparts. Applicants had to be college graduates who knew how to fly when white pilot trainees could simply be draftees without experience. The policy backfired when the Army Air Corps was overwhelmed with applications from African-American men who wanted to serve their country and were very qualified to do so.

In June 1941, the 99th Fighter Squadron was formed at the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee. African-Americans admitted into the Army Air Corp learned from and trained with other African-

Americans.

Though the airmen had volunteered to fight and die for their country, they didn't get any more respect from the civilian population.

Even in Tuskegee, the soldiers had to wait until all the whites entered a theater, then they would go up an outside staircase to sit in a balcony to watch a movie. That was until a near race riot broke out in town and the black soldiers were banned from the town.

Patterson recounted how one Tuskegee Airman became a prisoner of war in German POW camps. After his release, the airmen "said he was treated better as a POW in

the German POW camps than he was here."

Byron was an armorer on an airplane maintenance crew. He went overseas with the 99th Fighter Squadron to North Africa.

"We got off that ship and everybody standing on the dock stopped and stared," Byron said.

His unit help push German General Erwin Rommel across North Africa. They then moved onto Sicily and provided cover for the British during the Battle of Salerno.

Four hundred and fifty of the Tuskegee pilots served in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa in the 99th Fighter Squad-

ron or the 332nd Fighter Group. Their primary mission was bomber escort at which they excelled. The Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 15,000 combat sorties, shot down 111 enemy aircraft and never lost a single bomber they were protecting.

"They were told [by Col. Benjamin David that] they would be court martialed if they left their escorting services," Patterson said.

The Tuskegee Airmen were so successful that white bomber crews who wouldn't train with them began asking for Red Tail escorts so they would return from their missions.

Following the addresses from the speakers, post officials laid a wreath at the monument honoring the fallen members of the post.

Holiday Greetings

RAFFLE

Put A New
HARLEY DAVIDSON or \$10,000 CASH
In Someone's Stocking This Christmas
For Only A \$10.00 Donation

Your generous donation will benefit Scotty's Ride Charities.
Scotty's Ride helps support the families with seriously ill children with medical needs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL KERRY SHORB
(HOME) 301-447-3260 (WORK) 301-447-6600

Purchase your Tickets at the following locations:

<p style="text-align: center;">—Emmitsburg—</p> <p>My Father's Footsteps The Rebecca Pearl Gallery Dave & Jane's Crab House Stavros Pizza Emmitsburg Auction E+ Copy Center Mountain Liquors Zurgable Brothers The Palms Restaurant</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">—Thurmont—</p> <p>American Legion Smokehouse Alley State Line Gun Exchange Fitzgerald's Auto & Cycle Chubby's BBQ Kountry Kitchen Hobbs Hardware Bollinger's Restaurant</p>
---	--

Tickets can also be bought at:

Taneytown:
Heritage Cycle
Creagerstown:
Bill's Auto Body
Fairfield:
Hobbs Cycle
Waynesboro:
Stouffer's
Custom Cycles

IN THE NAME OF ONE WE RIDE FOR MANY

**My Father's Footsteps
Hair Design**

Invites You To An

OPEN HOUSE

**Wednesday,
January 1, 2010
9:00 am to 7:00 pm**

**121 North Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD
301-447-6600**

*Realizing that times are difficult, this is our way of
thanking our loyal customers and to welcome new ones.
Please come and meet Kerry Shorb, owner and
Master Barber. Meet Stylist Tracy Wiles.
Together they offer you over 40 years of experience.*

*** Refreshments Will Be Offered All Day ***

*** Drawings * Money Saving Incentives For You & Your Family**

*** GRAND PRIZE DRAWING ***
(Brunch for two at the Carriage House Inn)

NEWS

Business booming in Emmitsburg

cont. from page 1

"We're a nice local neighborhood pub," Hance said.

To build on the idea of being a neighborhood pub, Smokehouse Alley sponsors pool leagues and does local fundraisers. On opening night, Smokehouse Alley raised \$400 for the Emmitsburg Food Bank.

Smokehouse Alley celebrated its grand opening on Nov. 13 with special offers and celebrity bartenders like Emmitsburg Council President Chris Staiger and Mayor Jim Hoover.

Smokehouse Alley is open for lunch and dinner daily and also offers brunch on the weekends. Call (301) 447-6749 for more information.

Though Carleo Italian Pizza in the Silo Hill Shopping Center hasn't changed its name, it is also under new management. April and Gerald Martin took over the business in late October. Though customers saw some new faces behind the counter, the Martins strived to make the transition seamless and maintain a high-quality operation. They also began adding new items to the menu.



Janet Hughes of Carleo's Italian Pizza

"We're still planning on adding pasta dinners like shrimp alfredo and seafood alfredo," April Martin said.

Carleo is open 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. They also offer delivery Thursday through Saturday after 4 p.m. with a minimum order of \$25.

"So far it's been going very well," Martin said. "We've got a lot of business from the Mount and from FEMA."

Though the Martins kept on the previous employees, it has also become a family operation with April Martin's parents and her son helping out.

You can call Carleo Italian Pizza at (301) 447-1999 or (301) 447-3232.

Rebecca Pearl also opened her new gallery at 24 West Main Street. The wine and cheese party brought in customers to view the art on display at her new larger location. Pearl also unveiled her new painting featuring the churches of Emmitsburg. Some of the proceeds from the sale of this painting will go to help the Emmitsburg Food Bank just as some of the proceeds from recent paintings has benefitted the Vigilant Hose Company and Mother Seton School.

Pearl's original gallery had been in Emmitsburg, but she moved it to Thurmont for three years until returning to Emmitsburg this

summer. The new gallery features paintings by Pearl and other local artists, including Elizabeth Prongas and Janice Farver. She also has ceramics by Judy Ott and jewelry by Debbie Noonan.

The gallery continue to offer a wide selection of custom framing and is now offering expanded art classes. Pearl is teaching oil, pas-

tels and watercolor painting for children and adults.

The hours for the new gallery are Thursday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment at other times. For more information on the new gallery, call Pearl at (301) 271-2348 or visit her web site at www.rebeccapearl.com.



Mariah Neff of Maple Leaf Saddlery and Apparel

An evening of Christmas spirit

James Rada, Jr.

The 21st Annual "Evening of Christmas Spirit" will be on Dec. 7 beginning at 6 p.m. It has become the main Christmas event in Emmitsburg, hosting hundreds of people for an evening of entertainment and fellowship.

"It's a Norman Rockwell painting," said Bob Hance, who sponsors the event through the Carriage House Inn. "It's what Christmas in a small town should be."

The event was started by Hance's parents as a way to invite the town into the Carriage House Inn and enjoy the décor. It's always been a free event, but now it has grown from a Carriage House Inn event to town event.

"We're seeing kids who grew up coming to the event or being part of the live nativity coming back to help set up as adults," Hance said.

The "Evening of Christmas Spirit" begins with the lighting

of the town Christmas tree at 6 p.m. at the Community Center. Following that, enjoy singing carols, riding in a horse-drawn surrey or hayride. You can enjoy free hot dogs, cookies and live entertainment including choirs from St. Joseph's Church, Mount St. Mary's University and the Fairfield School Show Choir. Hance said he orders 800 hot dogs and 20 gallons of hot chocolate for the event.

"Almost every year, I wind up having to run to Jubilee for something," he said.

Though the event has grown over the years, much of it remains as it was 21 years ago. Carols are still sung. Residents still participate in the live Nativity complete with animals. Santa Clause still visits to hear the Christmas wishes of children. And the same people continue to volunteer year after year to help out.

"I say that if volunteers do it once, they're going to keep doing it," Hance said.

Hance is very thankful to all those dedicated volunteers. They have helped make managing the growing event easier rather than harder for Hance.

"With the support we get, I can't ever see us discontinuing it," Hance said.

Canned goods will also be accepted for the Emmitsburg Lions Club Christmas Food Drive.



Very Large Selection Of Imported Beer



Paul's Pit Stop

DISCOUNT BEER, WINE & LIQUOR

★ **TUESDAY SAVINGS!** ★

WINE or LIQUOR

SAVE 10% Cash Only

On Purchases of \$40 Or More

7% Discount on Credit Card Purchases

DISCOUNT ON CASE PURCHASES

150 South Seton Avenue, P.O. Box 919, Emmitsburg, MD 21727

301-447-6262







Very Large Selection Of Wine



Very Large Selection Of Liquor

Store Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 am-10 pm, Friday & Saturday 9 am-11 pm, Sunday 12-8 pm

We Can Fill Your Special Order

One hundred years ago this month

December 3

Officer Buckingham on Duty

Special Night Watchman Cornelius Buckingham went on duty Wednesday night. Officer Buckingham is fully prepared for an emergency. His equipment consists of a formidable gun and a stout apple wood club and sliver helmet. Citizens can now rest easy for he will parade the town from 10 pm until sun up.

Mrs. Gloninger's Home Burned

On Sunday afternoon the summer home of Mrs. J. Gloninger near St. Anthony's Church was destroyed by fire. The flames were discovered too late to save the building but by the assistance of neighbors, and students of the Seminary and College almost all of the contents of the house were moved to a safe place. It is supposed the fire was due to a faulty flue. Mrs. Gloninger, who is from Pittsburgh, moved here sometime ago and purchased the Elder Property. Last spring \$1,500 worth of repairs were made to the building.

The work of the College students during the fire was in some instances spectacular and some narrow escapes were made. The household goods were handed out the house from man to man and with little injury to them. Everything that was done to save the building availed little.

December 10

Locomotive Derails

On Tuesday morning the Emmitsburg Railroad was tied up by reason of motive force taking to the ties just outside of the roundhouse. The track hands got everything in running order after several hours of work.

Baker's Fatal Fall

On Monday afternoon Contractor Ed Baker fell from the third story of the Gelwick's building in course of construction on East Min Street, and broke three ribs besides sustaining fatal internal injuries.

Mr. Baker, with George Shorb, was measuring supports for the rafters when the accident happened. He was holding a heavy piece of timber and at the same time was steady-ing the step-ladder on which Mr. Shorb stood. In some way the bottom of the timber slipped out and its weight threw Mr. Baker from his balance and he fell. An unavailing effort to catch hold of the building turned his body and he fell on the top of a fence and then to the ground hitting his head on one of the foundation stones.

All the workman hastened to the prostrate body of Mr. Baker and he was carried home. Dr. Stone was summoned and the broken bones were placed in position but the internal injury was too severe and on Wednesday Mr. Baker died. For many years he has been Emmitsburg's leading contractor and builder. He was for-

ty-one years old and is survived by his wife and four children.

December 17

Death of David Musselman

Fairfield was deeply shocked when on Wednesday it was known that Mr. David Musselman, had suddenly died while seated at his desk. In apparent good health this highly respected citizen was stricken, as it were, at his post of duty. Although several friends were with him at the time the dread summons came on so suddenly that nothing could be done and even before these witnesses of his death could rush to his aid he was beyond human assistance.

Mr. Musselman was a life-long resident of Fairfield having been born on the Musselman farm sixty-seven years ago. For many years he was engaged as a merchant and his honesty and fair dealings made him successful in business. A score of years ago he was appointed justice of the peace and had filled that position until the day of his death.

December 24

Creager Loses Surrey and Government a Marker

A two horse team belonging to Mr. John Creager ran off on Monday afternoon much to the damage of the team and one of the Government markers on the Square. The team was standing at the railroad depot unattended when for some reason the horses started off. A man tried to stop them at the creamery but his efforts were fruitless and they kept on up the pike towards Creager's stables.

In crossing the Square they demolished the marker to the East of the fountain and the sully hung up on the telephone post in front of Mr. Shuff's store minus one wheel. The horses then ran up Gettysburg Street and in front of Mr. Ashbaugh's house one of them struck a tree and was thrown to the ground. Fortunately, neither horse suffered serious injury.

Local Fireman Save Town from Serious Fire

Emmitsburg made a narrow escape for a serious conflagration on Wednesday shortly after 12 noon, when it was discovered that the roof of the Rowe property occupied by the Home Bakery, Mr. Harry Hopp and Mr. Peter was on fire. The alarm was sounded and with remarkable quickness the fire department responded. By the time the stream of water could be played on the burning roof the adjoining properties, the Reformed Church parsonage and the house occupied by Mrs. Virginia Gillelan was ablaze.

The splendid work of the Vigilant Hose Company, after a well directed fight, overcame the blazes in these adjoining buildings and every effort was directed to the house where the fire originated. A high wind aided the

flames and for a time it was thought that nothing could be done to save the Rowe property although every effort was being made in that direction.

About this time Miss Lulu Patterson discovered the Motter building occupied by Ruth Gillelan's store was ablaze. As soon as possible water was directed to these buildings and also the residence of Mr. Eyster and a shed on an adjoining property which was also on fire.

Inside of an hour the flames had been overcome and Emmitsburg, at least a part of it, was saved. The buildings that were on fire during the time between one and two o'clock were the dwellings of Mrs. Zimmerman, Messrs. Rosensteel and Hessler, Mr. Harry Hopp, Mr. Peters, Rev Shulenberger, Mrs. Virginia Gillelan, The Misses Motter, and Mr. Eyster.

The loss has not been fully estimated, but already, Mr. Rowe, whose property was the worst damaged, has arranged for its repair and a few hours after the fire had purchased the necessary lumber. The Home Bakery with characteristic enterprise immediately took up temporary quarters in the Chronicle building and will continue their business uninterrupted.

December 31

Big Christmas Snow Storm

Early Christmas morning it began to snow and before the fall was over the ground was covered to a depth of about a foot. All Christmas night a high wind drove the snow into drifts that completely closed up the tracks of the Emmitsburg Railroad. Country roads were made impassable. The Emmitsburg Railroad was compelled to use their snow plow to remove the snow which had drifted to a great high in many exposed places on the track. The rural mail carriers were unable to cover their routes on account of the snow drifts, which in some places are as high as fifteen feet. Despite the obstructions many people are enjoying the sleighing between the obstructed points.

Christmas Eve Celebration at St. Anthony

The Christmas celebration at St. Anthony's was beautifully carried out. The service began with a solemn High Mass on Christmas Eve at midnight. Just before the Mass our old friend Larry was on the hillside playing the 'Ad-este' on his flute. To all who heard the music it was a great delight. The lantern in the old Church tower on Christmas Eve caused a sensation.

Editors note: See the story on the legend of Larry Dielman in the History section (page 18)

To learn more about the history of the Greater Emmitsburg area visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net



Circle indicates the location on the 1909 fire. To see other old maps of Emmitsburg & the Emmitsburg area visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net



Joseph C. Reckley

Plumbing • Heating • Air

Maryland License #9666

9604 Dry Bridge Road
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
Office 301-447-6212
Fax 301-447-6942
Emergency 240-409-5900
24 Hour Emergency Service

Free Estimates

Can't find the right gift...

JESTERS COMPUTER SERVICES



5135 FAIRFIELD ROAD, FAIRFIELD PA
(717) 642-6611
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-5
SATURDAY 9-1

give them a gift certificate!

Our Gift Certificates can be applied to private lessons, or computer repairs.

In a hurry? Call ahead and we will have it ready for you!



GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the desk of County Commissioner Snyder

The year 2009 is coming to a close - where has the year gone? What has been occurring in Adams County and Adams County Government?

It has been a busy year! I ask myself - where do I start? This year has brought many changes in Adams County. Let's talk about our veterans and those now serving. As I write this article the commissioners had the opportunity to attend the veterans ceremony held each year in Adams County. It was said that we take for granted those who have served and those now serving our country. The next time you see a veteran say 'thank you for protecting our country's freedom and serving'.

We have a director of Veterans Affairs in Adams County. At the end of 2008 the director retired and the commissioners made a commitment to evaluate the services provided by the county and how improvements to the services could occur. After visiting neighboring counties we came

to the conclusion that we should upgrade services for our veterans. First we had to recruit for a director and through that recruiting process we had a list of qualified candidates and hired John Farrell as our director of Veterans Affairs.

For those who do not know, the veterans office is located in the basement of what we call the Murphy Building and the telephone number is 717-337-9835. If you are a veteran and need service for benefits that you may be eligible for or any questions you may have please call this office.

As the county grows, space needs become more pressing and much needed. If you have not been to the Adams County Court house this year some departments have re-located to allow for the 4th Court Room to be constructed. Let's start with the Domestic Relation office which moved from what is referred to as the Old Court House to the first floor of what is referred to as the American

Legion Building.

This move transpired in July of this year. The space vacated by the Domestic Relation offices were renovated and the County Solicitor, District Attorney and Victim Witness offices now are located in the Old Court House which were located on the third (3rd) floor of the main court house. These offices were re-located in September. The 3rd floor now will be converted to a 4th court room. This will be completed by December 15th of this year in time for the 4th Judge to take his seat.

As you can imagine this has taken a lot of planning and co-ordination. The good part is that all the renovations to the county facilities were completed by county maintenance staff under the direction of our Maintenance Director, George Groft. Enough cannot be said about the professionalism of the maintenance staff in the county. The cost saving for renovations were done for a fraction of

cost if the county would have had to hire a contractor to do the work.

I also need to mention the work done by our work release personnel performing their Community Service contributing to cost savings. Through all this the county will have filled the space needs for the next 5-7 years.

As we all know, business cannot continue as usual, we need to change to become more efficient. It is no different in the county then with businesses or your own home. Adams County government is conducting an evaluation of its financial management practices in order to better deal with the economic challenges that are confronting all of us.

The objective is to strengthen the County's financial practices and to enhance the value citizens receive for their tax dollars. In these tough economic times, we need to make the best use of the dollars we have to minimize tax increases. That's what makes this project critical.

The 2009 budget was prepared with an increase in Capital Reserve. Well, that was acceptable until the State Budget was delayed for 101 days before it was passed. The ending year balance will be reduced, but not that significantly.

I have been an Adams County Commissioner for six years and those four months were the most challenging in my six years as Commissioner. The Commissioners had to make some difficult decisions to get through that crisis. Thanks to our employees, vendors and the residents of the county, we got through that difficult period.

Now as you read this article, the 2010 budget will be prepared, with no tax increase!

This was a challenging year for everyone. I wish all a happy holiday season and a prosperous 2010! It has been a pleasure to serve as one of your County Commissioners in 2009 and I look forward to 2010!

From the desk of Carroll Valley Mayor Ron

The elections are over. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate John Van Volkenburgh, Daniel Patton Sr. and Kenneth Lundberg on their reelection to Carroll Valley Council. I also would like to congratulate Tom Campbell, our Borough's solicitor, on being elected as an Adams County Court of Common Pleas Judge.

Tom's win is a bittersweet moment for us, in that we are happy for him as he starts his new career but sad that he will be leaving us. Most of all, thank you the residents of the Borough of Carroll Valley for coming out and exercising your citizen's right to vote.

Speaking about your interests, you may want to review the proposed 2010 budget. On November 10th, the Borough Council agreed to have the proposed 2010 budget on public display for a 30 day review. This is done so that the citizens can review the budget, see how their tax dollars are being used and ask questions if they so desire.

The Borough has recently awarded the trash and recycling contract to Park's Garbage Service from Mt Union, Pennsylvania. The Park's Garbage Service company has been serving customers in Pennsylvania for 50 years. There will be a mailer coming out to all residents in the first week of December explaining the collection rates and the recycling pickup schedule.

You are given a number of ways to sign up for service and they are: going to their website at www.Parks-Garbage.com and fill in the sign up form on the site; or call their office at (800) 486-4490; or fill in the form contained within the mailer and fax it to them at (814) 542-4851.

Whatever method you chose to use you are urged to sign up prior to December 18th to ensure uninterrupted service. The new service begins January 1, 2010.

Here are some of the highlights contained in the mailer. The col-

lection rate is \$46.38 per quarter for trash, recycling and one bulk item per week. There is no discount if you choose not to recycle. For additional \$6.00 per quarter, you receive a 96 gallon cart with wheels. For more information, visit www.carrollvalley.org.

If you have any questions, contact Park's Garbage Service at (800) 486-4490 or the Borough Secretary, Gayle Marthers at (717) 642-8269.

The Borough has been notified that the reassessment by 21st Century Appraisals, Inc. of our homes/property in Carroll Valley began on November 16th. The last reassessment was performed in 1990. The initial residential data collection will last about four weeks. So, by the time you read this, half of the reassessments would have been completed. 21st Century Appraisals' plan is to visit each property in Carroll Valley. Homes will not be entered.

The existing information will be undated by the owner/occupant at the door. If not at home, a mail-back card will be left. The owner/occupant will be asked to fill out the card and return it. Exterior measurements will be taken and a description of each structure will be validated. Digital camera images will also be taken of the structures on the property.

Adams County has issued ID badges to the data collectors and has given them reassessment signs for their vehicles. For more information refer to the Adams County, PA website at www.adamscounty.us and scroll down on the home page to Reassessment/My Property.

If you looked over at Lake May as you come into Carroll Valley and thought the water level of lake seems to be lower, you are correct. On Thursday, November 12th a structural issue was found at the spillway. The discovery of a hole adjacent to the concrete spillway prompted the Borough to close the influent valve and open the discharge valve to

lower the water level about 3 feet. This was done to relieve pressure on the leak found in the concrete spillway. The problem has been isolated and stabilized. After inspection by the Borough geotechnical engineer, the dam was declared not to be an emergency situation.

Our Borough Manager is planning to post the results of the Carroll Valley Community Survey to our website in December. The goal of the survey is to gauge citizen attitudes regarding community services and attributes, customer service, citizen involvement and goals for the Borough of Carroll Valley. The information gathered by this survey provides a benchmark for resident opinion and solid data to measure changing perceptions. Be sure to checkout the results. By the way, the AT&T service on the tower in Liberty Township is now operational.

Around this time of year, the question always comes up whether someone can hunt in Carroll Valley. To clarify the rules, Carroll Val-

ley cannot by law change state law regarding hunting; however, current state rules make legal hunting in Carroll Valley difficult. Pennsylvania has what are called "Safety Zones".

In a safety zone, it is unlawful to hunt for, shoot at, trap, take, chase or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, farm house or farm building, or school or playground without the permission of the occupants. It is unlawful to shoot into a safety zone, even if you are outside of the zone. Driving game, even without a firearm or bow, within a safety zone without permission is unlawful.

The safety zone for archery hunters statewide, including those using crossbows, is 50 yards. Archery hunters carrying muzzleloaders during any muzzleloader season must abide by the 150-yard safety zone regulation. Around playgrounds, schools, nursery schools or day-care centers, the safety zone remains 150 yards. For

further information, refer to www.pgc.state.pa.us

Should you think someone is hunting too close to a residence, you can call the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Dispatch Center in Huntingdon at (814) 643-1831 and an officer will check for violations. If you see persons hunting from vehicles or after dark, call County Dispatch at 717-334-8101.

A number of events are being planned by the Carroll Valley Citizens Association for December, including the Tree Lighting at the Borough Office on December 4th at 7:00 p.m., breakfast with Santa on December 12th at the Fairfield Fire Hall from 8:00 am to 11 am., and a Holiday Dinner & Dance at the Carroll Valley Resort on December 12th.

Keep safe! Keep well! Happy Holidays!

MELISSA M. WETZEL, CPA, P.C.
Certified Public Accountant

Individual and Business
 Tax Returns Consulting
 Payroll Services, Notary

301-447-3797
 Fax: 301-447-3755

301 West Main Street . P.O. Box 990 . Emmitsburg, MD 21727-0990

STUFF - \$\$ STUFF - \$\$ STUFF - \$\$ STUFF - \$\$ STUFF - \$\$

Emmitsburg Auction Service
 COMPLETE AUCTION SERVICES
 Real Estate | Estates | Antiques | Household

Auctions Every Sunday, 10 a.m.
 17319 North Seton Avenue | 301.447.2300

FITZGERALD'S Auto & Cycle Service
 REPAIRS ■ SERVICE ■ MAINTENANCE ■ TOWING
"Get dealer service at a low hometown price"

17307 N. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg | 301.447.6274
 Petey Fitzgerald, Service Technician
 29 Years Experience, Fully ASE Certified

We Have 3 Scooters Left And Are Selling Them at Give-Away Prices!
We Don't Want To Keep Them Through The Winter!

OIL CHANGE \$24.95
 Up to 5 quarts of oil & filter included (most vehicles apply) Exp. 1/4/2010

ALIGNMENTS \$49.99
 2&4 Wheel Center Thrust Alignment w/ print-out **ONLY**

COMPUTER \$49.99
 Scans | Diagnosis

TIRES Free Mounting & Balancing
 Wheel Weights | Valve Stems

"We will MEET or BEAT ALL other service coupons!"
 (coupon must be present)

LABOR RATE \$50 p/ hour

Motorcycle Parts 10% Over Cost
 • shipping & tax | V-Twin | Mid USA | Mid West

GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the desk of Commissioner Kai Hagen

I appreciate that the subject of this column may not be the most exciting thing I could write about, but it is timely and very important to anyone interested in and concerned about the way in which we will deal with growth and how we will evolve as a community.

The process has been exhaustive and...well...comprehensive, including countless hours of excellent work by county planning staff, dozens of worksessions by the Planning Commission, open houses and public hearings, and, still in progress, many more worksessions by the Board Of County Commissioners (BOCC). In January there will be a public hearing on the final draft.

This immense effort is updating the 1998 Countywide Comprehensive Plan, which is a broad policy document that provided guidance for the subsequent updates of the county's eight separate region plans. This is a significant change from the way earlier comprehensive plans have been structured. Since 1984, there has been "Volume I" of the plan, which is the broader Countywide Comprehensive Plan, and "Volume II," which is comprised of eight different region plans.

North County residents may be aware that the "Thurmont Region Plan" was the last region plan updated and adopted as part of the old approach. One problem with this approach was that the state re-

quires the entire plan be updated every six years, but it proved to be a practical impossibility to responsibly review and update all eight region plans and the overall plan in that time frame. Another shortcoming was that going through them all, one at a time, in the same order, meant that it took a long time to get back to some parts of the county, where there is more growth pressure and more issues at hand, at reasonable intervals.

Another problem with the previous process was that separate municipal planning processes were usually out of synch with county planning. Beyond the lost opportunity to better coordinate with county planning, it could mean that an updated municipal plan might not even be reflected on the county plan for a few years after it was updated. Now, when a municipal plan update has progressed to the municipalities elected officials, the county will initiate a timely process to amend the comprehensive plan.

The new plan establishes a "Community Planning" process that will enable targeted plan updates to happen at three levels: the Countywide Plan, smaller and more focused "Community Plans," and even smaller, specific "Corridor Plans." This offers a number of planning benefits, but will also mean that the county will be able to update the

whole plan on a cycle that meets the state requirement.

Similarly, the overall countywide plan can and will be updated through work on specific "Corridor Plans." Focusing on a smaller and particular area of interest - a "corridor" - will enable the county to address highly detailed issues in places where growth and change are more immediate and intense. A "Corridor Plan" update could include or emphasize design elements, street networks, zoning, redevelopment, transit, etc.

An important new mapping element of the comprehensive plan illustrates three significant components as a way to provide a general version of the traditional land use plan map. This element defines community growth areas (incorporated and unincorporated) relative to the county's agricultural lands and our natural resource areas.

We are one county, but different areas, or regions, have distinct identities, issues and concerns. So the overall plan will still include profiles for each planning region, including background data and an overview of the general plan components for each region. A key element for each specific area is the "Community Growth Area," which includes Municipal Growth Areas (for each of the twelve incorporated municipalities in the county) and for Unincorporated Growth Areas. The

latter are for roughly two dozen unincorporated communities, ranging from Urbana, which is larger than most towns in the county, to small communities or villages such as Sabilasville or Rocky Ridge.

The "Agricultural and Rural Communities Plan" emphasize the importance of agriculture and our rural communities (including areas not necessarily in agricultural use). Key features of this component include broad agricultural and rural areas, the establishment of five larger "Priority Preservation Areas," and the identification of small, rural crossroad communities that are part of the surrounding agricultural community, and which may experience some limited growth in the context of supporting the local farming community. A "Priority Preservation Plan" is one of the new requirements from the State of Maryland.

The "Green Infrastructure Plan" focuses on the county's network of natural lands and protected areas. Viewing natural areas, biological functions and environmental features as a connected network will make it easier to preserve the values they offer us and identify gaps where additional efforts may be warranted. It also makes it much easier to develop a responsible "Water Resources Plan," which is also one of the new requirements from the State of Maryland.

The new Countywide Comprehensive Plan is organized around nine ba-

sic "themes." The themes make it possible to focus in a meaningful way on significant aspects of the county that have gotten very little attention in previous plans. With the overall format based on these themes, we will have a more dynamic document where individual themes can stand alone, and more easily serve as the basis of related changes, in response to new state requirements or to reflect priorities in the county.

There's more. But not nearly enough space here. If nothing else, I hope I've conveyed a sense of the breadth and depth of the process and the new comprehensive plan, and that it is clear that it is an important document for the county, and our future.

There's more. But not nearly enough space here. If nothing else, I hope I've conveyed a sense of the breadth and depth of the process and the new comprehensive plan, and that it is clear that it is an important document for the county, and our future.

For those of you who are interested in more information - or a lot more detail - the county's website offers a Frequently Asked Questions, the draft Plan, community participation information and staff contacts, a calendar of workshops, hearings, application deadlines, etc., materials from the Planning Commission and BOCC workshops, many other related reports and documents, details about the current countywide zoning map update process, and more.

From the desk of Town Commissioner Chris Staiger

Ambrose Bierce, in the Devil's Dictionary, defines politics as "a strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles."

On that note, let me say that all the opinions below are my own...

Frederick County Commissioners recently voted 4-0 (with Commissioner Jenkins absent) to require municipalities' compliance to County Adequate Public Facilities provisions on school capacity prior to allowing additional residential growth within those municipalities.

For the moment then, additional residential growth in the municipalities cannot take place if that growth is projected to drive school enrollments above 100 percent of their county rated capacity.

Emmitsburg Elementary School's June 30, 2009 county rated capacity is 85% while Thurmont Middle (79%) and Catocin High (82%) are also well below the mandated threshold. The debate seemed to paint the municipalities as pockets of irresponsibility due to their failure to adopt APFO requirements or the inconsistency of standards when they did.

However, Commissioner Jenkins, the only County board member to oppose the ini-

tial recommendation, did state that "the five most egregious schools... (are) not being fed by municipalities" (as reported in the Nov 12 Frederick News-Post).

And, of course, the eight hundred pound gorilla in the room was the on-going battle between the County Board of Commissioners and Frederick City officials over municipal annexation and development north of the city. Past "consultation" between the two bodies, as well as a referendum effort, failed to yield the annexation reversal desired by county officials.

So it seems obvious that we are caught up in a 'down county' battle over resources and residential development. This may explain why the change was made to apply retroactively to "recently annexed" properties.

In addition, County commissioners were required to de-

termine that without the mandate "there would be significant adverse impact on the public health, safety, and welfare" (as reported 11-19 in the Frederick News Post), even though, if Commissioner Jenkins is to be believed, county government has been its own worst enemy...

Be all this as it may, I'm on the record favoring Emmitsburg's adoption of these County APFO provisions - *but by our own choice*. My primary concern is that the County's "mandate", if not challenged and overturned, may open the door to an activist County Board interfering in additional areas of traditional, municipal sovereignty by claiming an over-arching interest in some other area of shared resources.

This action was inappropriately justified as an effort to save the school system on a county wide basis from abuse by the

municipalities, when, in reality, it was meant to be a hammer blow in the ongoing disagreement between the County and Frederick City over growth and

development - but it couldn't be justified otherwise.

Trying to paint lipstick on a pig is nothing new in politics.

Emmitsburg Center of Dance


**Dance Instruction For Children
Pilates For Teens & Adults**

Classes Forming Now For January
Register Before January 2nd & Get \$5.00 Off!

**Classes Held at Elias Lutheran Church
100 W. North Street, Emmitsburg, MD 21727
301-447-3358**

Amanda Smith Breon - Director/Instructor aesmith1999@yahoo.com

A sponsor of the *Emmitsburg* NEWS-JOURNAL



EMMITSBURG
GLASS COMPANY

A reflection of quality

**P.O. Box 346 / 100 Creamery Court
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
301.447.2245 / Fax: 301.447.2316**

COMMENTARY

Pondering the puzzlement

Jack Deatherage, Jr.

I tried to read "Secrets of a Buccaneer-Scholar: How Self-Education and the Pursuit of Passion Can Lead to a Lifetime of Success" by James Bach. I didn't get far into the book before I lost interest. Mr. Bach's writing style just didn't grab me. What I did take from the book was a confirmation of what I learned long ago: Education is important, school is not.

Mr. Bach also put a name to what I've been since 1968- "Buccaneer-scholar". I too seek treasure among the islands of knowledge and take what I will of it. Like the buccaneers of the 1600s, I follow no other's rule commanding how I educate myself. Ah, the freedom!

During the years since my schooling ended, I've found educating myself to be a life long pleasure compared to the forced confinement, and slow death of interest in learning under the dictatorship of school. Not that I didn't learn in school, I had a few teachers who inspired me, some even influenced me long after I escaped school!

On Mr. Bach's website is a video that explains his learning process. He finds a stone and invites a few other people to describe it. Each person finds something about the stone that triggers a question that causes people to seek information to help them understand what they see.

A chain of questions and sources leads the group into fields of study none of them are familiar with and information they were unaware of is acquired. Disappointingly, Bach hasn't made a follow-up video highlighting the knowledge they discovered. He got my attention though. As a Buccaneer-scholar, that's all that matters. Weigh anchor and hoist the sails mate! The hunt is on!

I've been asked where I get the ideas I write about. The workings of a Buccaneer-scholar come close to my methods. An example might be I drop a .490" round lead ball on the table and announce- bullet, muzzle-loading rifle, lead, history of, mining, poison, hunting, and killing. Whatever words pique my interest are fair game.

As my personality directs my line of research, I might ask others to join the hunt to broaden my starting list of words. Being interested in hunting and muzzle-loading firearms would lead me to the "Emmitsburg Rifle".

From: The Internet Antiques Guide (Friday, November 30 2007)

"(Oceanside, N.Y.) - A fine and rare flintlock type Kentucky long rifle, made in the early 1800s by John Armstrong of Emmitsburg, Md., sold for \$98,875 at a multi-estate sale held November 17-18 by Philip Weiss Auctions. The auction featured items from prominent area estates and included rare books, important photographs and militaria. The rifle was

the top lot in a sale that grossed around \$750,000."

I first heard of the rifle 20 couple years ago. "Have you ever seen an Emmitsburg rifle? I have one." A fellow told me as we stood in my backyard. I'd no idea Emmitsburg once had a gun maker in the area. The rumored (rumored because I've not seen it) rifle, in good condition, at that time, was worth about \$16,000. While I'd enjoy seeing the rifle, I'm delighted that one of the surviving works from Emmitsburg's past is still in the area. That's just so cool.

Considering some of the muzzle-loading fans I know, I'm surprised none of them has chased down the Emmitsburg rifle and attempt to make replicas of it. This thought changes my buccaneer ship's tack and off I go chasing after forgeries!

George Wunderlich, "the banjo playing bear" who makes his own and other's minstrel banjos (pre Civil War era), once told me his instruments were being passed off at estate auctions as original William Boucher, of Baltimore Maryland, banjos that routinely sell for \$6,000 and up.

He explained to me how to make the instrument I'd just purchased from him look like a 135-year-old original. Then he cautioned me against attempting to pass off his newly made banjo as an antique because he's placed an identifying mark somewhere on it. I had to laugh at him.

I bought the banjo because George is a master artisan and the thing is beautiful. That it's one of the few items I've ever hung on to that has gone up in value is beside the point.

Money comes and goes; art (and knowledge) should be forever.

To read past editions of *Pondering the Puzzlement*, visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net

Words from Winterbilt

A time to be thankful

Shannon Bohrer

This is the time of each year that we are reminded to be thankful for what we have. I am always thankful for my family, my neighbors and where I live. I have a good life with meaning and purpose, however there are many that have lost their jobs and have fallen on not so good times. And there are others, like the dairy farmers, who are working hard every day seven days a week and are receiving less for their milk than it costs to produce. There are times when the lesson of life is that even if you work hard - sometimes life is just not fair.

It is easy for me to be thankful because life has been good to me. But that does not mean that everyone has the same perspective. Although the recession is over, at least that was the title on *Newsweek* several weeks ago, I don't think the people that have lost their homes, the unemployed, and the laid off manufacturing workers and the dairy farmers feel the same way. That's why I feel it is important to be thankful for what you have - because we do not know what next year will bring.

As we enter the holidays there is cause for optimism. The economy does seem to be getting a little better. The stock markets are up a little and that's good, at least if you have money in the markets. Congress is also working on a health care plan and as soon as the insurance industry is finished writing it Congress may pass it. For those of you that have good insurance you may not like the idea that our government is trying to pass a national health care plan. However for those that

work hard and can't afford insurance maybe it's a good thing. I am always amazed that both sides can have good arguments. If fact, I often find myself agreeing with both sides and sometimes the solutions may be in the middle.

I learned to be thankful for what I have from both of my parents. This attitude may have resulted from two people who grew up in the depression, the one in the thirties. My late mother was one of the seven Morgan sisters from Yellow Springs. In fact she was the last one to pass away. No matter how bad things seemed, she always took an optimistic view, especially that someone else is always worse off than you. Her last year was a little rough; trips to Baltimore for radiation and chemotherapy. There were many times she felt bad, but she rarely, if ever, complained. We spent a lot of time in waiting rooms and on numerous occasions she leaned over and whispered to me, "Shannon, there are some real sick people here." In return I would say "Mom that's why you're here, you're sick." She would then explain to me that she was old and old people get sick, it was the young people she saw, with no hair and hooked up to IV poles, that saddened her. She was a very good mother and she taught me many things, one which stands out is that you can't be happy unless you appreciate what you have.

I don't know what the new-year will bring. There seems to be enough politicians and some business leaders, although the term leader may be inappropriate, that believe that business and the economy will get better. If fact many of the businesses are so confident that they started giving out bonuses again! I don't mean to sound

negative, but many of these businesses are at the same companies we just bailed out one year ago. Of course Congress and government regulators are at the wheel and they are going to limit the amount? Many are limited to one half million dollars!

While I appreciate the optimism I don't see where giving out money that we loaned them, to individuals that caused many of our financial problems - is a solution. It is amazing that the proponents use the same arguments that without the high salary and bonuses they would lose the talented people. Do they really think anybody believes that?

It may surprise you, it did me, when I learned that salaries and bonuses on Wall Street come from a percentage of the income the company earns - not profits - but income. That alone should tell everyone to forgo the bonuses and let them walk. I wonder if any of the bonus money came from the consolidated milk producers that pay the farmers so little for their milk that many cannot afford health insurance. I am sure that when Congress does institute the new regulations, that is after the financial businesses write them, that everything will be fine. For the moment I am grateful for what I have. No matter how many problems the country has, financial and/or economic and unemployment, I feel lucky to have been born in this time and place and in this country. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to everyone.

To read other articles by Shannon Bohrer visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net

Pre-Season Savings



CUB CADET 2009 SNOW THROWER
ELECTRIC START 277CC OHV
4-CYCLE ENGINE
Sale Price Only
\$869

- All wheel drive with positive traction
- 4-way joystick extended chute and pitch control
- 26" clearing width and 21" intake height

ZERO INTEREST ZERO PAYMENTS FOR 6 MONTHS*
See details below



CUB CADET 2009 SNOW THROWER
ELECTRIC START 357CC OHV
4-CYCLE ENGINE
Sale Price Only
\$1,099

- Posi-Steer™ zero-turn power steering
- 4-way joystick extended chute and pitch control
- 26" clearing width and 21" intake height

ZERO INTEREST ZERO PAYMENTS FOR 12 MONTHS*
See details below

Service. Knowledge. Selection. Financing. Delivery.

HARRINGTON & SONS

427 E MAIN STREET, EMMITSBURG, MD 21727
301-447-6666

*As retail by engine manufacturer. Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. **12 MONTHS NO PAYMENTS & NO INTEREST IF PAID WITHIN 12 MONTHS. **Held on purchases of \$999 or more made by 12/31/09 when you use your Power Credit Card. A promotion fee of \$299.00 will be added to the purchase balance for amounts financed greater than \$999.00/12 months respectively. On prom. purchase including promotion fee, no monthly payments required & no finance charges assessed if (1) prom. purchase paid in full in 12 months, (2) any minimum monthly payments on account paid when due, and (3) account balance does not exceed credit limit. Otherwise, promo may be terminated & finance charges assessed from purchase date. Standard terms apply to non-promo purchases, optional charges & existing accounts. As of 12/31/09, variable APR's 19.9% & on all accounts in default, 23.99%. Minimum Finance Charge \$2. Subject to approval by GE Money Bank. **12 Months No Payments & No Interest If Paid Within 12 Months. **Held on purchases of \$999 or more made by 12/31/09 when you use your Power Credit Card. A promotion fee of \$299.00 will be added to the purchase balance for amounts financed greater than \$999.00/12 months respectively. On prom. purchase including promotion fee, no monthly payments required & no finance charges assessed if (1) prom. purchase paid in full in 12 months, (2) any minimum monthly payments on account paid when due, and (3) account balance does not exceed credit limit. Otherwise, promo may be terminated & finance charges assessed from purchase date. Standard terms apply to non-promo purchases, optional charges & existing accounts. As of 12/31/09, variable APR's 19.9% & on all accounts in default, 23.99%. Minimum Finance Charge \$2. Subject to approval by GE Money Bank.



16-20 W. Main St. Emmitsburg, MD ♦ (301) 447-3689
Wed., Thu., Fri. 7:30 am - 9 pm; Sat. 6:30 am - 9 pm;
Sun. 7:30 - 11:30 am; Closed: Monday & Tuesday

Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Daily Specials
Homemade Soups & Desserts
Beer, Wine & Cocktails

**Merry Christmas
Happy New Year**
From the owners & staff at the Palms!

We will be closing early
Christmas Eve.
Closed Christmas Day
Normal hours New Year's Eve.
Closed New Year's Day

Owners
Terry Ryder
Doug Long

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Advent and Christmas thoughts

Pastor Jon Greenstone
Elias Lutheran Church

How does this message about the Savior's birth affect you and me? Do people stop these days to think about what this time of the year is really all about? Or do people only see the coming of Christmas as a time to shop or sell merchandise?

Denominational church goers gain a deeper appreciation for the birth date of the Lord Christ because we celebrate the season of the Church known as Advent. Advent is made up of the four Sundays prior to Christmas Day. These Sundays emphasize that Christians ought to be in a state of "readiness," looking forward to the Savior's birth.

It's not that Jesus is reborn physically into the world, but a time to recognize that we need to be renewed and readying our lives so that Jesus as infant and Jesus as Lord will be welcomed and glorified by the way we live and interact with others. We're not supposed to be thinking about how much Christmas presents are going to cost (don't go into debt on the Savior's account!) nor worrying about what decorations we'll dig out of the attic, or what size tree we'll get, rather, the season of Advent teaches us to prepare our hearts, correct our thinking and purify our lives before the birth of The King of Creation. Hardly a good catch phrase for Christmas by worldly standards!

Perhaps someone who has never heard the Christmas story before would have a hard time imagining that God—the Almighty Creator of all that exists would choose or be willing to subject God's-Self to the limitations of a human life, but that's exactly what the Christmas story describes as happening.

God is born into the human family—fully man and fully God! So, what is a proper response to this announcement, or how can anyone get ready to celebrate God's birth into the world or what is our proper preparation for this joyous remembrance?

For those of us who are already feeling the pinch and pressure of Christmas looming close ahead and if you're feeling overwhelmed, worried or that this year's Christmas is going to be a disappointment to your children, spouse, church or even yourselves due to shortages of money, time, faith or health, perhaps reading an experience of Christmas as presented by Martin Luther (1483-1546) will help you to gain a right perspective on Christmas preparations and attitude:

"Christmas Day
December 25, 1538

This evening he [Martin Luther] was very joyful. His con-

versation, his singing, and his thoughts were about the incarnation of Christ, our Savior. Amid his sighs he said, "Ah, what wretched people we are!"

To think that we are so cold and slothful in our attitude toward this great joy which, after all, happened for us, this great benefaction which is far, far superior to all other works of creation! And yet how hard it is for us to believe, though the good news was preached and sung for us by angels, who are heavenly theologians and have rejoiced in our behalf!

Their song is the most glorious. It contains the whole Christian faith. For the gloria in excelsis is supreme worship. They wish us such worship and they bring it to us in Christ.

"Ever since the fall of Adam the world knows neither God nor his creation. It lives altogether outside of the glory of God.

Oh, what thoughts man might have had about the fact that God is in all creatures, and so might have reflected on the power and the wisdom of God in even the smallest flowers! Of a truth, who can imagine how God creates, out of the parched soil, such a variety of flowers, such pretty colors, such sweet vernal grass, beyond anything that a painter or apothecary could make!

Yet God can bring out of the ground such colors as green, yellow, red, blue, brown. Adam and those around him would have been elevated by all this to the praise of God, and they would have made use of all created things with thanksgiving. Now we enjoy all this to overflowing, yet without understanding, like cattle or other beasts trampling the most beau-

tiful blossoms and lilies underfoot."

I hope you were able to take in all that Luther just expressed, he is basically saying: this thing that God has done is the most profound thing in all of time and history! If you but have the slightest appreciation for the beauty of earth's natural wonders, the flowers, the greenness of grass or of any creature of the field or air ... then you should be able to grasp how wonderful and amazing it is that God would enter into the world through the likeness of his Son, Jesus!

Dr Luther is impressing upon his listeners that a profound response is expected of the Christian! This is the message of messages, the work of God on our behalf – it is once and for all, the Savior is born!

But, alas, a good many of us will celebrate the Day of his birth, but will not acknowledge what is that Truth of his coming and that the salvation he has brought into being is the reason of our gift giving and feasting.

Indeed, many of us will not even say a prayer over the food upon our tables or worse, show appreciation that we have whatever ability to purchase things to give to one another, or worse yet, not show proper appreciation or thanks for what we receive or the intention of the other's kindness in purchasing or making us a gift—and all this revelry stems from God's gift, freely given to us. Nothing is demanded of us—for Christ is born by the will of the Father, what he has done, he has done freely--without cost to us. Only our praise and worship are fitting.

My message is this, we must return to the Source of this

beautiful time of the year when we focus on the illuminating power of lights, the kindness of gifts given, the warmth of family gathered, and the joy that comes with new births.

We who can hear the good news about Christ's birth in a thousand different places or perceive this truth about God's love for the world in a thousand different modes, we who have a multitude of churches we can go to for Christmas Eve, let alone, the doors are wide open to all on any given Sunday, are not many of us guilty of not giving God the praise for the birth of his beloved Son at this time of the year?

And what is your excuse? Will you not cease from the shopping-culture long enough to celebrate the birth of our Savior? Will you not turn off the television long enough to sing God's praise or join in that beautiful angel chorus: "Gloria in excelsis Deo" (Latin for "Glory to God in the highest")?

At this early date, while we're still in Advent season, I advise everyone, this year, tell your family that you'll not be purchasing too many presents for each other. Instead, place the emphasis on the religious meaning of Christmas.

Attend church for the next four Sundays before Christmas Eve. Look for meaningful things for yourself in the scripture messages and homilies. Learn to appreciate a season of preparation. If you're getting a tree or decorating the house, keep it simple, consider those who will see



what you are doing—and be sure your reasons for stringing lights are for the glory of God and not a competition with the neighbors or to show off your house.

Show humility, greet the new neighbors or befriend those you've not gotten along with before. Remember the reason God sent Jesus was to save us from our sins, so we'd do well to show how his grace is at work, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to birth in us the new life that came into the world at the birth of Jesus.

Finally, like Mary, treasure your new found faithfulness in your heart, and with your family or friends express what it means to live the faith that the shepherds found so real at Christ's birth. Be filled with Joy and spread the Glad Tidings – The Savior Is Born!

From the historic congregation at Elias Lutheran Church where you are most welcome to visit and join us.

To learn more about Elias Lutheran Church visit them online at www.emmitsburg.net/elias

Christmas Blessings
from
St. Philomena Catholic Books and Gifts

Join Us On
Saturday, December 12
12:00 - 4:00 pm
Nancy Krebs
Singer/Songwriter
Enjoy hearing selections from
her Christmas CD

Saturday, December 19
12:00 - 2:00 pm
Regina Doman
Author of teen & young adult fiction novels
will have a book signing.

Giveaways for Kids! Coloring Contest!
Hot Cocoa & Cookies for All!

200-4 West Main Street
Emmitsburg, MD
(301) 447-3833
Ask about "Philomena's Preferred Patron Card"

INCARNATION

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Reggie Rice, Pastor

December 6 "The Tinsel Factor"
December 13 "North Pole Meets Middle East"
December 20 "Don't We Already Have Peas On Earth?"
December 27 "Ready, Set, Chill"

Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.
A Program Of Scripture & Music With Holy Communion

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME
124 West Main Street
Emmitsburg, Maryland

THE MASTER GARDENERS

Christmas gifts for gardeners

Shirley Lindsey and Phil Peters,
Adams County Master Gardeners

Many of us gardeners use the cold winter months to dream and plan about our gardens next summer. Since this is not the season to be planting and active in the garden, sometimes our family and friends forget that there are gifts we would love to receive. If you have a gardener on your Christmas list, ask for hints. Most of us will happily give some "not so subtle" hints, like leaving the nursery catalog open with the beautiful rose or shrub or perennial circled in bright blue! So here are a few "hints," in case your gardener friend or family member is shy.

- **Tools:** Does the person you are shopping for have by-pass clippers? They are preferred over the type that clamp together, sometimes bruising the stem you are cutting. Any kind of tool is always appreciated. I have a dandelion digger - a long skinny forked metal blade on a handle. It gets lots of use. Another great tool is a lawn rake where the tines collapse to make a very narrow rake; you can get in between your plants with one of these
- **Garden Decorations:** How about a sun-dial or other garden ornament? If you are thinking bigger, maybe the gardener would like a trellis, bird-house, bird bath, some comfortable lawn furniture, or even a water garden.
- **Cozy Necessities:** Do you own some good garden gloves? If you do any rough work like pruning roses, you may want some with a heavy cuff that goes almost to the elbow. Personally I have an ambition to have some of those garden shoes that slip on easily and you can just hose them off. Many of us like those foam kneeling pads or knee pads; they make the gardening hours much more comfortable.
- **A Truck:** Not a real truck, but one of those light weight 2-wheel jobs, which are so much easier to pull or push than a wheelbarrow. Our wheelbarrow is so heavy and hard to push that I can hardly move it when it is empty, but the garden truck that my husband fixed up for me is very easy to use. It has a bar handle and you can push or pull, depending on your needs.
- **Tool CADDY:** The one I have fits over a five-gallon bucket. Their pockets on the inside and outside. I think it was designed for a carpenter's tools, but works

great for gardening. No more wondering where I might have left my favorite trowel.

- **Containers:** Those of us who have very little space really appreciate growing plants in containers. Although I may not be able to put an arrangement in a lovely container on my deck until next spring, I would be delighted to receive a nice pot or other container for Christmas. Hanging baskets, window boxes or seedling trays are some other container ideas.
- **Garden Calendar:** I have sat at my desk during 1997 and enjoyed a beautiful calendar that I received last year. Each month the flower pictures seem more attractive. Many of these garden calendars also have suggestions for what needs to be done in the garden each month of the year.
- **Hand Lens:** For the gardeners out there who really get into the botany of gardening, a hand lens might be just the thing to examine the fine respects of a plant.
- **Plants:** Of course we can't plant flowers in the garden at this time of year, but you can order from the nursery catalogs and they will send the plant at the appropriate planting time. Last year I gave my friend a plant. Having ordered the plant to be sent to her, I just cut out the picture from the catalog and enclosed it in a card. She was thrilled. If you are on a budget, you might want to send a picture of one of your favorite perennials in your own garden. Then scoop up the plant, or division, or cutting, and deliver it at the right time for planting.
- **Subscriptions:** One way to give a gift so the receiver will think of you with each issue is to give a subscription to a magazine. Most gardeners enjoy magazines about gardening or attracting birds, butterflies, or other wildlife to our gardens.
- **Gift Certificates:** You can obtain gift certificates at any nursery or store that sells gardening supplies. Then the recipient can go and pick out whatever he or she needs. It's such fun to go into a store and know that you have the equivalent of money that just must be spent.

Another type of gift certificate is a "promise" type. Can you take your gardener friend to Longwood

Gardens or some other lovely public garden in 1998? That would be something us garden lovers would look forward to with excitement!

And what about gardening books? Here are some "book reviews" from Phil Peters, a Master Gardener from Adams County.

The Green Thumb Garden Handbook (Borders Books, 1999) by Doc & Katy Abraham is my most consulted book. Its sub-title is 'An Encyclopedia of Garden Know-How,' and it lives up to its name. When I need to know about a particular plant or to answer a garden-related question, this is the resource I turn to. It is a compact paperback crammed full of information on all aspects of gardening. Its chapters give detailed coverage of everything: landscaping the suburban lot, choosing plants, perennials, indoor plants, fruit and vegetable gardening, home greenhouses, and pest control. The appendix is filled with useful conversion charts and tables that make it easy to use different measures and compare products.

Along the same line, but with a different organization is Rodale's All-New Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening (Rodale Press, Inc., 1997) edited by Fern Marshall Bradley & Barbara W. Ellis. Topics are arranged alphabetically. You don't have to go to the index, even though there is an excellent one, to find your topic. The hundreds of entries contain a wealth of information on all aspects of the garden. Since the emphasis is on organic gardening, articles show how to enjoy the garden with minimum recourse to chemical products. The entries are illustrated with excellent drawings that convey the information in a clear, straightforward manner. This is so well written it is a great book to leaf through and read at leisure.

One of my wiser investments is another Rodale book, The Frugal Gardener (Rodale Press, Inc. 1999) by Catriona Tudor Erler. There are only seven chapters, but talk about ideas and money-wise tips! Every page is packed with them. Lists of Smart Tips & money saving pointers abound. Clear illustrations take you through everything from building an arbor or planter bench to composting, taking cuttings and more. Shopping lists show how to get the most bang for your buck. Recipes help you make your own organic bug sprays, fungicides, etc.

DARK MULCH \$24/YD
RED MULCH \$35/YD
BLACK MULCH \$35/YD
TOPSOIL (SCREENED OR UNSCREENED)
COMPOSTED MUSH-ROOM SOIL or COW MANURE \$24/YD
• DRIVEWAY • LANDSCAPING
• STONE HAULING • EXCAVATING
• SAND/FILL DIRT
• LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES
WE ALSO SELL COAL
FOR YOUR WINTER HEATING NEEDS!
RODNEY MCNAIR
301.447.2675
17618 OLD GETTYSBURG RD., EMMITSBURG



When filling out your Christmas list, remember your feathered friends that sang to you while you gardened!

The book has a resource guide to companies and nurseries that supply garden products that give top quality for your money. I wouldn't be without this book.

If you are a transplant, blown across the state line as I am, Liz Ball's Month-by-Month Gardening in Pennsylvania (Cool Springs Press, 2001) is a must have. The chapters cover annuals, bulbs, vegetables, houseplants, lawns, shrubs, trees, and more. Each of the eleven chapters is arranged according to the calendar. They begin with a general introduction to the chapter subject followed by a Pennsylvania-specific Planting Chart. Liz then takes you through the calendar year, telling you just what to do each month for each type of planting. Numerous appendices help with pest identification and control, state gardening societies and Extension Offices, local resources and Pennsylvania gardening facts. This book belongs on every Pennsylvania gardener's bookshelf.

Another book that I keep handy

is Roger B. Swain's The Practical Gardener: Mastering the Elements of Good Growing (Galahad Books, 1998). This book is an excellent beginner's guide. Still, Roger conveys a lot of useful information on a wide variety of topics in a very readable style. He has a way of taking the reader down into the garden and walking through every step of getting started with successful gardening practices. If you appreciate having one of America's most authoritative gardeners at your side, you will enjoy this garden tour. When you have read this book, you know your next garden is bound to be better yet.

Whatever you decide to put on your Christmas list, look over the suggestions above and see if you find anything that might appeal to them.

To learn more about how to become a Master Gardener call Mary Ann Ryan at 717-334-6271

To read other gardening articles, visit the gardening section of Emmitsburg.net

A LILY PAD FLORAL AFFAIRES
 * GRAVE BLANKETS * WREATHS * ANTIQUES
 * WEDDINGS * EVENT COORDINATING
HOLIDAY CENTERPIECES
\$19⁹⁹
 Mention This Ad & Get 10% Off Purchase
 Come In & Check Out The New Summit Thrift Shop
 (Corner of Route 16 and Monterey Lane)
 Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214
717-794-5459
www.alilypad.com

McNair's
Coal & Coal Stoves

READING
 STOVE COMPANY

STOKER MODE COAL STOVES
 Ranging From
 70,000 to 170,000 BTUs

HAND FIRED M STOVES
 Ranging From 45,000 to 85,000 BTUs

**RICE, STOVE, CHESTNUT,
 PEA & BUCKWHEAT COAL**
 50 LB. BAG **\$6.75** BAG

BULK RICE COAL
 AVAILABLE
\$216 PER TON

Delivery Available
 Call For Pricing

17618 Old Gettysburg Rd., Emmitsburg, MD
240-674-3848 or 301-447-3035

ROBERT CHAMBERS' The Book of Days



Dark December has now come, and brought with him the shortest day and longest night: he turns the mist-like rain into ice with the breath of his nostrils: and with cold that pierces to the very bones, drives the shivering and houseless beggar to seek shelter in the deserted shed.

He gives a chilly blue steel-like colour to the shrivelled hops and haws, and causes the half-starved fieldfares to huddle together in the naked hedge for warmth; while the owl, rolling himself up like a ball in his feathers, creeps as far as he can into the old hollow tree, to get out of the way of the cold.

Even the houses, with their frosted windows, have now a wintry look; and the iron knocker of the door, covered with hoary rime, seems to cut the fingers like a knife when it is touched. The only cheering sight we see as we pass through a village, is the fire in the black-smith's forge, and boys sliding as they break the frosty air with merry shouts—on the large pond. The falling snow from some overladen branch, under which we are passing, makes us shake our heads as we feel it thawing about the neck.

We see the footprints of the little robin in the snow, and where it lies deep, the long-eared hare betrays her hiding-place by the deep indentments she makes in the feathery flakes.

Now the mole is compelled to work his way deeper underground in search of food, as the worms he feeds upon are only to be found beyond the reach of the frost, below which he must penetrate or starve, for his summer hunting-grounds are now tenantless.

That lively little fellow, the water-wagtail—the smallest of our birds that walk—may now be seen pecking about the spots of ground that are unfrozen in moist places, though what he

finds to feed upon there, unless it be loosened bits of grit and gravel, is difficult to ascertain.

Many a shy bird, but seldom seen at any other season, now draws near to our habitations in search of food. We often wonder how, during a long and severe frost, the birds contrive to live. That many perish through cold and want of food, is well known. Many pick up insects in a dormant state from out the stems of decayed trees, old walls, and they also forage among bushes, the underneath portions of which being dead, form a warm shelter for such insects as the gnats.

Beside the song of the robin, the green ivy gives a life to the nakedness, especially when we see it clambering up a gigantic tree, whose branches are bald. In summer we could not see it for the intervening foliage, though it was then green with young leaves. We love to see it romping about our gray old churches, sometimes climbing up the old square tower of the one, and burying under its close-clinging stems the twisted chimneys of the other, forming a warm shelter for the little wrens and titmice from the biting frosts and cutting winds of winter.

Then there are the bright holly-bushes, with their rich clusters of crimson berries, which throw quite a cheerful warmth around the places in which they grow, and recall pleasant visions of the coming Christmas, and the happy faces they will flash upon when reflecting the sunny blaze from the snug warm hearth.

Here and there, though never very common, we see the mirth-making mistletoe, generally growing on old apple and hawthorn trees, and very rarely on the oak; and it is on records which have been written from ancient traditions, that wherever the Druids selected a grove of oaks for their heathen worship, they always planted apple-trees about the place, so that the mis-

tletoe might be trained around the trunks of the oaks.

The black hellebore, better known as the Christmas-rose, is one of the prettiest flowers now seen out of doors, though but seldom met with in the present day, excepting in old gardens, which we much wonder at, as it is a large, handsome, cup-shaped flower, sometimes white, but more frequently of a rich warm pink colour, and quite as beautiful as any single rose that is cultivated.

Now is the time to sit by the hearth and peruse Shakspeare's immortal works; and few, we think, will read a page attentively without discovering something new—some thought that assumes a fresh form, or presents itself to the mind in a new light. For out-of-door pleasure, at times, is not to be found, as the days are short, cold, comfortless, and almost dark; lanes, fields, and woods naked, silent, and desolate; while the dull gray sky seems, at times, as if sheeted with lead.

Still there are occasionally days when the sun comes out, and a mild south wind blows, shaking the icicles that hang from the gray beard of grim old Winter, as if to tell him that he must not sleep too sound, for the shortest day has come, and the snowdrops will soon be in flower, and then a flush of golden crocuses will be seen, that will make his dim eyes dance again as he rubs the hoary rime from his frosted eyelashes.

And on these fine December days, great enjoyment may be found in a good bracing country-walk, which will send a summer glow through the system, and cause us to forget the cold. The sky appears of a more brilliant blue, and looks as if higher up than at any other season, while the winter moon, often seen at noonday, appears to have gone far away beyond her usual altitude.

We see a new beauty in the trees which we beheld not before—the wonderful ramification of the branches as they cross and interlace each other, patterns fit for lace, nature's rich net-work—scallop and leaf, that seem as if worked on the sky to which we look up; and we marvel that some of our pattern-drawers have not made copies of these graceful intersections of spray and bough as seen amid the nakedness of winter.

Sometimes the branches are hung with frost, which, were it not of so pure a white, we might fancy was some new kind of beautiful shaggy moss, in form like what is often seen on trees.

The bushes, sedge, and withered grasses are covered with it, and look at times as if they were ornaments cut out of gypsum or the purest marble; while some portions of the hedges, where only parts of the branches are seen, look like the blackthorn, which is sheeted with milk-white blossoms long before a green leaf appears.

How dreary must have been the winters through which our forefathers passed, no further back even than a century ago! But few of our towns were then lighted at night; here and there an oil-lamp flickered, which the wind soon blew out; and these cast such a dull light, and were so far apart, that few old people ventured through the streets on dark nights without carrying lanterns in their hands.

All the miles of villages and roads that went stretching away from the little town, were in darkness; for when the last dim lamp was left behind at the town-end, no more light was to be seen, unless from the window of some solitary farmhouse, where they had not retired to rest, until you reached your own home in the far-away hamlet; and fortunate you were if you did not lose your shoes in the knee-deep muddy roads.

The cottages in the distance seem half-buried, as if the snow stood as high as the window-sills and reached half up the doorways, and you wonder how the inhabitants can get out, and make their way over those white untrodden fields, so deep as they are covered with snow.

We look behind, where hills ascend above hills, with level table-lands between, telling where, for unknown epochs, the ocean spread and sank in desolate silence; and we seem as if looking upon a dead country, from which everything living has long since passed away, and nothing could find sustenance on those cold terraces and bald high uplands of snow, to whose sides the few bare trees that lean over seem to cling in agony, as the wind goes moaning through their naked branches.

But, like the blue of heaven seen through the rift of clouds beyond, there is hope before us, for the shortest day is passed, and soon some little hardy flower will be seen here and there, and far across the snow we shall hear the faint bleating of new-born lambs, and the round green daisies will begin to knock

under the earth to be let out, and so frighten grim old Winter in his sleep, that he will jump up and hurry away, looking with averted head over his shoulder, for fear he should be over-taken by Spring.

Historical

December, like the three preceding months, derives its name from the place which it held in the old Roman calendar, where the year was divided, nominally, only into ten months, with the insertion of supplementary days, to complete the period required for a revolution of the earth round the sun. In allusion to the practice of lighting fires in this month for the purpose of warmth.


By the ancient Saxons, December was styled Winter-monat or winter month; a term which, after their conversion to Christianity, was changed to Heligh-monat or holy month from the anniversary, which occurs in it, of the birth of Christ.

On the 22nd of December, the sun enters the sign of Capricornus or the Goat. The idea thus allegorised by a climbing animal is said to be the ascent of the sun, which, after reaching its lowest declination at the winter-solstice, on the 21st of this month, recommences its upward path, and continues to do so from that date till it attains its highest altitude at the summer-solstice, on the 21st of June.

As regards meteorological characteristics, December bears in its earlier portion a considerable resemblance to the preceding month of November. Heavy falls of snow and hard frosts used to be of normal occurrence at the season of Christmas, as a general rule, snow rarely descends in any quantity before the commencement of the New Year.

Published in 1864

Calvary Berean



Fellowship
(John 7:38)

- Prayer
- Line-by-Line Bible Study
- Fellowship

Sundays 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church
415 West Main Street
Please use the side entrance.

John Bartlett - (717) 360-1501
Cbffellowship08@yahoo.com

Elizabeth Prongas, M.F.A.

Art Instruction

301-271-4459

★ All painting media ★ All subject matter

THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

Counting at Christmas

Bill Meredith

Time was, when birds were free to tweet,
And from the trees came twitters sweet.
Alas, no more; birds just make chirps...
Tweets and twitters come from twerps.

December is here. My wife welcomes it; to her, it provides another reason to go shopping. I despair of it; to me, it means another year has slipped away, leaving another list of things undone and intentions unrealized. There will be Christmas... buried almost to obscurity by commercialism, but still meaningful to some of us. Ecologically, there is the Winter Solstice, bringing the expectation of real winter weather, and the annual Audubon Bird Count. And embedded in our cultural mindset is the feeling of resignation that a segment of time has ended and the rise of hope that the next segment may be better.

The end of December will mark a minor anniversary of sorts. In January, 1979, I started listing the birds I saw each day on monthly charts. The tangible product of this is a file folder in my desk which holds 360 pages of records, one for each month of the past 30 years. It was an educational exercise rather than a scientific one. There were days when I forgot to record observations, or was preempted by family activities or work, so the lists are more of a personal diary or journal than a scientific compilation. But they did improve my skill as a naturalist, and they provided a variety of examples for my biology classes. The lists include 271 species of birds... impres-

sive if you don't know about birding, but rather paltry when you consider that good birders who are serious about their craft frequently see over 100 species in a single day.

Included in the records are the birds seen on the annual Christmas counts. The National Audubon Society started having Christmas counts in 1900, so this year will be the 110th time it has been done. Thinking about it the other day I was surprised to realize that I have participated in nearly half of them; I have missed only a few since my first in 1957. The idea is simple: a group of birders, mostly Audubon members, select a day within two weeks before or after Christmas, and go out and count all of the birds they can find within a 15-mile circle. Each person, or small teams in some of the larger chapters, is responsible for a certain section of the circle; for example, my area is the Gettysburg battlefield. I will arrive near Big Round Top before sunrise to listen for owls, walk and drive around the battlefield all day, and then go to the leader's home to turn in my list, compare notes and have a potluck supper. This basic routine is repeated by Audubon groups all over the world. From its simple beginning of 25 groups in 1900, last year there were 2,124 groups, including over 60,000 participants, in the U. S. alone.

The records accumulated over these 110 years provide valuable information about changes in bird populations. They were among the first warnings of the decline of eagles, ospreys and peregrine falcons from DDT in the food chain in the 1960s and '70s, and they recorded the recovery of these species after DDT was banned. Most of the

people involved in the counts are amateurs, but many of them are as good as professional ornithologists at identifying birds in the field. The counting is done on the honor system, but it is expected that photographs will be taken to authenticate any really unusual sightings, like the hummingbird that turned up in New Jersey a few years ago.

In many cases, you don't actually have to see a bird to count it; an experienced birder can identify most common species by their songs. The best examples of this are the various kinds of owls we have around here. Their voices may carry half a mile or more, they don't travel in flocks, and they are strongly territorial, so you usually only hear one at a time, or at most a mated pair. Great horned owls, barred owls and screech owls are easily distinguished by sound. As every child knows, chickadees pronounce their own name (interestingly, it sounds the same in English, Spanish, French and several Native American languages). Crows say "caw," which also sounds the same in any language. The bluebird call is a soft, plaintive whistle; the kingfisher sounds like shaking peas in a gourd. Chimney swifts actually make a twittering sound, and several species of small birds mutter among themselves when they are feeding by means of soft notes that are best translated as "tweet." Unfortunately, in what surely must rank as the most heinous linguistic barbarism yet to occur in this century, the two latter terms have been usurped by the world of cybernetics in order to further the dumbing-down process among adolescent minds of all ages... but, I digress.

In addition to monitoring populations, the Christmas counts inform us of environmental degradation. I have canvassed the Battlefield for the past

15 years, following essentially the same routes each year; and over the past 3 years the numbers of birds I have seen declined. During this period the Park Service has instituted a program to clear forested areas and return the Park to the way it looked at the time of the battle. I don't know what fraction of the people who visit the battlefield actually are aware of the original layout, but it is a safe bet that they are a small minority. To be sure, some are serious students of Civil War history, but the vast majority I have observed are just there for a day of vacation, and are more interested in making sure their motels have pools and video games than in seeing the area as it was at the time of the 1863 carnage. So in my judgment it is a misguided and insensitive policy. Many of the areas that have been cleared were not near roads or trails where visitors go, and the loss of those forests is a senseless loss of natural habitat. For species like the red-headed woodpecker, whose numbers are already declining, this is disastrous; they require mature forests to survive, and there is nowhere else to go.



Counting day will pass, and Christmas will come. We will decorate a tree and have a family meal and exchange presents, and take a bit of time to reflect on why we are doing these things. I will remember Walt Kelly, who considered life to be a journey and gave these words to his friend, Pogo:

...For Christmas is a lifelong dream,
and dreams the stuff of years.
The gentle journey wanders on,
through laughter, love and tears.

May it be so for all of us. Merry Christmas.

To read past editions of the Retired Ecologist, visit Emmitsburg.net

Sunrise

Ruth Richards

I have seen the rising sun spill across my native prairies. I have been dazzled by the morning sun setting the South Dakota Bad Lands ablaze. My heart has surged with patriotism on seeing dawn light up the Statue of Liberty as the QEII sought her berth in New York Harbor.

Nothing that I've ever seen in my 92 years of life, no sunrise anywhere, South Dakota California, Norway, anywhere can compare with a sunrise one October morning on; the East side of college Mountain on old Emmitsburg Road a few years ago.

I have no calendar date; I wasn't watching for it, it just happened. I stepped out the front door to take my early morning walk down the long driveway for the morning paper. "It was there, a sunrise so dazzling I was shaken.

It was simply, "Now you see it, now you don't."

The air was dear, the sky cloudless--a rare occasion in Maryland. The trees on our land and on College Mountain were brilliant in their autumn foliage. The East was afire, the whole world

was golden. There was no time to call out, "Come look at the sun." This was it.

There's no more to say.

A line from Rudyard Kipling's "On the Road to Mandalay" came to me as I stood taking it in. "The dawn came up like thunder..."

The dawn had indeed come up like thunder not out of Kipling's "...China across the Bay," but out of the East across from College Mountain near Emmitsburg--a brief moment of striking beauty.

How many such moments had I missed getting the morning paper or driving to Catocin high school to my teaching job for 15 years? Never in all of the 55 years that I drove or walked that driveway had I seen anything like it.

One thing is certain, however. I will never again see a morning like that for I have left that driveways I moved away in April of this year. As for the rest of you watch! You might be lucky enough to see college Mountain ablaze with the rising sun some morning when you least expect it.

To read other stories by Ruth Richard, visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net

Baumgardner Farms Landscaping

Lawn Care & Maintenance
Planting & Bed Installations
Mulching

Mulch available for Sale | Delivery or Pick-up

Pond Installation
Snow Removal
Other Services available



Chad Knox, Manager 301.418.1353

Paul Baumgardner 301.676.9847 | 717.642.5469

Happy Holidays From The Folks At



Come In & Try One Of Our New Menu Items!

- * Down Home BBQ
- * Fried Catfish
- * Broasted Chicken
- * Homemade Soups

"Come visit new manager, Marty Qually"

135 Chesapeake Ave., Emmitsburg, MD 21727

(Formerly known as One More Tavern)

301-447-6749

Mon.-Fri. 10:30 am-11:00 pm, Sat. 9:00 am-11:00 pm,
Sun. 9:00 am-9:00 pm

Visit our website at www.smokehousealley.com

MY LIFE IS MY CAREER

Being green

Christine Maccabee

I believe Kermit the Frog said it best when he sang "It's not that easy bein' green" on the Sesame Street TV show many years ago. I used to watch it with my kids, as did many of you I am sure, and I know I benefitted from it as much as my children did. We all learned that it is ok to be different, and just fine being who you are, even if you are green!

The words in Kermit's song go very deep. As a performer I would like to sing it at my next concert as it touches me in all the right places. I was always a shy, self-conscious person and somewhat troubled, as was Kermit, for "people tend to pass you over 'cause you're not standing out like flashy sparkles on the water or stars in the sky".

I like this famous frog's values. After much struggle he ultimately resolves that it is ok to be simple, to kind of "blend in with so many other ordinary things" like green pine trees and lily pads. I think I could have been a frog and been very happy, for "green is the color of spring, and green can be cool and friendly-like, and green can be big like an ocean or important like a mountain or tall like a tree."

All of us are learning these days, especially our children in school as they study ecology, just how important those oceans and mountains and trees really are. Like lowly little green frogs these things are not to be taken for granted.

In fact, frogs and other amphibians are one of nature's monitors as to the health of our planet and many scientists are keeping a close watch on their precious habitats many of which are unfortunately disappearing or becoming contaminated.

As you all know, I am sure, Kermit and all his relations, some of which are much flashier and fancier than he, are endangered by the encroachment of human activities such as mining, industrialization of all sorts, suburban sprawl, deforestation of rainforests for agriculture and raising of beef cattle for meat consumption, etc., which inevitably, and sadly, leave destruction of habitat in their wake.

These days, whenever I am tempted to eat a beef burger I think of my elephant and giraffe friends who get along quite well on a vegetarian diet. Many of my friends are eating lower on the food chain for both ethical and health reasons.

Being green is challenging because it requires changing our habits, which isn't always easy, but ultimately can be very gratifying.

The lesson I have learned from Kermit is that it is ok to be a tree hugger and a flower child. Many years ago while hiking in the Rockies, I came upon an ancient tree, easily 600 years old or more. I stood there transfixed by its awesome majestic beauty. And then, yes, I reached out and hugged it. So true, Hermit, it hasn't been easy bein' green, as there are people who have mocked me, ignored me, and judged me for my values.

Indeed, I judge myself, for as a human being living in these modern times it is impossible to live up to my highest standards. However, my experience goes much deeper than supporting environmental groups or buying a Prius automobile, though these things are good if you are able. At the deepest level my life here in the Catoctin Mountains revolves around what is known as "deep ecology" which is a spiritual understanding of the interconnectedness of all living things.

Daily I am touched by the awesome mystery and beauty of the plants, animals and insects around me and I deeply understand their importance for the health and well-being of our truly living planet. It is a privilege to be able to garden in this Eden, and I never take it for granted.

Happily, I am not alone in these feelings. Multitudes of nature lovers, tree huggers and flower children and activists around the world care deeply as well. They are green, and they embrace it. They likely even embrace a tree now and then!

So Kermit, you are not alone! Besides Kermit the frog I have many other heroes and heroines. One woman who has inspired me tremendously is Julia Butterfly. If you do not know of her you really should Google her.

For a little over two years in 1997

she lived in the canopy of a 180 foot, 1,000 year old redwood tree in California. She said she would not come down until her tree (which she named Luna) and those around it were permanently protected. This 12-foot-thick tree was marked for harvest by the Pacific Lumber Company.

By the time Julia had climbed up into Luna, all but 3% of ancient old growth redwoods had been timbered and mudslides destroying homes and natural habitat were the result. Julia was drawn like a magnet to the tree, and with lots of help from her friends, endured rain, wind and cold until the lumber company committed to preserving Luna and a two mile radius of forest around her.

This courageous young woman did something very few of us would try...she put her life on the line for her beliefs. She was not the ordinary run of the mill tree hugger, that's for sure! She was being herself, and she was being green. It was a proud moment for Kermit and all his tree frog relatives around the world.

There is not enough news in our papers about the good things that are going on and things that people are doing to make a difference. I have noticed some change and that encourages me. People are standing up for what they believe and I applaud them for it.

Businesses in Frederick are working together to recycle as much of their waste as possible, some churches are setting a good example and



are working towards leaving a smaller footprint on this precious earth, God's Creation, which we really do NOT own, and lots of people are creating habitat sanctuaries on their properties and in their backyards.

Thank heaven for all such persistent visionaries. I say, stay strong, keep pluggin' and keep the faith. Our precious earth needs you. MY personal goal is to live more lightly on the earth and to find happiness with growing things be they children or plants or animals. What is yours? "Simplicity, simplicity" said

Thoreau. "Look at the lilies of the field..." said Jesus. "I am green and it'll do fine", says Kermit the frog. "It's beautiful and I think it's what I want to be." It's really not that hard. In fact, it's a joy! Thanks Kermit for reminding us!!

To learn more about efforts to preserve remaining old growth forests visit www.sanctuaryforest.org.

To learn more about creating a backyard wildlife habitat, visit the National Wildlife Federation at www.NWF.org.



The Carriage House Inn
Circa 1857
RESTAURANT & CATERING

Treat yourself while shopping for others!

Receive a \$20.00 complimentary gift certificate with the purchase of \$100.00 worth of gift cards
Offer Expires December 31, 2009

Serving Dinner *Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Eve*
Make your reservations now!

Have An Affordable Holiday Office Party Delivered!
Slow roasted turkey breast, Flame broiled honey glazed pit ham steaks, garlic redskin mashed potatoes, giblet gravy, homemade sage stuffing, green beans Almondine, cranberry sauce, cornbread and fresh rolls with butter, assorted desserts, heavy duty disposables included

Only **\$10.95** per person
10 person minimum
Assorted sodas, bottled water, ice and cups available for 1.50 per person

View our other specials on-line
301-447-2366
www.carriagehouseinn.info

Family Owned & Operated



since 1941





FREE ESTIMATES
for Quality Paint and Body Work

Used Vehicle Financing Available at Special Rates

Lowest Price on OVER 200 Quality Fords! Great Selection!



Test Drive Our New Limited!
ORDER YOURS TODAY
Discover the New 2010 Ford Taurus

2010 Ford Transit Connect
Now In Stock!
Ready For Delivery!
Your Choice - Van or Wagon
Fuel Efficient - Up to 25 MPG



Only 10 Minutes From Emmitsburg and Only 20 Minutes From Thurmont

Rt. 140, Taneytown, MD
(410) 756-6655 (800) 621-3673
www.crouseford.com

Showroom Hours:
Monday - Friday 9am - 8pm
Saturday 9am - 4pm

Parts & Service Hours:
Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm
Saturday 8am - Noon

PETS LARGE AND SMALL

The work truck

Dr. Kim Brokaw, DVM

I finished work the other evening and was filling my horses' water troughs while talking on the phone with my dad. Day light savings ended a few weeks ago so I am finally almost accustomed to doing things in the dark. I no longer have to turn every light on and can work more by feel rather than totally by. I finished taking care of my horses and opened the driver's side door of my work truck, an older red Ford Explorer.

As I got in a large rodent jumped out of my seat and dove under the passenger seat. I shrieked like a little girl, jumped out of the truck and found myself lamenting the fact that the overhead lights in the truck, which only function intermittently, did not work tonight. The large rodent could have been anything from a chipmunk to a giant rat with sharp teeth.

If you have ever had tried to get a small animal out of your car, you know that it is a difficult task, even in the best of circumstances. Removing a loose rodent from a cluttered vehicle that has a large vet box mounted in the trunk as well as x-ray equipment and other veterinary supplies in it, is not easy. The rodent had many places to hide and I had no luck finding it. Sometimes, if you can't directly solve a problem, it is better to change the way you think about the problem.

I contemplated just giving the rodent a cute name like "Nibbles" and taking him with me on farm calls as my new veterinary assistant. As it was I drove the truck into the garage and left the windows open, hoping that the mystery animal would get out of my car during the night. There were no signs of him the next day and no weird odor was noticed over the next week. I guess he made it out okay.

The night's experience started me thinking about the unique experiences I have had with the old red Explorer. The radio antenna is broken off from my predecessor driving

it through some low branches. The radio now only gets good reception on two radio stations.

The Explorer has forded several streams and driven through numerous muddy pastures. I am sure that the many on call nights that involved speeding down a pot hole filled gravel road did nothing to improve the suspension. I have had to leave it running so I could treat a bloated heifer using the headlights to illuminate the field so I could see what I was doing. The Explorer has over 130,000 miles on it but it still seems to run fine, at least to me.

My work truck sometimes attracts some notice from clients. Once, when I pulled into one client's house, he politely asked me if it always squeaked like that when I stop. Truthfully I hadn't noticed it ever doing that but took it to the shop and they replaced the brakes, the tires, and some other parts that do something with the wheels' alignment. The truck is currently way over due for an oil change work has been busy and I haven't gotten around to taking it in yet. When it breaks down I realize I will have no one but myself to blame.

One of my most embarrassing moments with the work truck happened several months ago. As I was finished up one call, a client called me out to look at her horse. He had cut himself and needed stitches. Over the phone she told me that it wasn't anything bad but for cosmetic reasons and faster healing she would like me to come look at it. I was only a few miles from her place so I pulled into her driveway a short time after her call. The entire family was present to make sure that their horse was going to be okay. I went to open my door to get out of the truck, and the door would not open. I proceeded to unroll my driver's side window and use the outside door handle to open the car. Again, the door would not

open. The door handle started to come loose as I pulled on it.

That left me with two embarrassing choices, I had to do the NASCAR driver thing and crawl through the open window, or crawl out through the passenger side. I chose, what I thought would be the more graceful approach and climbed in and out through the passenger side door. The entire family was amused by the exit technique.

Luckily the laceration repair went smoothly. It was a small cut on the horse's neck that only required a handful of stitches. I sedated the horse and then put in a local numbing agent around the wound so he wouldn't feel the stitches being placed. The client's daughter was talking about how she wanted to be a vet.

As the horse was standing quietly I asked her, with her mother's permission, if she wanted to try placing one of the sutures. A big smile came across her face as she shook her head yes. I placed another stitch in the horse, explaining what I was doing as I went. I then handed her the instrument and suture and told her it was her turn.

She very timidly pushed the needle in through one section of the horse's skin and came out through the other. Next came tying the knot. Learning to tie surgical knots is a bit tricky. After a couple of suggestions, she was able to tie it. She put the next stitch in flawlessly. I gave the horse a tetanus shot and some antibiotics and was ready to be on my way.

Frequently we bill clients and some of them will choose to carry a balance on their account for a few months. As it was, this client had not yet paid her previous bill. She informed me of this as I was getting ready to leave and told me to wait a minute so she could write a check as "from the looks of my car, clearly the clinic was in need of money".

As I was driving back to the clinic I began to see the humor in this and by the time I walked through the door I was thinking that this would make



a great story later on. As I shared the events of my day with the senior veterinarians at the clinic, they assured me that the truck would be fixed immediately. Then we all started joking about how perhaps we should all start climbing out through the car door window as it might be a way to get clients to pay their bills promptly.

The people at the auto repair shop were able to get the truck in right away but I had already booked farm calls for the week and elected to not drop the truck off until the next week.

While my truck was being worked on, one of the senior vets lent me his vehicle for on call and my day-

time farm calls. I live along a main road and I parked his vehicle in the front yard. The next morning, one of the vets jokingly said, "I saw a different car parked at your place late last night and early the next morning. People will talk."

While I'm happy to fuel good-natured local gossip, I'm happier to have my old Explorer fixed and returned to me.

Editor's Note: Dr. Kim Brokaw applies her talents and love of animals at the Walkersville Veterinary Clinic.

Have a pet story you would like to share? If so, send it to use at editor@emmitsburg.com.

MAPLE LEAF SADDLERY & APPAREL
Western and English Apparel - Boots - Hats - Tackle & Saddlery
302 West Main Street, Emmitsburg, MD 21727
MARIAH NEFF ~ 301-447-6536
Hours: Tues. & Fri. 8 am - 4 pm, Wed./Thurs./Sat. 8 am - 8 pm
Closed Sunday (for God) Closed Monday (for me)
SASS #81399 ~ Spirit of the Wind SpiritOfTheWind@verizon.net

Island Dog
Dog & Cat Gifts
Come in and see what we offer to make Christmas morning special for your pets!
53 Chambersburg Street, Gettysburg, PA
804-384-7897
Hours: Thurs., Fri., Sat. 11 am to 7 pm
Sun. 12 noon to 5 pm
Contact Us: www.islanddog.biz or Pattic26@aol.com Patti Dixon, Owner

SOUTHERN STATES
Brands You Trust. People You Know.
1 Commerce St., Taneytown, MD 21787
410-756-6711 www.SouthernStates.com

**PRICES GOOD THROUGH
DECEMBER 31, 2009**

Nyjer® Seed
20 lbs. Attracts goldfinches, purple finches and more. (102-11080)
REGULAR \$24.99
\$19.99
SAVE 20%

Black Oil Sunflower Seed
20 lbs. Attracts cardinals, bluebirds, nuthatches and more. (102-09901)
REGULAR \$8.99
\$6.99

Wild Bird Food
A Mixture of Quality Seed to Attract a Wide Variety of Birds
50 lbs. (102-09901)
25% MORE FREE

High Energy Suet Cake
11 oz. Attract wild birds all year. (102-01879)
REGULAR 99¢
59¢
SAVE 40%

Corn on the Cob
6.5 lbs. Attracts rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels and more. (102-11086)
REGULAR \$4.99
\$3.99
SAVE 20%

Wild Bird Seed
50 LB. BAG
A mixture of quality seed to attract a wide variety of birds.
\$11.99

STATESMAN® Premium Grade Hardwood Pellet Fuel
40 lbs. Made from pure hardwood sawdust. High BTU rating. Low ash.
\$260 PER TON
DELIVERY AVAILABLE

12" Fieldrunner Boots
\$44.99
Waterproof rubber boots with Neoprene lining. Features removable insole, high traction sole and easy-on pull strap. (967-MISC)

Bun Wivell: A good man who isn't hard to find

Susan Allen

Bun--his given name is Bernard, but he's always been called Bun--is a caring and lovable man. Loyal, dependable, easy to get along with: these are the words which his co-workers and friends use to describe him. I'd call him a gentleman of the old school, unfailingly polite and good-humored. Naturally outgoing, Bun's life has been hammered by events that might have soured a less strong and resilient personality. He has turned his sorrows into opportunities for generosity and service to others.

Bun grew up on the family farm on Dry Bridge Road, the son of Roy and Helen Wivell, number six in the fabled Wivell generation of twenty. He learned the value of working hard and doing things correctly, and also laughed a lot.

I met Bun in 1957, when I was ten-and-a-half, just the age to form a major crush. He drove down our lane one summer morning and went to work for my dad. He worked in the fields all summer and through fall harvesting. My sister Edie remembers taking quart jars of ice water to him when he worked in the back field. I don't remember exactly when he left, but soon he was working for my uncle Bob at Saylor's Store.

Bun recalls that "I was out of the service, back home, and looking for a job. Your daddy put me to work that summer. And then I did some odd jobs for Bob and kept looking for full-time work. And there

just wasn't anything around...I was ready to re-enlist when I just asked Bob if he thought enough of my work to hire me full-time. He said he would have to think it over, but he would let me know in a day or two...[then] he told me I had a job. And I never left until he closed the store [in 1982]." He remained a great friend of my parents all their lives, and virtually a member of the Saylor family to the present time.

Bun worked twenty-five years for Uncle Bob, taking care of farm machinery and lawn mower repairs, hauling feed out to farmers' trucks, and doing whatever else needed to be done. He married his wife, Betty, and together they built a family with Cathy, Connie, Carolyn, Mike, Sandy, Steve, and Doug. They lived, as Bun does now, in Rocky Ridge. Like many men in the area, he joined the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company in 1972. He was elected treasurer in 1977, and still "does a terrific job" in that capacity, according to Dennis Mathias, a fire company officer.

Though he doesn't answer fire calls, he helps in many other activities--Ridgefest and butchering in the fall, the summer carnival, and bingo year 'round. Secretary Paulette Mathias' records show that he was honored by the fire company in 1990 with their Charles Mumma Award for outstanding volunteer service. In 2005 Bun was named to the Frederick County Volunteer Firemen's Association's Hall of Fame.

The 1980's were not kind to Bun. His eldest son Mike, "my baseball player," was killed in a car accident within months of graduating from high school and beginning college. Betty Wivell was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Many of their friends helped Bun take Betty to her cancer treatments. Since her passing in 1984, Bun has made a practice of returning that kindness to others, driving people not just to Frederick but to Baltimore and Washington for treatment of their serious illnesses. His supervisor and friend Jim Grinder says that Bun is "always willing to take people who need rides," and he often spends his day off engaged in that good work.

Folk wisdom tells us that things--usually sad things--happen in threes. Bun's third great loss came in 2000, when his youngest son Doug drowned in a kayaking accident. When the worst of his grief was over, Bun decided to create a memorial to both his boys that would benefit young local athletes.

That was the start of the Michael L. and Douglas A. Wivell Memorial

Walk. "It was strictly my idea, not the kids'," although his daughters do a great deal to manage each year's event. Donations from sponsors and other supporters, and registration fees for the walk itself have generated a fund that donates to individual athletes and groups.

Bun works with the Catoclin Sports Boosters and Catoclin Youth Association to identify students who need financial aid. Mike Valentine of the Sports Boosters says that the fund has paid for equipment, "but what he [Bun] really wants to do is support the students with their direct needs... [and] he's there at the games."

Both Valentine and Tom Sherald, Catoclin's athletic director, agree that he is not only a big donor to Catoclin athletics but one of their most loyal fans, and not just for the sports his sons played. "He's just a fine man...who doesn't flaunt his generosity," declares Sherald. This year at the Catoclin graduation, Bun received the Community Citizen Award from the boosters, a hon-

or paid to someone who gives time or financial assistance for students.

At an age when most men have retired, Bun still works three days a week as a driver for the Daughters of Charity. He tinkers with lawn mowers for his friends and acquaintances. "I like to stay busy, and I just like what I'm doing." As for the games he attends, sometimes three or four nights a week this fall, "I just can't make 'em all!" He and daughter Carolyn are busy planning for the tenth Wivell Memorial Walk, which will be held in June 2010. They hope to make it a really special event for the Emmitsburg and Thurmont communities.

Bun's brother Sam said this summer that "my brother Bun really is an unsung hero" for all the help he has given to student athletes since the first walk was held. To that statement, I and many others say "Amen."

To read stories on other *Unsung Heroes* visit the *People Article* section of Emmitsburg.net



Down Under! Have a really hot Xmas

Lindsay, Melbourne Australia!

It's typing in my study in Melbourne, Australia as the galloping hooves of Santa's reindeer make their extraordinary journey to this great south land.

Extraordinary because reindeer wouldn't survive more than a month, and Santa himself would die of heatstroke within days. It's an odd fact that distance from the equator has less bearing on climate than looking at an atlas might indicate -- Melbourne, for instance, is just about the same latitude south as Washington DC is north -- but we expect, and generally get, a festive season with daytime temperatures around 35-40 degrees Celsius (95-105 degrees F to all you anchorites), no rain, hot northerly winds, flies and bushfires. You folk in Emmitsburg, I understand, have something a little different to look forward to: Snow, cold winds

from the north, the odd blizzard and rain? Am I right?

So, imagine if you will a group of northerners arriving here in November expecting to have a typical home-style Christmas, with roast something or other, plum pudding and custard, maybe roast chestnuts, and burning log fires. But getting instead roasted human, dried berries, and burning log fires all around them. Of course, they were only convicts, but even convicts have feelings, and far more used to going without the so-called good things of life. The guards, soldiers and other assorted conscripts had it even worse, for, true to their tradition, wool was the fibre of choice for clothing, and lots of that to keep out the cold. And, true to military service regulations, the wearing of such garb was enforced. Prison might have been an excellent alternative, for in there at least one

could remove most of the unwanted apparel. I mean, wearing thick clothing had proved to be right for their occupation of the North American Continent in Winter, hadn't it? So what was the problem?

Well, the problem was, that this, the smallest continent, is a desert surrounded by a strip of mountainous, mostly arable land. And that desert has enormous influence on the climate. Northern Australia is decidedly tropical, hot, wet and humid for much of the year -- but by the time any of this pleasant and useful weather has been blown south it is as it is, hot and dry. So have we come to terms with this most un-christmassy of weather? Indeed we have.

When I was growing up the traditional hot roast/plum pudding regime still ruled. (As an aside, when I was fourteen we had Christmas with my father's eldest brother's family. On protesting that I could eat no more pudding, my uncle leered and said, "well, have some more brandy sauce." Ah, Nostalgia.)

And tradition is a hard taskmas-

ter. A hot meal is a sign of celebration when one convention is supported by another, but in today's less formal society we're just a likely to eat whatever can be chilled and to hates with tradition. Cold ham, poultry, salad, ice cream, fruit. Or as a complete break, a barbecue. If it's not a day of total fire ban, which it often is. Followed by the requisite nap for us elderly, a game of cricket (yes, bizarre, isn't it?) for the boys, and a long, luxuriant splash/swim in the pool for all who can still stand and who live more than a certain distance from the best swimming beaches in the world. Yes they are!

But there's one thing that has not changed for most people, and which I fervently hope never will: Christmas is a time for families. Even members who for real or imagined reasons have fallen out with other members of their family try to put such angers away for the day. Yes, even our eldest and second eldest. Our three boys go to their in-laws for The Day, we to our daughter's -- and are besmitten again by her first child, daughter Nina, now 4 weeks old. Yes, she's

gorgeous, perfect, apple of her daddy's and grandpa's eyes. Then we all get together on boxing day -- how's that for civilized? -- all 16 of us. (Today's puzzle: How many grandkids do we have?)

And this, dear reader, is the norm here in Aus. Sporting events are not on, hotels do a roaring trade in food and their other staples, carols are sung, traditionalists go to church, and above all presents are opened. And I suppose that this is the norm with you also. We may not pay much heed to the traditional reason for celebrating Christmas, but the above is enough to ensure a day of enjoyment for most, or fortitude for those who have to work, and hope for those who have very little.

Let me leave you with words from one of the greatest wordsmiths to have ever lived, Noel Coward: 'I believe we should all behave quite differently if we lived in a warm, sunny climate all the time.'

When you visit us, I'll be happy to show you why.

Have a really hot Christmas,
Lindsay

IN MY OWN WORDS

The season's change

Katherine Au

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?

Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

—John Keats, "To Autumn"

Fall is leaving us this month, winter is coming, and spring is still either a memory or a wistful thought for the future. As Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, verse 1 says, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven," and I believe that is true. Each year we witness the seasons come and go. Fall to winter, winter to spring, spring to summer, summer to fall, and fall to winter again. Time marches, days pass, and the world continues to revolve and evolve. Sometimes I think we take the march of the seasons for granted, so this month I'd like to look at the passing of fall and the start of winter and shed light on its significance to me.

At the end of the continuously hot days of summer, I am so relieved when the nights begin to take on a cool edge and in the mornings I wake up to the crisp morning air. And then, as the days progress, the leaves start to change their colors. I remember when I was living in California what I missed most was that the leaves didn't change like they did on the East coast. I kept thinking what a beautiful transition so many people miss, and the whole time I lived out West, that was the thing each year I missed the most. As the leaves change I love to notice each day how the leaves shift from green to orange or yellow or red. I would like to say that they gradually change, but it always seems like they change to their color quickly and then shortly shift to the full potential of their color and then just as quickly start to fall off the trees and turn brown. Although fall is my favorite season, it is also the time that I start to brace myself for the onslaught of winter.

I always do enjoy the change of the seasons, but I had rarely thought of the true significance and need for the leaves to change and fall. I had learned in biology about the process of photosynthesis. The leaves feed the trees through this process and turn the energy of sunlight into the food for the trees. The sunlight is the fuel that spurs the process and without adequate sunlight, the process ends up taking more energy from the tree rather than giving it to the tree. When the days shorten, the amount of sunlight is reduced which makes it more efficient for the deciduous trees to essentially hibernate during the winter.

The trees, full of vascular cells, transport the water and nutrients throughout their entire being—starting from their roots and going all the way to the tip of each leaf. When the amount of sunlight decreases in the autumn as the days get shorter, then the avenues that enable the transportation of sap and nutrients to and from a tree's leaves begin to close. As this process happens, a layer of cells develop at the base of a leaf's stem that enable the tree to separate itself from the leaf. When the layer of cells is completely formed at each leaf, then the leaves are essentially pushed off. I had always just thought that they fell, either by wind or rain or of

their own accord, but it does make sense that there is a rhyme to the reason of why leaves fall and that it would be to save the trees' energy and "shut down" for the winter, and during their hibernation they are able to store their energy to support their new growth of leaves in the spring.

Come December most of the leaves that are going to be pushed off or fall off a tree have done so and the world seems barren again. Views that were once obscure by the leaves are now open. There is a line from The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse where in the midst of World War II, two characters are experiencing the apparent peace of Versailles and one of the characters says to the other, "only the leaves are dying, and they always come back. What a disaster it would be if they ever failed to come back. How insignificant it would make everything else." Each fall when the leaves disappear, although I miss them and know winter is coming, I also always know they will return and with their coming means the return of warmth and longer days.

The true transition from fall to winter falls on the winter solstice. The winter solstice is the end of autumn and the moment (and it is only a moment) when the sun is as far as it will ever get from the earth, and it is when the daylight is the shortest and the night is the longest. In the calendar of the year, this date is significant. Since the Neolithic age, evidence exists to suggest that the winter solstice was a significant aspect of human life. The evidence suggests that the great Neolithic monuments, New Grange in Ireland and Stonehenge in England, were aligned to correspond exactly to the solstice. The sightline for New Grange points to the winter solstice sunrise; the sightline for Stonehenge points to the winter solstice sunset.

In earlier societies the winter solstice was extremely important as a mark for the changing season because communities were not certain of living through the winter. Starvation was common between January and April, months known in these cultures as "the famine months." And even in later and more temperate climates where starvation may have been less a threat, most cultures had a midwinter festival, a time when livestock was killed to avoid having to feed them over the winter, thus providing ample stores of fresh meat, a time when the harvest had

been gathered and wine and beer made during the year had fermented and was ready for drinking.

These midwinter celebrations have occurred over time and on every continent. The most well-known in Western culture is Christmas. The Christian calendar ties Christmas to the birth of Christ, but the annual timing of the holiday and the numerous non-religious aspects associated with it (Christmas trees, Yule logs, etc.) are clearly connected to the winter solstice.

The beginning of December asks us to look both backward and forward—back to those beautiful moments when we see in the brilliant leaves both the beauty and the transitory nature of our lives and forward to the coming of winter when we live in the faith that the leaves will return in the spring and the cycle of renewal will come again.

When I find myself in the midst of the autumn season, I often think of one of my favorite Emily Dickinson poems.

These are the days when Birds come back—
A very few—a Bird or two—
To take a backward look.

Oh fraud that cannot cheat the Bee—
Almost thy plausibility
Induces my belief.

Till ranks of seeds their witness bear—
And softly thro' the altered air
Hurries a timid leaf.

—Emily Dickinson: Poem #130

"To everything there is a season." As I move from autumn to winter, I am reminded of my place in the order of things and the life progression that is the human story.

To read other articles by Katherine Au visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net.

The Elves are working overtime!



Redeemable at location listed on coupon only.

Your Choice
\$30/30%

\$30 OFF any in stock phone **OR**
30% OFF any accessory

TANEYTOWN - 465 E. Baltimore St.
Next to Dunkin' Donuts & Baskin Robbins, 410-756-3320

Use this coupon towards the purchase of a new phone, netbook or accessory. Coupon has no cash value and cannot be redeemed for cash or applied towards your wireless account. Not valid with any other offer. 2 yr. activation required for \$30 off any phone and netbook offer. One coupon per activation. Must redeem coupon at time of purchase. Offer valid at participating locations. Offer expires 12/31/09.



**GET THE INTERNET HERE
AND CONNECT ANYWHERE
WITH A USB 760 PC CARD**

FREE

With 2 year agreement.
\$49.99-\$50 mail-in
rebate debit card =
FREE.

TANEYTOWN
465 E. Baltimore Street
Next to Dunkin' Donuts & Baskin Robbins
410-756-3320



CellularConnection | Premium Retailer

Activation fee/line: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan lines w/ 2 yr Agmts) IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agmt, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$175 early termination fee & other charges. Device capabilities: Add'l charges & conditions apply. Offers & coverage, varying by service, not available everywhere. Coverage maps at verizonwireless.com. While supplies last. Shipping charges may apply. Limited time offer. Rebate debit card takes up to 6 wks and expires in 12 months. © 2009 Verizon Wireless

In their own words; the Christmas experience

John A. Miller
Emmitsburg Civil War Historian

Christmas for soldiers, no matter what war they were fighting in, was a time of reflection, their thoughts always turning to their family and friends and more pleasant times. For this month, I wanted to compile another "In their own words" on what a Civil War soldier from Emmitsburg and a soldier serving in Frederick County wrote about Christmas and how they spent it far from home while serving their country.

Emmitsburg resident and newly promoted Lieutenant Albert Hunter of Cole's Cavalry Company C wrote his memories about his first Christmas away from home during the Civil War. "Our folks from Gettysburg, Emmitsburg, and Taneytown gave us a large box of good things for a Christmas dinner, and oh how good it was. Some of the boys were away on patrol duty and we kept a share for them. When that night a rascal of our company, but from New York, stole the good things. We summarily discharged him. The Corporal of the guard took him a mile from camp and told him his

life would not be worth a cant if he ever appeared at the Old Mill, I need not to say we never saw him again. Our next camp was at Hagerstown, where we had a splendid time until spring. We had the Fair Ground, and all the conveniences we could ask for, besides a jolly good time in the old barn."

Lieutenant John Ross Horner of the 80th New York Infantry wrote a letter home from Patterson, North Carolina, on January 1862 comparing the town to his home in Emmitsburg. "The little village of Patterson presents no particular attractions, to me at least, except the situation, which is a very pretty one. The whole village factory and all belong to a company and the inhabitants, all except this one family, are renters, and rather poor, too. I haven't heard of such a thing as a singing school, since I came to this part of the country. Lenoir is a dry little country place about one quarter the size of Emmettsburg. I was over there all last week. The schools there Male & Female are having holiday (a week or two). I'd received your letter in Lenoir Saturday before Christmas. Poor chance here to get anything for

a Christmas gift. This country may be good for some things, but you don't find me teaching school here five years from this time." John Ross Horner was later killed at the battle of Second Manassas on August 30th, 1862.

Gettysburg Resident James A. Scott of Cole's Cavalry, Company C wrote a letter home shortly before Christmas of 1861: "The winter was very severe but the boys bore it's harsh uncomplainingly. Company C was on picket duty at Four Locks on the canal. Colonel Kenly of the first Maryland Infantry was in command of the forces along the river with headquarters at Millstone Point. His infantry like the cavalry was scattered here and there at various points on the river. Drilling and picket duty was the principal occupation of both cavalry and infantry which was schooling them for the more serious business of the oncoming days of the war."

In mid December of 1861, Private Clayton of Cole's Cavalry, Company C wrote: "Our camp is in a pleasant situation, at the edge of a pine woods, one mile from the Potomac, on the Greencastle road. We have good quarters for our horses having built barracks of saplings, thatched with straw and pine branches. Some of the boys have very tasty huts, built of logs, plastered with mud."

Joseph Wible, a Gettysburg resident served with Company C of Cole's Cavalry and kept a diary of his exploits as a newly recruited soldier when he enlisted in August of 1861. On his first Christmas away from home he wrote: "Today has been a very pleasant day. Was in town this morning [Frederick] and, this afternoon was at home [camp] anxiously looking for our Christmas presents which we expected this evening before, but which didn't arrive until this evening about six o'clock. Our men were wild with joy when they beheld the box and knew that the present was a reality. It exceeded all of our expectations. There was cakes, pies, roast chickens and roast turkey in abundance and numerous other nice little things



Lt. John Ross Horner

to cheer our hearts. There was many a heart filled with gratitude to the kind donors of this bountiful gift. I wish the ladies who sent the above mentioned articles could have been here to enjoy the goods themselves in common with our Company."

Although not from Emmitsburg, Robert Gould Shaw, the famed Colonel of the 54th Massachusetts was stationed near Frederick at Christmas in 1861, when he was a lieutenant of the 2nd Massachusetts Infantry. This excerpt is from the book "Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune, the Civil War Letters of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw" Edited by Russell Duncan. Lieutenant Shaw wrote to home from Camp Hick's, near Frederick at 3 1/2 o'clock on the morning of Christmas Day while in charge of guard duty: "It is Christmas morning, and I hope it will be a happy and merry one for you all, though it looks so stormy for our poor country, one can hardly be in a merry humour. My Christmas Eve has been like many other eves during the last six months. It began to snow about midnight, and I supposed no one ever had a better chance of seeing "Santa Claus"; but, as I had my stockings on, he probably thought it not worthwhile to come down to the guard-tent. I didn't see any of the guard's stocking pinned outside their tent, and indeed it is contrary to army regulations for them to divest themselves of any part of their clothing during the twenty-four hours."


"I should like about fifteen

more pairs of mittens; and some warm flannel shirts and drawers would be very useful, if there are any spare ones. "Uncle Sam's" are miserable things. 'Merry Christmas' and love to all."

Many Emmitsburg men served in the 1st and 2nd Maryland regiments for the Confederacy. The 1st Maryland disbanded in August of 1862 and then became the 2nd Maryland, keeping many of the same soldiers within its ranks. Although James William Thomas was not an Emmitsburg resident, he does share how Christmas was spent in 1861 while serving with his Emmitsburg comrades. "Christmas. To me very dull. Nothing to do. No friends to see and no merry-making. The only difference from other days was more men drunk. Nearly all the camp was in that condition." A year later, in 1862, his description of Christmas had improved little. "Tolerable, pleasant. Nothing gay, nor even merry, but at least not unpleasant. Bought some apple jack and went to camp."

I would like to wrap up this month's edition by wishing everyone serving in our Armed Forces a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Your service is not forgotten and we support you. Thank you for providing the very "Freedom" that has been protected by those who served our nation generations before.

For more information on the Civil War in the area, please visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.

Horner Enterprises 

Mostly Civil War Stuff
Potpourri of Publications, Presentations, Tours

John B. Horner
20 Horner Road Gettysburg, PA 17325 (717) 334-8916
e-mail: jhorner@cvn.net

the **Rebecca Pearl Gallery**
Fine Art • Custom Framing

ART CLASSES BEGINNING IN JANUARY
Oil & Watercolor
For More Info: 301-271-2348
All Levels

We Have A Unique Selection Of Holiday Gifts!
• Greeting Cards • Ceramics • Jewelry
• Limited Edition Prints • Original Art



"Church Spires of Emmitsburg"

PRINTS TO BENEFIT THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

10% OFF CUSTOM FRAMING WITH THIS AD
Expires 12/31/09

Thurs. - Sat. 10 - 5
or By Appointment
www.rebeccapearl.com

301-447-1911 or 301-271-2348
24 W. Main St., Emmitsburg, MD
(Next to the Palms Restaurant)

HISTORY

Reflections on Emmitsburg Christmas traditions of old

Michael Hillman

As I ready myself for the annual ritual of battling crowds in shopping malls, I can't help but reflect upon the days of old, when budgets were tight. Back then, gift giving and the holidays had a different flavor. Many in our community can still remember a time when the Christmas season was part of a larger holiday season, a season that began with the fall Apple harvest.

With homes a little farther apart than today, just about every family owned an apple tree and those that didn't had friends that did. Everyone, from young children to grandparents, participated in the apple harvest. Children retrieved the good apples that had fallen to the ground. Adults focused on the apples still on the tree, or at least the ones they could reach from a ladder. While young boys who were eager to prove their manhood risked life and limb to claim the solitary apple at the end of the highest branch.

Returning home, the apples were separated in preparation for pressing, with those hosting worms set aside for the paring knife. Next children would methodically remove the stems lest they add tartness to the sweet juice they longingly anticipated. Throughout the day, the pressing would continue. The juice which escaped the eager lips of children was collected and stored in wood kegs where, with time, it would transform into apple vinegar for canning vegetables or hard cider for warmth in the cold months that were sure to follow.

Since times were tough, nothing ever went to waste, and that included the remains of the apple pressings from the vats. These pressings were called 'Pummies,' and were a favorite treat of farm animals of every shape and size. Each animal in the valley knew the smell of 'pummies' and the approach of the wagon that bore them generated a

stampede to the fence line. And as farmers smiled, their animals licked their lips in anticipation of their favorite yearly treat.

No sooner was the cider safely stowed away, then attention was turned to the next harvest, that of the pop corn. Planted in gardens early that spring, it had been tenderly nurtured, usually by the youngest children. No matter how small one's property was there always seemed to be room for a few rows of pop corn. Once dried, the corn was shucked, cleaned, sorted, and stowed away for those special weekend family nights in front of the fire.

The first frost of the season marked the beginning of the annual nut harvest. Lugging containers of every shape one could fathom, children descended upon every walnut and hickory tree they could find. After foraging about for all that could be plundered, they looked madly for someone to render them asunder. If they were lucky, they would find someone obliging, who would make quick work by crushing their catch with a car's tire. For those that were unlucky, only a hammer would reveal their haul's tasty treasure. No matter how hard the work might have been, tired arms and sore muscles were soon soothed by the taste of nuts in warm cookies, and plates of them at that.

Where today Thanksgiving marks the 'official' beginning of the gift buying season, by Thanksgiving in days gone by, mothers were putting the finishing touches on sweaters, mitts and hats, colorful dresses and plaid pants and shirts, that would be revealed to sparkling eyes for the first time under the Christmas tree. Fathers toiled late into the night on finely decorated rocky horses, knick knacks, and wooden wagons of every shape and size.

For the few that had money and also for those who didn't, it was traditional to descend upon the old Farley's Store for Christmas shopping. Normally a favorite gathering place to catch up on the day's events,

adults gave the store a wide berth in the afternoon of Christmas season, lest they be overrun by the hoard of wide eyed children descending upon the store after school to 'ou and ah' over the Christmas gifts laid out in the usually vacant second floor.

It was hard not to catch the Christmas spirit. Christmas decorations were everywhere. Store fronts were decorated with loving care, and households competed with each other with a zeal they usually reserved when they would play their rival in baseball. Streetlights were wrapped with silver, lace, and fir. Upon the electric wires hung bells and other signs of Christmas cheer. Merry making and kinship were the order of the day. Neighborhood children descend upon friends, decked out in costumes that brought smiles and laughter to all that they passed.

Children embarked upon 'Chris Kringling', as it was called, at the start of their two-week Christmas. Sneaking silently, the children would approach and surround their victim's house. Then, raising their voices in unison, they tried to wake the dead with screams and squeals. The quarry of the night would rush to the door, and to silence the roar, would invite them all in. After guessing who the culprits might be, they would indulge them with fresh cider, hot cookies, and candy.

Much to the merriment of children wide and far, Santa never failed to stop in our town. Arriving on a sled if conditions were correct, he would greet each child singularly, with a twinkle in his eye. After listening attentively to their list of desires, he would release them to helpers, who had baskets of goodies. From there they would run to the nearby firehouse, where they could fill their bellies with hot soups and confectionary wonders. With stomachs stretched full, they headed down the street to the Gem theater cinema. There in the dark they marveled at the screen, and dreamed of

futures that would be real one day.

Christmas Eve activities began at first light. Fathers sharpened their axes and with their small charges in tow, set out for the perfect tree. After careful studding and many second guesses, a cedar tree was selected and dragged back to town. Once safely inside, children quickly went to work. The fire was stoked, and a frying pan found, and soon popping corn was all around. Needles which had grown dull through years, once again favor in hand with little fingers. And while they could no longer stitch or darn yarn, they served their new master in their efforts to string corn.

With socks securely hung, children were sent off to bed. When safety in bed, but not quite asleep, Fathers and older brothers would steal secretly outside, climbing carefully and slowly, ensuring not to make a sound. Positioning themselves near the windows of the young, sounds of hoof beats were made and sleigh bells would be rung. A hardy 'Merry Christmas' was all that it would take, to send wild-eyed children running in hopes of spying their Christmas take.

The run to the Christmas tree was always nipped in the bud, by mothers and big sisters, who grabbed them with hugs. Returned to their

room, and sent back to bed, many prayed themselves asleep, begging God to hurry their night along.

With the day's excitement now mostly over, parents got a chance to sit back and rest. For those without children, visits to friends and family were the orders of the day. Cider, now hard, was retrieved from its keg, and was used to toast callers till late in the day.

Christmas is for everyone, and that included pets, who found treats of all sorts in their bowls and their beds. Everyone knew those that were held special, because they were decked out in bows of silver, blue and gold.

Children rose early and tried to sneak peeks at the bounty that had been left while they slumbered through the night. With the word from sleepy parents, they descended in a fright. Presents of all sorts were opened with zeal, with little notice paid to the attached notes of good will. When every gift was opened, and the thank-yous all done, everyone dressed in their finest and headed to churches in town. Joining family and friends, and neighbors all around, they listened in awe, about a child born to save all.

To learn more about the rich history of Emmitsburg, visit the Historical Society Section of Emmitsburg.net



Horse & sleighs beat out cars for reliable transportation during the great snowstorm of 1914

An Emmitsburg Christmas legend

In Emmitsburg, something of a legend has grown up around a former flute player named Larry Dielman, who has been dead for over fifty years.

Music was in his blood from the very beginning. His father, Professor Casper Dielman, had been a noted composer and musician in Germany in the early 1800's. He came to America where he wrote inauguration marches for four presidents and led symphony orchestras in New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore before settling in Emmitsburg to teach music at Mount Saint Mary's College in 1834.

It was here in Emmitsburg, in 1838, that Larry was born. His father had high hopes for him as a classical musician, but Larry never quite measured up. Though he grew up in the shadow of his father, his younger days were for the most part gay and happy. Larry and the professor spent many fun-filled evenings at home entertaining guests with their musical compositions.

As he grew older, he became quite popular with the college crowd, and enjoyed entertaining them. His colorful personality and flamboyant wardrobe attracted many of them to his small gro-

cery store near the college. There, sitting on the porch, he would often make up songs on the spur of the moment and sing them to the pretty girls.

In his twenties, Larry found and married the girl of his dreams and settled down to a joyful life. The joy soon turned to bitterness, however, and his wife left him. There was now a touch of sadness in Larry's life that was never to leave. Those few residents who still remembered him recall the figure of a lonely old man sitting on the porch of his store with his banjo, singing of his long-lost love

In 1885, the old professor died, and it was a sad Larry Dielman who took his flute to the cemetery to play the following Christmas. As strains of "When the Glory Lit the Mid-night Air," one of his father's most famous compositions, cascaded down from the grave, the people of Emmitsburg thought he had finally mastered the flute in memory of his father. The town folk donned their coats and hats and made the steep journey to the grave site by the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The event became a tradition. Every year thereafter, Larry Dielman would lead a procession up the steep

hill to the tiny gravesite and play beautiful, lilting music. In 1900, when the congregation moved from St. Mary's to St. Anthony's, where midnight Mass was held on Christmas Eve, Larry played at night as well as in the morning.

In later years, he was unable to make the steep climb and had to be taken by sled. Finally, in 1923, Larry Dielman died.

Old timers say that if you listen very carefully on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning you can still hear the ethereal strains of beautiful flute music floating down from the cemetery. A short time later, it is gone, not to be heard again for another year.

The history of Christmas

From Robert Chambers' *The Book of Days*

1864 - The festival of Christmas is regarded as the greatest celebration throughout the ecclesiastical year, and so important and joyous a solemnity is it deemed, that a special exception is made in its favour, whereby, in the event of the anniversary falling on a Friday, that day of the week, under all other circumstances a fast, is transformed to a festival.

A question, however, which has been long and eagerly agitated, is here brought forward. Is the 25th of December really the day on which our Saviour first shewed himself in human form in the manger at Bethlehem? The evidence which we possess regarding the date is not only traditional, but likewise conflicting and confused.

In the earliest periods at which we have any record of the observance of Christmas, we find that some communities of Christians celebrated the festival on the 1st or 6th of January; others on the 29th of March, the time of the Jewish Passover; while others, it is said, observed it on the 29th of September, or Feast of Tabernacles.

There can be no doubt, however, that long before the reign of Constantine, in the fourth century, the season of the New Year had been adopted as the period for celebrating the Nativity, though a difference in this respect existed in the practice of the Eastern and Western Churches, the former observing the 6th of January, and the latter the 25th of December.

The custom of the Western Church at last prevailed, and both of the ecclesiastical bodies agreed to hold the anniversary on the same day. The fixing of the date appears to have been the act of Julius I, who presided as pope or bishop of Rome, from 337 to 352 A.D. The circumstance is doubted by Mosheim, but is confirmed by St. Chrysostom, who died in the beginning of the fifth century.

This celebrated father of the church informs us that Julius, on the solicitation of St. Cyril of Jerusalem, caused strict inquiries to be made on the subject, and thereafter, following what seemed to be the best authenticated tradition, settled authoritatively the 25th of December as the anniversary of Christ's birth.

Since the end of the fourth century at least, the 25th of December has been uniformly observed as the anniversary of the Nativity by all the nations of Christendom.

Though Christian nations have thus, from an early period in the history of the church, celebrated Christmas about the period of the winter-solstice or the shortest day, it is well known that many, and, indeed, the greater number

of the popular festive observances by which it is characterized, are referable to a much more ancient origin.

Amid all the pagan nations of antiquity, there seems to have been a universal tendency to worship the sun as the giver of life and light, and the visible manifestation of the Deity. Various as were the names bestowed by different peoples on this object of their worship, he was still the same divinity.

Thus, at Rome, he appears to have been worshipped under one of the characters attributed to Saturn, the father of the gods; among the Scandinavian nations he was known under the epithet of Odin or Woden, the father of Thor, who seems after-wards to have shared with his parent the adoration bestowed on the latter, as the divinity of which the 'sun was the visible manifestation; whilst with the ancient Persians, the appellation for the god of lights was Mithras, apparently the same as the Irish Mithr, and with the Phoenicians or Carthaginians it was Baal or Bel, an epithet familiar to all students of the Bible.

Concurring thus as regards the object of worship, there was a no less remarkable uniformity in the period of the year at which these different nations celebrated a grand festival in his honour. The time chosen appears to have been universally the season of the New Year, or, rather, the winter-solstice, from which the new year was frequently reckoned.

This unanimity in the celebration of the festival in question, is to be ascribed to the general feeling of joy which all of us experience when the gradual shortening of the day reaches its utmost limit on the 21st of December, and the sun, recommencing his upward course, announces that mid-winter is past, and spring and summer are approaching. On similar grounds, and with similar demonstrations, the ancient pagan nations observed a festival at mid-summer, or the summer-solstice, when the sun arrives at the culminating point of his ascent on the 21st of June, or longest day.

By the Romans, this anniversary was celebrated under the title of Saturnalia, or the festival of Saturn, and was marked by the prevalence of a universal license and merry-making. The slaves were permitted to enjoy for a time a thorough freedom in speech and behavior, and it is even said that their masters waited on them as servants.

Every one feasted and rejoiced, work and business were for a season entirely suspended, the houses were decked with laurels and evergreens, presents were made by parents and friends, and all sorts of games and amusements were indulged in by the citizens. In the bleak north, the same rejoicings

had place, but in a ruder and more barbarous form.

Fires were extensively kindled, both in and out of doors, blocks of wood blazed in honour of Odin and Thor, the sacred mistletoe was gathered by the Druids, and sacrifices, both of men and cattle, were made to the savage divinities. Fires are said, also, to have been kindled at this period of the year by the ancient Persians, between whom and the Druids of Western Europe a relationship is supposed to have existed.

In the early ages of Christianity, its ministers frequently experienced the utmost difficulty in inducing the converts to refrain from indulging in the popular amusements which were so largely participated in by their pagan countrymen. Among others, the revelry and license which characterized the Saturnalia called for special animadversion.

But at last, convinced partly of the inefficacy of such denunciations, and partly influenced by the idea that the spread of Christianity might thereby be advanced, the church endeavored to amalgamate, as it were, the old and new religious, and sought, by transferring the heathen ceremonies to the solemnities of the Christian festivals, to make them subservient to the cause of religion and piety.

A compromise was thus effected between clergy and laity, though it must be admitted that it proved anything but a harmonious one, as we find a constant, though ineffectual, proscription by the ecclesiastical authorities of the favorite amusements of the people, including among others the sports

and revelries at Christmas.

Ingrafted thus on the Roman Saturnalia, the Christmas festivities received in Britain further changes and modifications, by having superadded to them, first, the Druidical rites and superstitions, and then, after the arrival of the Saxons, the various ceremonies practiced by the ancient Germans and Scandinavians. The result has been the strange medley of Christian and pagan rites which contribute to make up the festivities of the modern Christmas. Of these, the burning of the Yule log, and the superstitions connected with the mistletoe have already been described under Christmas Eve, and further accounts are given under separate heads, both under the 24th and 25th of December.

The name given by the ancient Goths and Saxons to the festival of the winter-solstice was Jul or Yule, the latter term forming, to the present day, the designation in the Scottish dialect of Christmas, and preserved also in the phrase of the 'Yule log.'

According to this very probable explanation, the Yule festival received its name from its being the turning-point of the year, or the period at which the fiery orb of day made a revolution in his annual circuit, and entered on his northern journey. A confirmation of this view is afforded by the circumstance that in the old clog almanacs, a wheel is the device employed for marking the season of Yule-tide.

Throughout the Middle Ages, and down to the period of the Reformation, the festival of Christmas, ingrafted on the pa-

gan rites of Yule, continued throughout Christendom to be universally celebrated with every mark of rejoicing. On the adoption of a new system of faith by most of the northern nations of Europe in the sixteenth century, the Lutheran and Anglican churches retained the celebration of Christmas and other festivals, which Calvinists rejected absolutely, denouncing the observance of all such days, except Sunday, as superstitious and unscriptural.

At present, Christmas-day, if somewhat shorn of its ancient glories, and unmarked by that boisterous jollity and exuberance of animal spirits which distinguished it in the time of our ancestors, is, nevertheless, still the holiday in which of all others throughout the year, all classes of English society most generally participate. Partaking of a religious character, the forenoon of the day is usually passed in church, and in the evening the re-united members of the family assemble round the joyous Christmas-board.

Separated as many of these are during the rest of the year, they all make an effort to meet together round the Christmas-hearth.

The hallowed feelings of domestic love and attachment, the pleasing remembrance of the past, and the joyous anticipation of the future, all cluster round these family-gatherings, and in the sacred associations with which they are intertwined, and the active deeds of kindness and benevolence which they tend to call forth, a realization may almost be found of the angelic message to the shepherds of Bethlehem—'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men.'



Digging out Old Emmitsburg Road just south of town after the great snowstorm of 1914

MOUNT CREATIVE WRITERS

The perfect Christmas present

Brittany Morris

“Mommy, I want that one!!” This was the chorus that little Tommy sang every time they passed the new B&O Railroad train set in the local toy store. He had done this since the new collector’s item had hit the stores in September, claiming it was all he wanted Santa to bring him for Christmas. Considering that it was the weekend before Christmas, his mother had been constantly reminded of this need of her son’s and made it a point to try to stay away from the toy store at all costs. But today it was unavoidable. Kelly, Tommy’s mom, had to buy a Christmas present for her three year old nephew, Tommy’s little cousin.

Kelly had become an expert at navigating through the toy store, away from the trains. Today, though, Tommy insisted that he get to stay and look at the train set, but Kelly was on a tight schedule. Instead of causing a scene, Kelly decided to strike a deal with her five year old son. She told Tommy that he could stay and look at the train for five minutes while she went to find a birthday present for Matthew. She had one of the store clerks get the train set down so that Tommy could look at it while she went two aisles down.

Kelly knew that Tommy would be fine; she had done this kind of thing with him a few times before. Tommy would become so immersed in his toy that he would barely even know that Mommy had left.

While Kelly was trying to decide between which Bob the Builder story book to buy for her nephew, her cell phone buzzed in her bag. She saw it was a call from her mom; Kelly thought this was random but figured she was just checking in on her daughter and grandson.

“Hey Mom,” Kelly answered her phone.

“Kelly...” Her mom’s voice shook as if she was really nervous.

“Mom, is everything okay? You don’t sound good.”

“Kelly—it’s Dad. He—” Her voice broke, and she started crying.

“Mom! What happened?” Kelly was starting to feel her chest constrict and her hands sweat.

“Honey, your father was having trouble breathing earlier this morning.” Kelly’s mom’s voice was more stable, but Kelly could still tell that her mom was trying to hold back tears. “I called 911, and he was taken to the hospital. He had a heart attack, Kel.” Then her mom started crying all over again.

“Oh...my...gosh...” These were the only words that Kelly could form as the tears slid silently down her face in the middle of the toy store.

Kelly must have missed the next thing that her mom said because the next thing she heard was her mother calling into the phone,

“Kelly? KELLY? Are you still there sweetheart?”

“Yea... what is it, Mom?” Kelly heard these words as if she was listening in on a stranger’s conversation.

“You should probably come to the hospital, sweetie. The doctors are saying they are not sure what the effects of this will be...They are running tests now.”

“Okay, Mom.” Kelly hung up the phone and tried to compose herself. First, she was in a toy store, crying for what seemed like no reason, and she had to put on a good face for her son.

As Kelly wiped away the final tears from her eyes, she turned the corner and found Tommy right where she left him: longingly gazing at his coveted train set.

Look at him, she thought to herself. My little, innocent son. How am I supposed to tell him this and break him from this protective shell in which he’s been living, where nothing bad happens?

She took a deep breath and started towards Tommy.

* * *

This train set is so awesome, Tommy thought to himself, sitting on the floor of the toy store. I really hope Santa gives it to me for Christmas. That would be the best Christmas present ever!

As Tommy stared at the shiny box with the picture of the sleek red and black train, he imagined it in his basement, interwoven with his eight other train sets. But this one would always stand out and be his favorite among all the others because Pappy used to be a conductor for the B&O Railroad. He had even taken Tommy on his own private train ride with his friends when he turned five this past summer. Tommy imagined pushing this train along the tracks with Daddy and making up stories about the conductor and all the passengers: why they were on the train, where they were going, what they did while on the train. He and Daddy did this for hours sometimes.

Tommy’s daydreaming was broken, however, when Mommy walked over to him and abruptly picked him up off the floor.

“Tommy, honey, Mommy needs to tell you something important.” Mommy looked different than normal. She was not smiling, and her face looked white like it does when she is sick.

“Okay Mommy.” Tommy was confused but tried to act like a big boy by standing straight and looking right into Mommy’s eyes.

“Tommy,” Mommy started again, talking very slowly, “Pappy was not feeling well this morning, so Grammy had an ambulance take him to the hospital so the doctors could take care of him.”

“Is Pappy ok? Will he be home for Christmas?”

“I don’t know, Tommy, but we are going to visit him in the hospital. Okay?”

“Okay, Mommy.” Tommy did not know what to think. He had never been to a hospital before. Were the doctors nice? Would he be able to see Pappy? Would he be able to talk to him and tell him about the train set he wanted? Yes, he would tell Pappy all about the train set and make him feel all better so he could come home for Christmas, and they could play with it together!

* * *

Kelly’s hands kept slipping on the steering wheel the whole drive to the hospital, and she was trying to control her breathing so as to not scare Tommy who was sitting in the back seat. She had given him his Thomas the Tank Engine coloring book to occupy him, just in case.

If only Tom hadn’t had his business trip this weekend, Kelly thought to herself. Having him here would make me feel so much better.

Her husband went away on business trips every other weekend, and this was one weekend that he was away in California. He was also Tommy’s hero and namesake, and if he had been here he would have been able to comfort both Tommy and Kelly with his winning smile and sense of humor that was fitting for every occasion.

Kelly tried to stay as faux-optimistic as she could, for Tommy’s sake. She was playing Christmas carols on the radio and singing along. Every once in awhile one of the ones Tommy knew, like Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer or Frosty the Snowman, would come one, and he would join in the best he could. But in reality Kelly’s insides were twisted in knots, her throat was raw, and her mind was racing with “what if” questions.

What if Dad doesn’t make it?

What if I have to celebrate Christmas without him?

What if Dad is already dead when we get to the hospital? What will I tell Tommy?

What if Tommy is scarred by this and hates Christmas forever?

* * *

Tons of questions were running through Tommy’s head as he and Mommy arrived at the hospital, too.

What was it like to ride in an ambulance?

Did Pappy get to work the sirens?

Would Pappy be sleeping when they got to see him, or could he talk to Pappy? (Mommy had said Pappy would be in a bed and might be too tired to talk to anyone).



When they did walk into the waiting room on Pappy’s floor, they saw Grammy waiting for them. She was crying. She rushed over to Mommy and whispered something in Mommy’s ear that made her start crying too. They both seemed to forget that Tommy was there for a second, and Tommy started getting scared because they were both crying and he didn’t know why. He started wondering if he should be crying too, but he had no reason to be sad. Pappy was being taken care of by the doctors; everything would be okay.

Then Mommy started walking over to Tommy. The tears were still rolling down her cheeks; Tommy had never seen Mommy cry this much before. Something really bad must have happened.

Mommy bent down and took Tommy’s hands. “Tommy,” she said, “Pappy is not doing well at all. He is not awake right now, and he might not wake up ever again. And if that happens, he will not be able to celebrate Christmas with us.”

Mommy swallowed really hard, and her lips were shaking. She blinked her eyes a lot, but more tears came out of them anyway.

“But Mommy, I don’t want Pappy to not wake up.” Tommy felt tears forming in his eyes too, but he did not understand.

“I don’t want that either, sweetheart. We just have to ask Jesus to let Pappy wake up and be with us on Christmas.”

So Mommy, Grammy, and I sat in the waiting room at the hospital, our heads bowed, tears running down our cheeks, praying for Pappy. And for the first time since September, I did not care about getting my special train set for Christmas. All I wanted was for Pappy to be there with us when we had Christmas dinner. Then my Christmas would be perfect. Brittany Morris is a senior at Mt. St. Mary’s majoring in English. In addition to pursuing her passion for creative writing, Brittany is a student teacher at Tuscarora High School and Editor of the Mount’s Lighted Corners Literary Magazine.

Editors note: In January, Brittany will assume the add role of English Editor of the Emmitsburg News-Journal, taking over the reigns from Katelyn Phelan who’ll be studying Fine Arts in Italy! Good luck to Katie, our sympathies to Brittany!

MOUNT SPORTS

There's no such thing as soccer here ...

Ananda Rochita

The men's soccer team may have went to the championships in 2008, but their season was sadly cut short this year against Monmouth in the beginning of November. This season was supposed to be a year where they were to declare victory against nationally ranked Monmouth team but that was not the case this year. The previous 2008 season, the Men's soccer team went to the semi-finals in the Northeast Conference against Fairleigh Dickinson in which they lost, 7 to 2.

The soccer team is coached by Rob Ryerson, who entered his tenth year coaching this year, and earned the Northeast Conference Coach of the Year honors. The team is also coached by Assistant Coaches Andrew Wu and Kevin McMullen.

While many of the Mount St. Mary's athletes come from many parts of the country, many of these athletes also come from different parts of the world. Sophomore Chris Wheeler, junior Chris Davis, and freshman William Jagger of the Mount's soccer team are three of the numerous athletes that traveled overseas to play a game they love.

A sport, which we commonly refer to as soccer here in the states, is called football in their lands.

"Soccer? What's soccer?" stated Wheeler. "Its football."

Davis and Wheeler both come from Australia while Jagger is about a seven hour plane ride to his country, England.

While these handsomely modest men choose not to boast about their accomplishments, they all went up to play for their state in their youth teams.

One of these players is sophomore Chris Wheeler from Newcastle Australia and played forward for the Mount. He started playing the sport at the age of four for a club named the Urunga Terminators and got into the sport due to in part by his older brother. He played all four years for the Saint Francis Xavier College boy's soccer team and helped the team to the state finals in 2006. He also received a prestigious state selection in 2004 and 2005 for his state of New South Wales. However, as a child he remembers being the more heavy set child and not the great soccer built he holds today.

"I was the fat kid until I was 15." Stated Wheeler, "At games I would be that kid that would be eating all the oranges."

However this orange eating Australian soccer player ironically ended up all the way here in Emmitsburg. During his senior year, Wheeler sent a mass email to all the colleges in America. However, his decision to attend Mount St. Mary's has been a positive experience so far being a great asset to the team. Wheeler started in all 20 games in his freshman campaign and was named the NEC Rookie of the Week three times out of the year.

"Davis basically told me how good the school was and told me to come here so I did. Me coming here is all him," stated Wheeler.

He recently earned All-Northeast Conference honors for All-NEC first team. This is the second time he received something of this stature. He received All-NEC second team in 2008. Wheeler was also 2008 NEC Rookie of the year that led the Mount with eight goals and one assist for 17 points. He was also ranked eighth in the conference, posting the second most goals and points in play. In the two years that he first stepped foot on Emmitsburg ground, Wheeler has scored 20 goals and his goals ranks fifth in the Mount Division 1 history and one of the program's best in the top 10.

Another Australian on the team is Junior Chris Davis. Davis was born in Melbourne and moved up to North Queensland (Townsville). His soccer career started at what most collegiate soccer players would say as late. He started at the age of nine when his mother drove him to participate in afternoon activities. "My mom drove me to the rugby and soccer fields and I was going to do rugby but their sign ups were the next day so I chose to do soccer instead," Davis stated, and the Mount is proud of that decision.

Davis was a four year letter winner on the Kirwan State boy's soccer team and became the first Mount Men's soccer player to be from Australia (Wheeler being the second). He is also the goal keeper for the team.

He represented his state of Queensland as a teenager for five years and helped his team to the National title in 2005. He participated in the Under 17 (U-17) team and went to Florida where he had his taste of American life. He joined an Agency during his last year of high school where he was recruited in late July to the Mount Soccer team. "The Goal keeper pulled out at the Mount and I became goal keeper here," stated Davis. Davis was recruited so late in the year because it was not expected for him to play until the following year. But he chose not to wait a year and come to the Mount instead.

Davis, who did not visit the Mount campus before setting foot in Emmitsburg states that he basically "walked up here from Australia" and started attending classes.

While Davis did not intensely look at the school where he would spend four of his college years at, he has gained many memories being apart of the team.

"Beating Monmouth in the semi-finals last year is one of my best experiences," stated Davis.

Davis started in all 20 games in 2008 with 71 saves. He had four saves, which helped the Mount to its third Northeast Conference Championship Game against Monmouth in November, 2008. In his freshman campaign, he made 15 appearances and also 61 saves.



Chris Wheeler photo: Sophomore Chris Wheeler calls Australia home

Davis and Wheeler are both from Australia and continue to quarrel over which state is better. "We are too much alike," stated Wheeler. Davis also still continues to remind Wheeler that Davis's soccer club won the National Championships where Queensland (Davis's state) defeated Wheeler's team of North Southwales. Even though they are both from Australia and played in clubs that competed with one another, they did not previously know each other until both attended the Mount.

Davis and Wheeler both have Australia in their blood, a new foreign addition to the team this year is William Jagger. Jagger started playing at the age of five and credits his father for getting him into the sport.

"Football (soccer) is the first thing I remember that I could do when I was younger," stated Jagger.

Jagger is from Crowborough East Sussex, which is the South East corner

of England. At the age of 15 he played freshman clubs in England and the Academies and at the age of 16 was offered a scholarship at a club, but later denied it. He played for the Tunbridge Wells Boys Grammar School and helped his squad to the regional championship his sophomore and junior years. In his senior year he helped his team advance to the championships.

The Mount found Jagger through the University of Baltimore County coach and told Coach Ryerson about him. England has showcases of their better places and Jagger was one of them. He had offers in the states from University of Wisconsin and a few other schools in Florida.

"I thought by coming here I could make a difference," stated Jagger. "People want to win here, which is good."

Jagger currently plays center back for the Mount soccer team and recalls of his best experience at the Mount was

playing against University of Virginia, which was second nationally ranked for soccer. Even though he did carefully choose the Mount as one of his top school choices, like many away from home, he is facing some challenges.

"It's hard being away from home and not going there. I get jealous of people that say they miss home and just drive half an hour to get there," stated Jagger.

While this season has been quite tough for the Men's soccer team, they are more determined then ever to go to the championships in the 2010 season.

"We are all wanting to win it next year," stated Davis and surely we believe it.

To read other articles on Mount St. Mary's visit Emmitsburg.net

For a schedule of upcoming Mount St. Mary's athletic events visit www.mountathletics.com

Carleo New York Italian Pizza

Nobody Makes A Pie Like We Do



101 Silo Hill Road
Emmitsburg, MD

301-447-1999
301-447-3232

Carleo New York Italian Pizza

Monday through Thursday
10:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
NOW OPEN TUESDAYS

Friday and Saturday **Sunday**
10:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

<p>1 X-Large 16" Pizza with 2 Toppings</p> <p>\$12.99 Plus Tax</p> <p>Carry Out Only One Coupon Per Party <small>*Coupons May Not Be Combined With Any Other Offer *Expires 2/28/10</small></p>	<p>Buy (3) 12" Subs and Get The 4th Sub</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>Carry Out Only One Coupon Per Party <small>*Coupons May Not Be Combined With Any Other Offer *Expires 2/28/10</small></p>	<p>1 X-Large 16" Pizza with 2 Toppings</p> <p>\$12.99 Plus Tax</p> <p>Carry Out Only One Coupon Per Party <small>*Coupons May Not Be Combined With Any Other Offer *Expires 2/28/10</small></p>	<p>2 X-Large Cheese 16" Pizzas (1) 2 Ltr. Soda</p> <p>\$22.99 Plus Tax</p> <p>Carry Out Only One Coupon Per Party <small>*Coupons May Not Be Combined With Any Other Offer *Expires 2/28/10</small></p>
<p>2 X-Large 16" Pizzas 1 Topping each</p> <p>\$23.99 Plus Tax</p> <p>Carry Out Only One Coupon Per Party <small>*Coupons May Not Be Combined With Any Other Offer *Expires 2/28/10</small></p>	<p>Family Pack 2 X-Large 16" Pizzas with 2 Toppings each plus 10 Buffalo wings and 2 Ltr. Soda</p> <p>\$28.95 Plus Tax</p> <p>Carry Out Only One Coupon Per Party <small>*Coupons May Not Be Combined With Any Other Offer *Expires 2/28/10</small></p>	<p>Hungry Meal Special Any (3) 12" Subs (on menu), 2 Lg. Fries and 2 Ltr. Soda</p> <p>\$24.95 Plus Tax</p> <p>Only Carry Out Only One Coupon Per Party <small>*Coupons May Not Be Combined With Any Other Offer *Expires 2/28/10</small></p>	<p>1 X-Large Pizza with 1 Topping and (2) 12" Subs</p> <p>\$22.99 Plus Tax</p> <p>Carry Out Only One Coupon Per Party <small>*Coupons May Not Be Combined With Any Other Offer *Expires 2/28/10</small></p>

A MOUNTAIN PERSPECTIVE

A day of firsts

Chelsea Baranoski

As I approach the half-way mark of my senior year, I feel like there is still much of the Emmitsburg area I need to explore. On Halloween, I chalked two things off of my senior "bucket list": going to the Big Slide in Rocky Ridge and going to the Ott House. Many of my fellow Mounties find it hard to believe that I have not been to these local landmarks before my senior year. I know of one freshman who has already been to the Big Slide five times! I believe that my long wait to go to the Big Slide and Ott's made the moment bittersweet.

I'll admit that I was a little nervous about going to the Big Slide. I am deathly afraid of heights and I did not know if I would survive something that towered so high in the sky. When my roommates and I arrived at the Big Slide, I pulled out my camera and took a picture. This would be the evidence that I finally made it to this Mountie hangout. My roommates and I decided to eat a picnic lunch before conquering the slide. I felt like I was on an elementary school field trip complete with picnic tables and bagged lunches.

After chowing down on fried

chicken and candy corn, I came face to face with the bad guy. You would think that the sign exclaiming "USE ALL FACILITIES AT OWN RISK. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS" would have scared me off. But this was not the case. If every other Mountie could make it down this giant slide in one piece, so could I. I was happy that the slide's ramp-like staircase did not give me a view of everything below me. Since I try to avoid escalators, climbing the stairs was a feat in itself. When I went down the slide for the first time, I tried to go slowly. The slide definitely isn't scary when you're gliding down it at two miles-per-hour. My roommates had different plans. When my roommate Fallon hopped on the slide with me, she grabbed my hand so that I would zoom down the slide at record speed. I screamed a little bit, but nothing compared to my scream when I was on that huge ride at the Great Frederick Fair. Eventually, I found the courage to go down the slide on a burlap sack. This increased my speed even more!

I definitely had a great time at the Big Slide. I put aside my fear of heights so that I could experience a Mountie tradition. And can you

believe that my only injury was a bruise on my left elbow? I was sore the next day, but that's probably because my body is not used to climbing stairs half a dozen times.

After resting up from the Big Slide, I went to the Ott House for a Halloween party. I was excited to go to Ott's because I can never make it there on Wednesday (college night). I always have too much schoolwork to do. Now, I could rest easily because the next day was Sunday, aka "finish the homework you procrastinated all weekend day." Plus, it was Halloween, so I had to go out. I'll admit that I did not know if I was ever going to make it to the Ott House for Halloween. My original plan of asking Ott's to pick up my roommates and me backfired. Ott's could only give us a ride back to the Mount. My mind raced. I tried calling a freshman to see if he could drive me and my roommates there, but he was going to party. I asked a sophomore if he could drive us to Ott's, but he was staying on campus for the night. Nuts! This was just my luck! I was so excited for Ott's and now it looked like I was not going to make it there after all. My roommates decided to trek over to Public Safety to see if they could help us obtain a ride. Thankfully, some bright yellow fliers advertising a cab service in Thurmont sat on the Public Safety desk. This was our ticket

out! We zoomed out of public safety and called the cab company. The operator said that a cab would arrive in 20 to 25 minutes. That was a lie. My roommates and I stood outside of the apartments in the freezing cold, the wind whipping our faces, anxiously awaiting the yellow cab. Indeed, the cab took a half hour or more before it arrived at the Mount. And when it did pull into campus, it passed our parking lot and headed to another parking lot. Now we had to scurry over to the cab and wave down the driver. Luckily, he saw us after a few waves and came on over. Nothing is ever easy in the life of Chelsea Baranoski.

Somehow my roommates and I made it to Ott's. When we walked in the door, the lady working there asked to check our ID's. When I pulled out my ID (not a driver's license, but a Maryland photo ID I got from the MVA), the lady kept looking at the card and then looking back at me. I could tell that she did not think I was twenty-one, even though my birth date was on the ID. After she did a double take, I asked her if she needed another form of ID. Would I really have to pull out my voters registration? She said that was ok and stamped my hand. I knew I would run into this problem. I'm 21-years-old, but people think that I look a lot younger. When I was about to enter college,

a man thought that I was 12-years-old! I know one day I will be grateful for my youthful appearance, but right now it only causes problems.

Once I passed the ID check, I took in my surroundings. I noticed a collage of badges behind the bar. I even spotted one that said "Chelsea Police!" Halloween decorations overflowed the fireplace. Men and women in costumes swarmed the dance floor. Even Gumby was letting loose at Ott's! All of Emmitsburg must have migrated to Ott's, for it was hard to move! I felt like an ant in an ant farm. One of my favorite things about my Ott House experience was the band. The band played a mix of contemporary songs and oldies. I rushed to the dance floor the minute "Shout" and "Sweet Home Alabama" hit my ear drums.

I am really happy that Halloween was a day of firsts. Now I can cross the Big Slide and Ott's off of my list of things to do before I graduate. However, I still need to visit High Rock, explore downtown Frederick, go to the open house that occurs in Frederick the first Saturday of every month, go to the Catoctin Zoo, and the list goes on and on and on.....

Chelsea is a senior at Mount. St. Mary's majoring in English. To read other articles by Chelsea visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net

Freshman year College dorm life

Samantha Strub

The anticipation was there! Driving toward Maryland with my parents to move into Mount St. Mary's. It seemed to take so long. Why? The one day that I would like to go quickly became the longest. I was shaking as we moved closer to my new home.

Pulling up to campus with the cars packed with the important supplies that all college students need. Unreal! I couldn't believe this was actually happening! I went to sign in and get my key, and when I got back to my car, almost all of my things were out. The peer mentors were so nice moving almost all of my heavy stuff, making me feel right at home.

Walking up to my dorm was the scariest thing that I have ever done. Sure I was excited to meet my roommate. We had been talking on face book, that wonderful network, to get to know each other and figure out what we were each going to bring. She is from Maryland, and it was nice to be paired with someone who was from close by.

Still I had this sick feeling in my gut as I climbed those stairs. Turns out that I had nothing to fear, and Erin and I have gotten to be great friends, helping each other with homework, getting up on time, overriding parents, and of course handling the all important guy problems. Yes, we do have our days when we make each

other mad; but then we explain it to each other and are good. It's nice to have that constant friend in your roommate, who is always there when you need a helping hand or just want to gossip about the newest guy, along with everything else.

Adjusting to college wasn't as hard as I expected. Yeah, the space is small; people are loud and communal bathrooms--so nasty! Besides that it's really a lot of fun. You become very close with the other girls in your hall. Sometimes you're even in the same classes as them, which is a huge help when you have no idea what the homework is or just don't understand something. I don't know how often I have run down the hall to get much needed, hurried help-- or someone storms into my room pleading for help. It's in these moments that true friends are made. My hall mates and I have all kinds of memorable moments helping each other or just goofing around. One such time was when my friend, M. C. needed something nice to wear for her field placement. We had been looking for something for about a half hour and found nothing. We went around and asked pretty much everyone in our hall to see if they had anything. We talked to people we had never talked to before. Our hall bonded just to help us find an outfit. After about two hours we had success!

College isn't all about having fun and making friends, a huge part of

it is those all important grades. You go to college to get an education, and to achieve that goal you have to work hard. There always seems to be some kind of homework or studying to be done. I thought I had a lot of homework in high school. I couldn't have been more wrong. High school was a cakewalk compared to college. Now we only have a few classes a day but then you have hours upon hours of homework! There are many nights when I'm up till two or later, still plugging away. I do bring those nights upon myself because hanging out with friends is such a great temptation that you procrastinate until the last minute. You soon learn to adequately manage your time so everything gets done and you get to bed at a decent hour. Once you have mastered that you are good to go!

One challenge that comes from studying in a dorm room is the noise. Someone is always screaming, talking loudly, playing music, and so on. A lot of times you have to learn how to work through the noise. You really don't have much of a choice. It's either find a way to deal with the distractions or you fail. A lot of time you can go to the library to have some peace and quiet, move into the hallway, or listen to music. Listen to music, you say. How does that help you to focus? For me having that background noise helps me to focus. Crazy I know.

The music can't be new because then I want to learn the song instead of doing the homework. However, if I know the song it causes me to focus better and I actually do better work. It's very surprising that my work comes out better when I'm jamming, but I have found some-

thing that works so I'm going to stick to it. In college, you learn how to adapt to your new environment, and you learn new things about yourself in the process. You learn the ways that you study best, how much you need to do it.

I knew from high school that I do better work in math when I have music on, but I didn't know that I need music to write papers as well. It's very important that when you start college you figure out how best to study--whether it's alone, in groups, or little bit of both. College is an unreal experience, full of hard work and fun that turns into an exciting journey. Within four years you will figure out

who you are, and what kind of person you want to be. It gives you the education you need to make something with your life, along with lessons that you will have with you forever. Everyone will have challenges and bad days when they want to give up. That's all part of life. In the end, though, the hardships will seem like nothing because of all the good that will come out of preserving and chasing your dreams.

Samantha Strub is a Freshman at Mt. St. Mary's majoring in English. Samantha will be authoring an on-going column as she progressed from being a Freshman to Mount graduate.



Casual Dining
Weekend Entertainment

301.447.2625

5 WEST MAIN STREET
EMMITSBURG, MD

Daily Lunch Specials
11 am - 2 pm | Monday - Friday
Extensive Sandwich & Entrée Menu

DECEMBER BANDS

Dec. 4 - TBA
Dec. 5 - Bloos Too
Dec. 11 & 12 - Red Line
Dec. 18 & 19 - Thique

Closed Christmas Day
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from the staff at The Ott House!

No Cover Charge With This Coupon!

A MOUNTAIN PERSPECTIVE

Keep in touch

Katelyn Phelan

“Keep in touch” is a phrase uttered or written in practically every farewell exchange. You would be hard pressed to find many high school senior yearbook messages without it. So, college students devised an easy way to “keep in touch” - Facebook.

I myself have a Facebook page and am “friends” with my high school classmates, college peers, siblings, and cousins. So obviously I’m able to keep in touch with all of them, right? I can write a short message on their “wall,” read what others write to them, see their status updates, and look at their pictures. How great!

Though this sounds amazing, Facebook doesn’t really facilitate relationships. Yeah, sure, I can see what you’re doing on a day-to-day basis, but you’re not personally telling me about it. We could be having a conversation via Facebook, but that’s not how most people get their information. People get it from “Facebook stalking.”

This phrase sounds fairly ominous, but it’s a term well-known by every Facebook user. Facebook stalking is basically people surfing - looking through their profiles, reading their information, and viewing their various “wall-to-walls,” or conversations with oth-

er people. Each profile has a plethora of information available: wall posts from your friends, your status updates, pictures, and general information. This information can be anything from your favorite quotes or movies, to your major, to your cell phone number, to your address.

The potential for danger should be obvious. Anything that allows people to find your address and phone number can cause problems. But Facebook has attempted to solve that problem. Facebook is organized so that you can change your security settings to whatever level you wish. At its most strict, Facebook allows only your “friends,” whom you approve, to see your profile page.

Well then there should be no problem - you can control who has access to your information. But limiting friends is not something most people are too concerned with. So potentially I could accept a request from someone whom I don’t really know and give him/her access to my profile. Also, there’s nothing to prevent someone from making a fictional Facebook account.

In fact, I did this very thing as an experiment last spring. I created a person “Jen Miller” and friended any Mount student I could online. Many people accepted. At the end of two weeks,

Jen had 400 plus friends and several messages and wall posts. Facebook also informs your friends of upcoming birthdays, and Jen even got some happy birthday wishes.

The point of this wasn’t for me to have a good laugh at everyone’s expense, though it was pretty humorous. I walked into several conversations in which people were trying to figure out who Jen Miller was. I even heard one girl speculating that a quiet girl who didn’t speak much and had been sitting in the back of her Theology class most of the semester was Jen Miller. Another person confessed that when she passed anyone she didn’t know, she wondered if it was Jen Miller.

I created Jen because I was curious to see how loose people were with their privacy. It took me five minutes to create Jen’s account and not too much longer to make “friends.” People accepted Jen and allowed “her” to see their profiles. Facebook originally allowed only college students to have a Facebook (you needed a college email), but now anyone can get one. Even when it was just college students though, guys would use it to pick girls up. A few weeks before I even came to the Mount, a senior guy messaged me that we should get together when I arrived.

So Facebook stalking can be dangerous, but most people aren’t referring to its dangerous aspects when they make that comment. Most people refer to a kind of people surfing where you look at your friends’ profiles. I mean, isn’t that the point, to



keep involved with their lives? You can read a conversation between two of your friends, and by doing so learn about their plans, something that happened, and so on. You can also check their status, learn how they’re feeling, see their pictures and find out what they did that weekend. While this isn’t harmful, it’s not necessarily healthy either. Why should I ask about your Christmas Break if I already know what you did from Facebook? Instead of keeping real relationships, it weakens them.

Facebook doesn’t encourage real interaction; it provides people with an excuse not to interact. With Facebook, who needs to call a friend? If I can just write a quick, efficient message on my best friend’s wall, why should I call her to tell her I miss her? While Facebook seems to be a great way to keep in touch, it really harms relationships because it gives the illusion of meaningful contact. If I really cared about keeping up

with your life, I should call you or get together with you so you can tell me what’s new. I shouldn’t be able to get this information impersonally from your Facebook page. Since I can just see easily what you’ve been doing since we last talked, there’s much less incentive for me to call you. Facebook gives me and everyone else that excuse.

With Christmas and a new year coming, it’s a natural time for reflection. If you’ve fallen out of touch with your friends who have meant a great deal to you, reconnect. But do it personally, not through Facebook, email, or any other go-between medium. Give them a call or, even better, see them face-to-face.

Katie Phelan is a junior English and Fine Arts major at Mt. St. Marys.

To read other articles written by Katie Phelan visit the Authors’ section of Emmitsburg.net



Catoctin Mountain Orchard

U.S. Route 15
15036 North Franklinville Road

Phone (301) 271-2737 Fax (301) 271-2850

BUY FRESH! BUY LOCAL!

Red & Golden Delicious, Cortland, Stayman, Granny Smith, Empire, Pink Lady, Cameo and Fuji Apples
Bosc, Magness and Seckel Pears
Apple and Pear Cider

White Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Turnips, Butternut Squash, Peppers, Cabbage, Kale
Jams, Jellies, Honey, Candies, Fudge, Fresh Baked or Frozen Pies & Pastries
Grillin’ Sauces, Salad Dressings, Bread & Butter Pickles, Four Bean Salad, Vidalia Onion Relish, Great Desserts

Market Open Daily 9 AM - 5 PM Until January 1st
Friday, Saturday, Sunday Only
January 1st to February 1st
Closed For Season February 1st Until May 1st



www.catoctinmountainorchard.com
Visa/Mastercard Accepted



McKesson House Polish Pottery

Specializing In
Hand-Painted Pottery
From Boleslawiec, Poland

Enjoy a Truly Unique Shopping Experience!



**Competitive Prices
On The Largest
Variety Of Pottery
To Be Found
Anywhere!**

We offer choices from seven different cooperatives!

- * Ceramika Artystyczna
- * Ceramika Millenium
- * Zaklady
- * Manufaktura
- * Art Pottery
- * Angoba
- * Cergor

204 East Main St., Fairfield, PA 17320
(717) 642-8013

Visit Us Online: www.mckessonhousepolishpottery.com
Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

STAGES OF LIFE

A Christmas surprise spoiled

Brian Barth

Flash forward a few weeks. It is now December 21st and our two kids have known for nearly a month that they are going to be a big brother and sister. They were ticking time bombs with information that they just have to share with everyone they came in contact with that their mom was going to have a baby. We were desperately trying to keep this news a secret. At least till Christmas day. We had to think of every trick possible. Even resorting to bribery. That worked but I could tell they were getting ancy.

We going to my parents house Christmas day to cele-

brate with my family. My wife thought it would be nice to surprise my mom and dad with the news. She was trying to devise a clever way to tell them we were pregnant. Eating dinner one evening my wife shouted the words "an ornament." With a surprised look on my face, I said an ornament! What do you mean? She decided the way the news of her pregnancy would be with an ornament. She thought that will surely surprise them. The kids could even give them the present.

The kids woke us up Christmas morning, early, excited that Santa had come and dropped off presents for them. They seemed surprised to see the gifts. Con-

fusing that maybe fighting with each other the day before Christmas would exclude them from presents and Santa would skip them this year. That's a story for a different day.

I could have sworn I heard them agree to a race seeing who could open their gifts the quickest. Wrapping paper was flying through the air. Soon all we saw were boxes and paper scattered all over the family room. I didn't want to get in the middle for fear I would lose a finger. With sweat dripping from their faces as if they just ran a 5k both of them looked at my wife and I asking if they could call nan and pop—that is what they call my mom and dad—

that we are going to have a new baby? We looked at each other and thought they wouldn't make it through the day. I said you only have to wait a little while longer.

I packed the van for the day but you couldn't convince me we were coming back for a week with all the provisions my wife wanted to bring. Right before we pulled up to my parents driveway and I stopped the van, turned around, and said remember don't say anything to nan or pop. I kept me fingers crossed they would keep the news a secret a little while longer.

Soon after we arrived the kids were shacking and rattling their presents. I said to my mom we

better let them open the gifts before they break something. We all gathered around the tree. My dad put on his Santa hat and started handing out gifts. We got through unwrapping all the gifts when my wife said we have on more gift. Naturally my kids thought it was for them. She said Santa left something for nan and pop at our house. My daughter sprung up and declared she knew what it was. If you have kids, you know the look I gave her but before I could say something she went over and whispered into nan's ear. Instantly she started crying. After she shared her big news my daughter looked at me with a worried look but all I could do was laugh and give her a hug.

Remember if you want to keep a secret don't tell your 4 year old.

Merry Christmas.

Mom's time out

Abigail Shiyer

As a child, I remember the month of November being all about Thanksgiving. In school we talked about the Pilgrims and the Indians celebrating their harvest. We colored pictures of Turkeys and did cool things with corn. No one ever really mentioned Christmas until after Thanksgiving. I think this time to give thanks and express gratitude has been over shadowed a little with the commercialization of Christmas. This year I noticed some stores putting Christmas decorations out before Halloween had even come and gone!

Don't get me wrong – I love Christmas just as much as anyone, but as a mother I want to make sure that my kids don't grow up thinking that Christmas is all about the fancy lights and presents and shopping and making lists for Santa Claus. I want them to understand that it is much more than that. I have always thought that "Thanks" giving was a nice primer, if you will, to the Christmas season. It gets you in the spirit of giving thanks and being grateful for what and who you have in your life.

So the question is – How do we teach our children the Real Meaning of Christmas? We show them. One of the wonderful things about Children is that they are born perfect – and if we are mindful in how we raise them, with a little bit of luck, we won't mess them up too much.

My 4-year-old daughter is already in Christmas mode. A couple weeks ago, I sent her off to spend a special day with her grandmother. They had a great day together. One of the things that they did was go to a Christmas Craft Fair. That evening when my daughter came home she was carrying the most beautiful little box I had ever seen.

It was wrapped just perfectly - 4 year old style. The paper was cut uneven and wrinkled where the tape was carefully placed. It was topped with a pretty ribbon that didn't match the paper on the box and she had made a card that was too big for the envelope that it was in. The best part was the smile that was on her face when she brought it to me. She was so happy and I could see that she felt so good about this gift that she had bought and wrapped for me that day. The gift was not bought to be given to me that day, but my daughter was so excited about it that her grandmother couldn't NOT let her bring it home to me. We decided that I would keep it on the table until Christmas, but... we only lasted 2 days – She was so excited - I didn't want to ruin it for her – so I let her talk me into opening it early. I'm still not sure whether that was right or wrong... but, that's not important right now. What is important to me is that she "gets it" – she feels great about giving. She experienced the "Christmas Spirit" and doesn't even realize it. Now I think my job as parent is to nurture her nature and make sure that she understands why it feels so good to give.

As a parent of a 1 ½ year old and a 4 year old, I am very excited about Christmas this year – It is going to be SO much fun. I love the holiday season. And I need to keep in mind that the Christmas experiences my children have now and throughout their childhood will be the foundation for how they regard Christmas for the rest of their life. I want my children to grow up smelling, tasting, hearing and feeling Christmas. So – during my "time-out" time this evening, I realized that there are several "little things" that I can do to show my children that Christmas is more than new toys and great food.

For Example:

This year when we go to pick out our "perfect" Christmas tree. I will explain to my children that the Christmas Tree is a fir tree and it remains green all year round symbolizing everlasting hope.

And, when we place the wreath on our door, I will explain to my children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases – it is a continuous circle, just like the shape of the wreath.

And when we are decorating our tree and get to the candy canes – I will try to explain that the candy cane represents the shepherds' crook and if they eat all of the candy canes the shepherd won't be able to bring the lost sheep back to their family. I will remind them that we are responsible for taking care of each other.

And, when we carefully place the angel on the top of our tree, I will explain how it was the angels who announced the birth of baby Jesus.

When we hear the wonderful sound of jingling bells – I will tell my children that the bell symbolizes guidance and return. The lost sheep were found by the sound of the bell.

And, when we talk about Santa Claus – we will speak of his generosity and the good will that he symbolizes. Santa Claus is not what Christmas is about, but he is a great role model for my kids. He is serving God when he delivers gifts to everyone. We should all be a little more like him.

Let's try to focus on the beauty of the season and teach our children that Christmas is about Christ. It is a religious holiday first. The spirit of giving will be in our hearts and in our children's hearts and on and on if that is what we teach them.

Merry Christmas and enjoy those precious children!

Very Vicki

Vicki Moser

In our home, we used to get a real tree every year. Since the house burnt down however, we have an artificial one. I miss going out to get a tree. My brothers and I would play hide and seek among the trees. I was always amazed at how many different types of trees there were. I was amazed at all the different sizes.

My favorites were the tall ones. I loved how they towered over me to a point where I had to strain to tilt my head all the way back so I could see its top.

Every year, we put our tree up sometime around or after Thanksgiving. While watching a Christmas cartoon we put on the decorations and my mother sings to the songs playing on TV. I liked putting on the decorations too. I felt as though my inner home decorator was bursting from within me.

I also enjoyed looking through all the ornaments. There are ornaments from births, and birthdays, and special events. There are also those from sports items (mostly my dad's).

Its fun to see how the ornaments begin to pile up as you run out of space on the tree and you get more and more memorable ornaments.

Any time I hear Christmas carols and things in November, it grates upon my nerves. Are we not worried about Thanksgiving? Is Thanksgiving unimportant? I never thought so but maybe it is. I think that listening to Christmas music and advertising for Christmas in November drags the season out to the point that when Christmas time actually comes, people have used up all their spirit (if that's possible).

Anyway I love Christmas. Every year we bake cookies for Santa. You know how kids stop believing in Santa? Well that's not an issue in our house because my mom always said that if you don't believe in Santa you don't get presents.

Every Christmas Eve my family goes to the church service. My fa-

vorite part of the church service is when we light the candles and sing "Silent Night". After the church service, we go home and have a little family time before going to bed and anxiously waiting until morning. In the morning, we open our presents and visit all of our family.

Imagine you are 6 again. The tree is up and you smell fresh baked cookies. It is Christmas Eve. The pine and sugar scent floats on the air and performs an intoxicating dance in your nose as you sniff. Santa is coming tonight. Santa! The excitement boils in your chest and makes sleeping difficult.

But your parents say that if you don't sleep santa wont come. You close your eyes dreading the fact that Santa might not come. You finally drift to sleep, however unwilling you are. you wake up to the sun coming through the windows. You peek out the door...toward the tree. You see some shiney paper. He came!

It is odd, to me, how your feelings about Christmas can change from year to year. Last year, I was thinking of Christmas as just another holiday. Cool, I get presents, big deal. This year, I am as excited as I used to be when I was younger.

I don't know what it is that makes this happen but Christmas is the one holiday a year where pretty much everyone gets excited. Even the adults feel it, the Christmas joy.

Another reason Christmas is the best holiday ever is that you get to see all of your family and that's something I always look forward to. I miss my family and can't wait until Christmas.

I miss my family and can't wait until Christmas.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Editor's Note: Only a innocent 11 year old could say "Since the house burnt down..." and go on with the story. Oh to be so innocent again! Don't ever grow up Vicki!

A teen's view Christmas is coming soon!



Christmas is coming soon! I have all of my Christmas shopping done - do you? I admit, Christmas is my favorite holiday and I go all out for it. I love getting the tree and decorating it, I love how my Mom begins to play Christmas music November first and until February twenty eighth, and I love choosing gifts for everyone! I know, it sounds so cheesy but I adore being able to go shopping and find funny and cute gifts that match my family's personality.

Every year, right in the middle of November, my older sister prints everyone's names on several pieces of paper, and we choose someone else's name. We then choose a few gifts for them, like a 'Secret Santa' exchange. I never follow that rule, and get presents for everyone. I would like to point out that no one complains about it!

Then comes the big 'fight' with our Mom: who gets to decorate what. I've always wanted to do the staircase, and Elizabeth wants to do the living room. Guess what we are always stuck doing?

Figuring out why the lights aren't working in the yard. While it's snowing. And then running inside to find the hot chocolate. We also laugh about how the previous weekend, the weather had been beautiful.

Nearing the end of November to mid December, we choose the tree - generally a short but very round one. However a perk to moving this year is the living room ceil-

ing is very high. We were quick to point that out to Dad, saying that we could get a huge tree this year!

On Christmas Eve, our tradition is to go on to a website that tracks Santa's progress through the world, and use that to figure when we should all go to bed. We also always order Chinese food and choose a sister to go pick it up with Mom. After Church, we get to set out cookies and milk for Santa. Before bed, we lay out our stockings, and then decide whose bed us four girls will dog-pile on top of.

On Christmas day, one of my sisters (or I) will get up at around four thirty in the morning and run to the living room to see if Santa visited during the night. Then, the sister who was awake first will run back to the bedrooms and wake the rest of us, and we all run back to the living room.

After confirming Santa visited, we tend to go back to dog-pile mode and sleep until seven thirty, then jump on Mom and Dad's bed to get them up.

Later that day, we get to visit our cousins down in Ellcott City. Spending the rest of the day with them is my favorite part of Christmas! We always hang out for hours on end, and have a huge Christmas dinner with my family, my cousins and our grandmother.

So yes, I love being able to spend time with my family over Christ-

mas, and having a bunch of days off from school! Unfortunately, since I am freshman this year in high school, I will probably be saddled with holiday homework. Oh well.

This year, my whole family will miss going Christmas caroling with the neighborhood, and being able to invite all of our friends from York to a Christmas party. However, I am looking forward to being able to create new traditions for our family. One is the Tree-lighting ceremony in Emmitsburg, and being able to shop for new Christmas decorations at the Antique Mall. I will also enjoy going to downtown Frederick and shopping there on 'Frosty Friday' and 'Frederick Artist Market Holiday Market'.

I am going to miss the York Holidays a lot, but I will be able to spend Christmas in Emmitsburg with new friends and still be able to visit my Aunt and Uncle. I will also enjoy reporting about my Christmas next month, and (hopefully) be able to comment on Emmitsburg in the snow... which I was hoping to be able to do this month.

I saw a fox today, but it was down the road and we were not sure if it was a cat, dog, or even a coyote - though Mom and I doubted the last one. Hopefully nothing will decide to run through our yard as we unload the truck!

We are also getting the moving - in process to speed up. We have recently gotten all of our books back (those boxes were heavy!) and Mom's kitchen is being set up. We have found our Christmas decorations, so those should start going up within the next few days, as will our Christmas tree.

I hope that everyone has a Merry Christmas, or Hanukkah, or a Happy Kwanzaa, and I look forward to seeing Emmitsburg decorations! See you next month!

To read other articles by Kat, visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net

Internships. . .

April Hilderbrand

As a soon to be high school graduate, I had spent several dragging years sitting through required classes, *all day long*. So for my senior year I wanted to take any opportunity I could to get out into the "real world" so to speak and to limit my time spent in the classroom.

Frederick County high schools offer students a mentor/internship program for one or two periods each school day in which the student shadows their mentor, learns from the experience, and even gains high school credit for completing it!

Before my senior year, I had a very vague idea of what my future plans were. I jumped from every field possible- forensics, military, medical, basically any field that had a decent salary guaranteed to accompany it.

After many hours of research and taking tests to determine my specific career compatibility, I realized the legal field was calling my name. I really fantasized becoming an attorney, so I thought it'd be a wonderful opportunity to shadow an attorney on a regular basis to see if that was the career I truly wanted to pursue.

So over the summer I sat down for another couple hours, emailing literally every attorney in Frederick to see if they wouldn't mind me tagging along with them each afternoon to court or wherever their journey was destined. I got three email responses, out of the hundreds of emails I sent. One of the three responders, Dino Flores, is the defense attorney I am currently interning with, which has been a very thought-provoking, exciting experience.

The first day I went to court with Mr. Flores, I really had no idea what anything he was saying meant. He was throwing out terms like "probation before judgment, nolle prosequi, STET docket, field sobriety tests," and a load of others that I truly had no idea what their significance was. I just sort of nodded my head and pretended like I knew what he was talking about.

This went on for the first two weeks or so and if someone would have asked me if I was enjoying my internship I would have said yes and it would have been a lie. I didn't hate it but I was so utterly confused that it was beyond enjoyable for me. After the first two weeks I was convinced that becoming an attorney was beyond sanity for me. As time went on, I changed my mind, and I began to put all of the misunderstandings into perspective.

As it turned out, all of those foreign terms I once thought were extravagant, were really quite simplistic in definition. The STET docket is the inactive docket which some cases are put on when an agreement with certain conditions is made. Nolle prosequi? Is neither a guilty nor non-guilty plea in which the case is simply dropped due to reasons like insufficient evidence or that the defendant pleads guilty to a separate charge.

Field sobriety tests are standard tests police officers give to the de-



fendant to determine if they are driving under the influence of alcohol. As it turned out, everything was really quite simple, but it just had to be put into real world situations before my mind could grasp these unheard of terms.

My original intention was to deal with civil matters of the law if I did indeed pursue a legal degree. After a few months, boy did my mind change on that matter! I sat through one consultation regarding a civil matter and that was enough for me. I couldn't stand listening to the high school drama all over again.

The point of this internship was to escape that, not engulf myself in it! Prosecution and criminal defense are my only other considerations. For now, criminal defense is my prospect path, however I have considered following in Dino and the fellow attorneys in the office footsteps and prosecuting for some time and later switching to defense as it has proved to set a better reputation as a whole.

One major idea-changing factor that I was oblivious to before and I wish to note is that the object of being a defense attorney is not to decide who is guilty and who isn't, nor to decide who is being honest and who is lying. It is to advise clients of their rights under the law and to make sure they aren't violated. A defense attorney, under my definition, protects victims of the law.

For example, assume there is a person charged with possession of marijuana. Now, say the person truly did have ten grams of pot on them, but the seizure was done in an illegal fashion, then the prosecutor has no other choice but to drop the case and a criminal walks away with no charge and/or criminal record. Clearly laws aren't designed to truly disclose who is guilty or innocent, but yet to *attempt* to protect citizens of their rights (Note "attempt", but that's a topic for another day).

Through this internship I am able to walk daily in the shoes of a criminal defense attorney, and I couldn't be happier! I am very thankful that I had this opportunity and now, my dreams of becoming a lawyer are no longer hindered by my fear of the unknown. Many of my questions have been answered.

Although I may never be half the lawyer that Mr. Flores is, I sure do have a much better understanding of what exactly attorneys do on a day to day basis and how the legal/court system operates. And first things first, I certainly won't waste my time intending to become a civil lawyer and seven years from now, decide I hate it!

EAST PARK AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

Wait in our cozy waiting area while your repairs are being completed.
Enjoy FREE coffee, hot chocolate & TV

COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

All Mechanics are ASE Master Certified

Tire Sales (All brands, new tires, mounting/balancing, valve stems)

Hydraulic Hoses (made while you wait)

Battery Cables (custom made)

BG Coolant System (flush & refill)

BG Transmission (flush & refill)

Pick-Up & Delivery (local vehicles)

Certified Diesel Technicians

ASK about
BG Protection
Plan



1 Creamery Way | Emmitsburg | 301.447.3560

STAGES OF LIFE

Bring up Ben

Lessons from Art

Olivia Sielaff

My younger brother Ben and I are taking art classes from Ms. Rebecca Pearl, and besides learning different techniques and skills, we've realized how much a particular piece of artwork can say about the artist. Bold, dark lines can signify self-confidence, while soft, careful lines signify emotion.

Bright colors convey a sense of happiness or liveliness, while muted colors convey a quiet or calm feeling. Also the way something is drawn offers insight into the artist's mind and character. One artist may look at a landscape and paint a very detailed, realistic scene, while other artists may draw a cartoon-like landscape or paint an abstract picture. All of these aspects can relate to the type of person the artist is and what the interests are of that artist.

By looking at Ben's artwork, it is evident that he loves nature and wildlife. Ever since he was little, Ben's favorite animals have gone from dinosaurs, pandas, fish, and now wildlife, specifically deer. In fact his entire bedroom is a plethora of deer posters, camouflage patterns, and hunting equipment. Not too long ago, however, Ben had taken an interest in drawing and painting his favorite animals. Now animals, especially deer, aren't the easiest subjects to draw.

The antlers and body of a deer are complex and detailed, and getting a deer to look like one instead of an unstable, oblong body on four stick legs takes some talent.

Ben produces very realistic drawings, and it is easy to see the talent he has. I remember the first time he started drawing deer and was amazed at how detailed and life-like the pictures were. With more and more practice, he becomes increasingly better at drawing what interests him. Through Ben's artwork it's not only clear to see what he likes, but also to see his character and emotions on the paper.

Like with every artist, Ben's personality comes through in his artwork. At home Ben is a very boisterous and imaginative kid who's always making jokes and acting silly. Other places and times he can be somewhat taciturn and quiet (if you can imagine that of any twelve year old boy). These traits and others can be seen in his artwork through the way he draws his pictures. His use of strong, dark lines shows that he likes attention and isn't afraid to mess up.

Sometimes his drawings contain softer lines and colors that express his emotion and shyness. Also Ben is very organized and likes things to be in their proper place. For example, when he sets his mind to cleaning his room, which is few and far between, Ben can have ev-

erything spotless and organized within a day; we usually don't see him the entire day, though, because he's so intent on cleaning!

In his artwork he is also very detail-oriented and tries to make his drawings as realistic as possible. Sometimes he's not the most patient person, but when Ben sits down to draw he is persistent and focused which, in the end, produces excellent drawings.

You might say one reason Ben is quite artistic is because art runs in the family. This may be because of our parent's background in art and design. Our dad always used to draw as a kid and he's now a carpenter, which requires some drawing skills. Our mom loves to paint and she went into graphic design in college. It could also be because we've always had plenty of paintbrushes, drawing pads, and art supplies around the house for whenever we felt like being creative. But for Ben, art isn't something that was just passed-down to him, it's something that he enjoys doing and is good at.

One of the reasons he's so talented at drawing wildlife is not just because of our parent's, but because he's interested in what he draws and is familiar with it. Suppose that I were to write about something that I didn't have an interest in, then the finished product wouldn't be the best nor would I have put extra effort into doing it.

Likewise if Ben were to draw something that he didn't like, then his picture would probably not turn out as good as others and his personality wouldn't be in that drawing. We've learned from art class



that if you draw something you love or are attached to, then it will result in a true work of art. This just goes to show that Ben's talent isn't just from our parent's but also from drawing what he loves.

I believe what Ben and I have learned in art class and through our own experience in drawing can be applied to everyday life. When we take the time to observe other's artwork, just like what we do at the end of each art class, we can see the personality, interests, and talents of the artist in their work. Looking at Ben's drawings, anyone could see that he is very detailed in his work and, of course, loves wildlife.

If we want to know someone better, then it's best to take the time to be with them to discover their character and gifts. Also, just like when Ben cleans his room, if we are patient and take our time while doing something, then it will always pay off in the end. Sometimes we find ourselves rushing through a task, but when we slow down and put an effort into it, the end product will be something

worthwhile. Finally, we should draw, or rather, do what we love.

I know that Ben would quickly become uninterested and slipshod if he drew something other than what he liked. The same goes for anything else. If our heart isn't in what we do, than it's not going to turn out completely right and we probably won't be satisfied with our work.

I certainly have discovered many traits about Ben just by looking at his artwork.

But not only can artwork say a lot about the artist, it can also teach the artist about himself and others. To Ben, drawing probably just seems like a fun hobby, but I hope that he understands all the important lessons he can learn from one of his favorite pastimes.

To read other article by Olivia, visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net.

Interested in leaning to draw or paint? Contact Elizabeth Progras at 301-271-4459 or her daughter Rebecca Pearl at 301-271-2348.

Parenting by Zenas

A month to be "fair and kind"

December – Justice and Mercy: being fair and impartial & giving kind treatment to an offender. Activity: Leisure – spending time in ways enjoyable to oneself!

Rex: "Hey Zenas, WOW, reading your last two articles . . . I don't know man, it just makes me think that I should forget about even thinking of spending money on my family for Christmas this year and instead put all the money into some kinda saving instrument for when my kids get older and have the same issues with cars!"

Zenas: " Rex, Rex, Rex . . . lets put some perspective into this, really! Your son has so many years before he starts to drive, just park some of the money into that bank certificate of deposit and use the rest to have some fun. Take your wife out for a really cool date night, or use some of that cash to help out some of the less fortunate in your community, or surprise your wife and buy her some really nice gift . . like . . . "

Rex: "Gold and diamonds, aren't they a girls best friend!?!?"

Zenas: "Well, no! At first I was going to suggest one of those "us" gifts. You know, the kind of gift you get HER, but it really is something for ME, so it becomes an US gift! But that wouldn't be fair! I was really thinking about something more practical, like painting your family room. Hasn't she been all over you to spruce that room up ever since your baby came along?"

Rex: "Oh, Zenas, you are such a funny man! I guess you've done those kind of things for your wife! She must have just been so surprised Christmas morning!"

Zenas: "Nope, not me! I got her a really cool vacuum, and based on her delight, figured I should have done the painting! But that was a while ago. You know, looking back, it was really cool when the kids were little. Back when no matter what we got them, we had to help them open the presents, and once they got their tiny hands around the gift, it went straight into their mouths! And then as they got into the toddler age, staying up till late in the night to put together the bikes and wagons. My favorite part was when we had a bit too much of

the eggnog and couldn't find, err read, the directions for putting together some gift from Santa! Thankfully, the kids didn't know the difference and two days later I had to scramble around finding parts!"

Rex: "Hey lets get serious for a moment. How much you gain eating all that good food your mother in-law cooks up for Thanksgiving?!!!"

Zenas: "Common Rex, you really don't think I'm gonna write about that sort of thing and then publish it in my own home town, do you?!? I mean, really, what will folks think . . . it was about 8 pounds and I think it all had to do with my desire to be a part of the stimulus plan."

Rex: "Stimulus Plan?? How in the world do you figure?"

Zenas: "Simple Rex, just think about what happens when we gain weight, the belly expands, the trousers don't fit, just in time for Christmas! Then my wife feels sorry for my buttons popping and so she takes me shopping for bigger trousers. Wait, it doesn't stop there, a new pair of trousers needs a new belt, right? And a new belt just

wouldn't look good without a new pair of shoes! And a new shirt, with a new tie! See how eating just a bit more over the holidays can boost our own local economy. Pretty simple the way I see it. To get this economy moving again all we have to do is eat!

Rex: Zenas, have you been getting into your wife's eggnog a bit prematurely?"

Zenas: "Not yet I haven't! Rex, you going to wait till the ground is frozen before you go out and cut down your Christmas tree this year?"

Rex: "You bet, Zenas. That's the best time to do it. Wait till the weather's really cold and preferably snowing. Then spend a couple of hours out there, looking at all the many types of trees, till the perfect one gets found. And I love getting down on the ground with my wife, each of us with a side of the saw in hand, giggling like little kids, till one of us yells

TIMBER, and over she goes! This year might be a bit of a challenge with the baby. But nothing beats getting out there and cutting our own Christmas tree!"

Zenas: "You can say that again! Last year we spent almost 4 hours in the shivering cold, but we found the tree that fit just right. After we got the tree loaded on top of the car, we then found a really cozy local winery where we propped our feet up by the warmth of a fire, sipping some warmth and watching the snow come down. Uhhmmm, I wonder when we will see the first snow this year, think it will be a white Christmas?"

Rex: "I certainly hope so. Hey, did I hear that for Christmas your daughter was going to be home from her trip over in South Africa?"

Zenas: "You heard right Rex, best present I've had in a long time."

STAGES OF LIFE

Losing mom



Sandra Polvinale

Part 1: Grief Unveiled, a Love Story

This is an intimate diary of grief unveiled between Mother and child. It seems to be a perfect story for Advent. (The Madonna and Child) It is a glimpse in time of an intense account of a love story of two souls of the last week of my Mother's life that any human being can relate. It is my prayerful desire that this story of two souls will help even just one person to understand that to grieve the profound loss of a parent is healthy. To grieve and mourn is to love deeply. Even Jesus wept.

I was there when my Mother was born

In the 1950's during a hot steamy heat wave in June, my mother watched me being born via mirrors that she called the miracle of birth. On a crisp October day in 2009 I watched and cradled my Mother in my arms as she once cradled me, also watching the miracle of birth. Two souls being very present to each other. Yes, I was there when my Mother was born into eternal life. It was well beyond the thin wall of matter of what is seen and not seen. It is a mystical mysterious place of total love some call heaven and some just call HOME.

Many people that know me well have been listening to the stories of traveling two hours at any given time to be with my aging parents to visit; but more so,

to help cook and freeze meals since my Mother couldn't cook anymore and I didn't want my Father to always have to resort to carry out meals.

Mom needed me to help her shower since she had such a fear of showering alone, due to a hard fall in a tub years ago from shampoo being in her eyes. She was heavy with child and developed a phobia from the slip in the tub carrying my unborn brother.

It was the ultimate in suffering seeing my dear Mother ailing with a lung disease when she was such an insatiable comic, vivacious and talented artist, illustrator, cartoonist, designer and opera singer. Momma Chic, (pronounced Chick) as her hairstylist Maria and friends called her, was a Senator Theater Baltimore Beauty Queen Contestant; full of love for so many people transcending all ages or races. This just made me long for someone to hand me a silk handkerchief to wipe my tears that are often racing light years beyond the endurance of my emotional boundaries. I have been told by a friend that faith is doing the work of God in total darkness, knowing the strength will come from HIM, not me. My broken heart is expanding from what I have gone through in order to help others.

The Prophetic dream

In June my Mother had another infection, did her usual hospital stay and returned home. All

seemed fine. It was business as usual they thought. I had a different feeling.

I come from a family of artists, musicians, intellectuals, teachers, poets, storytellers and yes, mystics. That night I had a powerful dream. It shook me up enough to take notice. I was in a hospital room in a high rise hotel with a picture window over looking a large river that sparkled like diamonds. My two little sisters were in the room with me along with some choice pets. I looked out the picture window and saw my Father, old and navigating down a flight of stairs to the river that had huge rocks going to the other side of the shore with a great beautiful green forest. He held my Mother's hand but she truly didn't need to hold on to him due to being in her early thirties with short dark brown hair and a dress with a full skirt. I was mesmerized by her beauty and was amazed to see her so energetic, flexible and just so pliant. I felt the rumble of an earthquake and fell back grabbing and searching for my little sisters that are always young in my dreams. When I looked out the window my Father was in the water, but my Mother was washed up on the shore showing no sign of life. I screamed, "Somebody help her! Do something!" But nobody acted like they had even heard me. It was business as usual in that room.

When I realized my Mother was dead I screamed a blood curdling scream from my toes on up. My Mother had gone to "the other side" of the river. I immediately called my family to give them a "heads up" to spend as much time with Mom as they could, for soon she will not be holding on to my Father's hand. She will be gone from our sight. Across the big divide between heaven and earth. I emailed my brother and said, "I had THE dream" Please come soon and have a good visit with Mom. I felt from the dream it was going to be a matter of three months. I HAD THE DREAM! Come soon!

The shock is over

I had a call from my Mother the day before. "Sandi, I hate to worry you darling, but I don't feel too well." Mom was rushed again to the hospital. My heart sunk to the furthest depth of my stomach. "Is this it," Mom said to my sister at her condo? Only God knows the time or place I thought.

I went around the house robotically, preparing to be away for a spell as I had been doing for two years now, with some bags always packed in the car.

That evening, I was in a state of unreality liken to a dream, but one you can't escape from waking. I couldn't sleep. So, I began to write an email to a girlfriend. The email was frag-

mented, as were my grievous thoughts.

Dear Denise, It is 12:30 AM. I laid in bed tonight and stared at the ceiling. Just couldn't sleep. The realization of what was going to happen soon was surreal. I started crying. No, wailing! I cried so loud and hard I startled my pets and they ran and hid. The cry sounded different from that of the cry before my husband died. Very different. I analyzed it to take myself out of myself. It was the cry of a baby for its Mother. MOM! I am a grown woman in my 50's yet still my Mother's child, my Mother's baby, my Mother's only blonde she watched being born. I am her baby girl. I have cried so hard that I have no energy to type. My fingers feel like concrete. The reality is sinking in. She will be gone from my sight soon. I need to stay a long time down there. I'll get my affairs in order here at home. Again, I am not home.

I can hear my Mother saying to her friends, "You know, Sandi is my best friend, and she is always here for me no matter what." "I replayed her messages I had saved all year on the answering machine saying, "Hello darling, it's just Mom. Where's my best friend?" "I worry about you darling. You're working too hard. Is everything alright? I feel

like there's something wrong. (She always knew) Make sure you call me, sweetheart."

I started thinking maybe a little too much. Who will worry about me? Who will care if I got home safely? I don't want to be orphaned! I am already widowed, now orphaned? It's not fair! Life can be so beautiful and at times so unfair. I need to go to bed and pray she isn't gone yet, until I get to see her. I can still go down to see her tomorrow. I wanted to storm heaven for one last family Thanksgiving. Please Lord, just one frivolous prayer.

Who will listen to my poems and articles and tell me they were just great! Who will listen to my songs when I write one and sing it to her a million times and each time she loves it that much more? Who will ask to see my artwork and be so proud of me? Who besides my Mom will have the loving kindness to love me with all my flaws, thorns and scales? WHO?!

God may send me a maternal friend, or maybe He just wants me cozied up to Him through all this. Fiat Lord. Thy Will be done. Time to climb the stairs and say goodnight. My legs are like lead. I'll call you later Denise. Love, Sandi

part 2 next month.

HIS PLACE

INC. Est. 1969

• AUTO REPAIR • RESTORATION •

301-447-2800

www.HisPlaceInc.com

Family owned & operated for over 40 years

Complete AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE

FOR ALL MAKES/MODELS | HYBRIDS | DOMESTIC | IMPORTS

FALL & WINTER

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE *Specials!*

BUY 1, GET 1

FREE!

Have your vehicle's headlamps and wiper blades inspected today.

If your vehicle needs headlamp or wiper blade replacement, buy one Full/low Head Lamp and/or one NAPA head lamp or NAPA Load/Fit Wiper Blade and get the second lamp or wiper blade FREE!

Offer Good November 1 - December 31, 2009

Ask us for details!

See What You've Been Missing.

<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">BRAKE INSPECTION</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">\$36*</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">BG COOLING SYSTEM POWER FLUSH</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">\$108*</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">TUNE-UP (Flat rate times set by manufacturers) VEHICLE SPECIFIC</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">COMPLETE CHARGING SYSTEM CHECK</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">\$36*</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">LUBE, OIL & FILTER ROTATE TIRES TIRE PRESSURE</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">\$30*</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">COMPLETE SAFETY MAINTENANCE INSPECTION</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">\$60*</p>

* All parts used meet or exceed manufacturer standards

* Material costs are additional

Call today & set up your appointment!

3 years/ 100,000 miles parts & labor Nationwide Warranty Approved Auto Repair

TO ACCESS YOUR VEHICLE HISTORY LOG ON TO

hisplaceinc.mechanicnet.com

20 CREAMERY WAY | EMMITSBURG, MD

301.447-2800 | 800.529.5835

Monday - Friday 8 am - 5:30 pm

We accept all major credit cards | EOE

THE OLD TENANT HOUSE

“Those burn marks aren’t going to come out”

Michael Hillman

With the installation of the new cabinets in the pantry and kitchen, I was beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel in the renovation of the old tenant house. The house now sported new windows, level and reinforced floors and ceilings, and straight plaster walls. Under those now smooth walls, the “guts” of the house - the archaic wiring and plumbing had been ripped out and replaced.

While I was pleased by what I saw, the house reminded me of a cake without its icing. In spite of all the work of the Emmitsburg craftsman, the house still had a ‘dingy’ appearance to it - and it was all because of the condition of the floors.

When we had moved in 20 years ago the floors needed sanding and refinishing. Twenty years and seven cats and six dogs later, they were in dire need of help! Given all we had done, it would have been ridiculous not to do it now. Opting not to refinish the floors would be like serving a birthday cake without icing and candles.

Like all the other aspects of the renovation, I approached the sanding of the floors with reservation - steeling myself for what I was sure would be the largest expense in the renovation project to date.

Our interviews with several flooring refinishing companies left a rather bad taste in our mouths. One insisted that all the furniture had to be removed from the house, along with all the new plumbing fixtures just installed by Joe Reckley, not to mention, our dogs and cats. Needless to say, they didn’t get the job.

As I was pissing and moaning to Joe Wivell over the conditions insisted upon by floor restoration companies, he suggested I give Tim Wantz a call. Tim, an Emmitsburg native, operates Woodcrafters Hardwood Flooring and according to Joe he was ‘good people.’ An opinion

seconded by Tony Orndorf over at Zurgable Brothers.

I can still remember my first meeting with Tim as if it was yesterday. I called him late one Friday afternoon in hopes of scheduling a meeting with him sometime in the coming weeks.

“Are you going to be home this evening?” Tim asked.

“Tonight? Um... sure.” I said. I was hoping to get a quick quote but didn’t expect it this quick!

Within an hour Tim was at the house, in what seemed like minutes, he had measured the house and was figuring out an estimate.

While sanding the floors was going to be a task in itself, what made the job much harder to estimate was the fact that the kitchen’s original wood floor had been covered with at least three layers of linoleum, all of which had to be torn up. The condition of the floor underneath it was unknown.

I nearly fell over when Tim handed me the estimate. It was only one fifth what I expected. As I looked at his estimate I found myself muttering quietly, “Had I known refinishing floors was this cheap, I would have done it years ago.” Needless to say, Tim got the job.

But it was not Tim’s estimate that won him the job. Instead, it was the feeling he gave me that he knew his trade.

Funny, as I look back on it now, Tim inspired the same trust as Joe Wivell did, which led me to turn the window work over to him. I got the same feeling from Joe Reckley, who did our plumbing work, and the Reaver Brothers, who did our kitchen cabinets. In each case, I instinctively knew each man was right for the job. Like the others, Tim’s mannerisms resonated confidence in his skills and ability, and as time would soon tell, that confidence was well founded.

As it happened, a project Tim had schedule the following weeks

had been delayed a week, so he was free.

“Do you mind if we start Monday morning?” He asked

I stuttered. “Next week?” My mind raced. Did I have enough time to get all the furniture out of the house? Where would we put the dogs and cats? Where would we stay? I dreaded the start of the sanding and all the mess I was sure it would bring

Having told Tim the prerequisites of the other sanders, he must have read my mind. “Don’t worry about moving the furniture out of the house,” he said, “we’ll do it section by section.”

“What about the dogs and cats?” I asked.

“Hey, it’s their house. They live here. We’ll work around them.” Tim replied with a smile.

With a simple handshake, the deal was done.

Tim and his crew showed up early Monday morning. They moved what furniture we did have upstairs out to the new summer porch, and immediately began to sand. The other part of the crew headed straight for the kitchen and began to arduous task of ripping up the linoleum.

Late in the morning I went upstairs fully expecting to walk into a cloud of dust, but much to my amazement, the air was clear. The sanders Tim was using had high efficiency vacuums attached to them which collected nearly all the dust. Once again I found myself regretting prior misconceptions on floor refinishing which had been my justification for not refinishing them earlier.

By three, the upstairs was fully sanded, and even though the stain had yet to be applied, as far as I was concerned, Tim had earned his full payment. The floors looked breathtaking!

Gone were the scratches, stains, and weather patterns I had long since accepted as the price for living



Tim Wantz - Every floor’s best friend!

in an old house. The original grains of the beautiful heart-wood yellow pine could once again be seen in all their glory. And the first coat of stain only enhanced this beauty.

While the sanding of the upstairs went like clockwork, the sanding of the kitchen floor was proving more difficult than planned.

Sometime back in the early 50s, the flooring in the main part of the house was leveled out by covering it by new flooring, and it was this new flooring that Tim was sanding. But the kitchen was simply covered with linoleum. Once removed, Tim was faced with sanding away not only the old linoleum glue that had seeped between the boards, but one hundred years of wear and tear.

Unfortunately, there is a limit to how much you can sand before there is no flooring left. And Tim was quickly reaching that point.

Clearly exasperated, he called Audrey and I into the kitchen and pointed out burn marks in the floor. “I can keep sanding to get them out, but I’m afraid you won’t have much board left.” He said.

Both Audrey and I smiled. We had long ago learned that the spots where Tim was pointing was where an old wood burning kitchen stove had stood when the house was new. I could imagine some former owner fretting over the fact they had burnt the floor with a hot ember. We quickly set Tim’s mind at ease. “By all means leave the marks. They add character to the kitchen. It’s an old house. Each mark is a story unto itself.”

I could see Tim breathe a sigh of relief. “Most people don’t appreciate things like that. They want it perfect. I agree with you, a floor with character beats a new floor any day.”

That evening my wife and I slept in the living room where Tim and

his crew had concentrated our downstairs furniture. The dogs were good about keeping off the newly sanded and stained areas. The cats, being cats, of course ignored us and went where they pleased.

The next morning a second coat of stain was applied, and that evening, the polyurethane was put down.

On Wednesday morning Tim and his crew rearranged the furniture to allow the sanding of the remaining flooring. Raised walkways were set up to allow us access between the areas ready for traffic. The dogs didn’t understand why they had to walk on boards when a perfectly good floor was below it. The cats on the other hand found traveling the walkways great sport.

To be honest with you, I can’t remember much about the sanding. Which in many ways is a complement to Tim and his crew. They bent over backwards to allow us to go about our daily lives. Even our most skittish cat didn’t seem to mind their presence.

By Friday, less than a week after I had called Tim, the floors throughout the house were finished. Like icing makes a cake, the floors made the house! Of all the projects we had done to renovate the house, sanding and restaining the floors had the greatest eye appeal per buck spent.

Had I known the floors were going to turn out as well as they did, and with the price as inexpensive as it was, I would have done it years ago. I won’t make that mistake again. And when I do have it done again, there is only one man I will call to do it - Tim Wantz and his Woodcrafters Hardwood flooring. For all your flooring needs, you can’t get better ‘people’ than Tim.

To read past editions of the *Old Tenant House*, visit Emmitsburg.net



Zurgable Brothers
Hardware

Home Improvement Supplies. Stay Local. Start Here.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From Zurgable Brothers Hardware!

- ✓ Hardware and Tools
- ✓ Fall Winterizer For Your Yard And Garden
- ✓ Caulk
- ✓ Weather Stripping
- ✓ Window Kits
- ✓ Garden Supplies
- ✓ Garden Seeds & Plants
- ✓ Mulch
- ✓ Window / Screen Repair
- ✓ Red Wing Shoes
- ✓ Holland Gas Grills
- ✓ Valspar Paints
- ✓ Sakrete Cement
- ✓ Keys Made
- ✓ Lumber

16663 Old Emmitsburg Road · Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

301-447-2020

Open Monday thru Friday 7am - 6pm, Saturday 8am - 5pm, Closed Sundays



WOODCRAFTERS
Hardwood Flooring

Sanding • Staining • Refinishing
Custom Installation • Repairs • Restoration
Also specializing in Ceramic Tile & Stone

717-359-8845
FAX: 717-359-8732

E-MAIL: woodcrafters12@comcast.net • MHIC #92845

Owned & Operated by: **Tim Wantz & Joe Williams** Littlestown, Pa.

THE ZOO KEEPER

“Christmas is not just for kids”

Layla Watkins

In my single and childless twenties, I firmly believed that Christmas was for kids. It's not that I didn't like Christmas, but for me, the magic had disappeared. Instead of magic, I had stress. Christmas had become a time of spending money I didn't have, sending cards to people I barely knew anymore, wondering just how many decorations I had to put up to avoid being a labeled a Scrooge, and agonizing over the fact that those same decorations would have to be cleaned up and put away in a matter of weeks. But still, year after year, I took part in the obligatory Christmas traditions with a half-hearted “Ho-Ho-Ho” and side order of “Humbug.”

It wasn't until my daughter Kara's first Christmas that I realized the beliefs of my twenties were only partially right. Christmas is for kids, but it's also for their parents.

The Past Meets the Present

For Kara's first Christmas, we picked arguably the coldest, windiest, nastiest day of the season to go the Christmas tree farm and pick out a tree. There she was, all bundled up, completely oblivious to the excitement that Wayne and I felt over picking out a tree with our daughter for the first time. We took pictures of her with the tree, posed her “holding” the saw, and even took some of her having her first taste of hot chocolate. As we drove home with our perfectly balanced Frasier Fir, I couldn't help but reminisce about some not-so-perfect trees.

One year, I think I was about five or six years old, we did not have enough money to buy a Christmas tree. We had hung lights in the shape of a tree, but it wasn't the same. On Christmas Eve, my mom decided that maybe we could get a good deal on one that was still left on a lot somewhere, so off we went in search of a “clearance tree.” We went to a few lots without success and were on our way home tree-less when we decided to try one last lot. As luck would have it, the lot attendant explained that although he couldn't sell us a regular tree at a discount until after Christmas, we could have all the “damaged” trees we wanted for free.

To this day, I don't know if that was really their policy or if he just felt sorry for us and was being kind (I'm inclined to believe the latter), but either way, we left the lot with a truck-load full of the scraggiest, “Charlie Brown” trees you've ever seen. That year, we went from having no Christmas tree to having a tree in almost every room of the house.

Another year, I had worked really hard to get me and my pony, “Bobby,” ready for a special New Year's Day horse show. I didn't have proper show attire, but had always made due with a white turtleneck and rust colored pants tucked into rubber muck boots. What I couldn't make due with, though, was a saddle—I didn't have one. I had been borrowing one from the woman who owned the barn where we kept the

horses but two weeks before the show, she told me she was sorry, but she'd had to sell it. I was devastated - until, that is, the saddle showed up under the Christmas tree. My, then 79-year-old, great-grandmother, “Ba” had driven over 200 miles each way to get me that saddle. I can still see her beaming from ear to ear as she watched me open my special present.

I think her smile was much like mine a few years ago when Santa Claus called our house Christmas morning. He called to explain that he'd had some trouble getting one of the kids' presents down the chimney, so he'd left it in the barn. We put on our coats and made our way outside. When what to our wondering eyes did appear, but a palomino pony with mistletoe in her hair. And she came with a saddle.



Joy to the World

Since having kids, I've found that the magic of Christmas is back. I still groan about putting up and putting away decorations, but it's a small price to pay for the smile that a simple dancing Santa brings to my kids' faces.

For a long time, I really didn't have very many memories of my childhood Christmases. But each year, as I experience the excitement of Christmas through my kids' eyes, I am reminded of a special moment from my own past. Every parent wants to make things better for their kids than they had it

themselves so in some ways, maybe I'm trying to create a “new and improved” version for them. But mostly, I just want them to feel the happiness and excitement that Christmas can and should bring.

Just as Ba could feel my joy over that saddle, I can I feel my kids' joy. That, in and of itself, makes me joyous and *that* is what Christmas is all about – spreading the joy, “Joy to the World!” And have a very Merry Christmas...

To read other article by Layla Watkins visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net

O'RORKE'S

FAMILY EATERY & SPIRITS

Known far & wide for our:

FRIED PICKLES
Dill spears in a tangy bread coating, deep fried & served with ranch dressing

CRAB PRETZELS
X-large pretzel topped with crab & cheese then broiled to a golden brown

RUBENS
Corned beef or turkey on rye with swiss cheese, thousand island & sauerkraut

O'RORKE'S MONSTER BURGER
1 lb. chargrilled hamburger served on a toasted bun with lettuce, tomato & cheese

A Wee Bit of Irish

SHEPARD PIE
Homemade mixture of beef, scallions & corn in a rich brown gravy topped with mashed potatoes, cheddar cheese & scallions

CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE
Wedges of corned beef with seasoned cabbage, carrots & boiled potatoes

GUINNESS BEEF STEW
Tender pieces of beef in a hardy Guinness gravy with carrots, potatoes & peas served in a toasted bread bowl

O'RORKE'S MEATLOAF
Thick slices of flavorful meatloaf & mashed potatoes smothered in our homemade Guinness gravy

Open Daily 11:00 am
44 Steinwehr Avenue, Gettysburg, PA 21727
717-334-2333

<p>COUPON</p> <p><i>Purchase a \$25 Gift Certificate for only</i> \$20 With This Coupon <i>Offer expires 12/31/09</i></p>	<p>COUPON</p> <p><i>Purchase a \$50 Gift Certificate for only</i> \$40 With This Coupon <i>Offer expires 12/31/09</i></p>
---	---

Gift Certificates Must Be Redeemed By March 31, 2010

Licensed Insured

REAVERS WOODWORKING INC.

Quality Hand-Crafted Cabinets/Furniture
Brian P. Reaver, Sr.
Shop: 301-447-3386
Fax: 301-447-1750



- Kitchens, Armoires
- Hutches, China Cupboards
- Computer Stations
- Entertainment Centers
- Fireplace Mantels
- Vanities, Gun Cabinets
- Children's Furniture
- Corner Cabinets, Bookcases
- Dressers, End Tables... etc.

Visit us online at: www.emmitsburg.net/woodworking

Mike's Auto Body

Collision & Restorations, Inc.

Your friendly neighbors at Mike's Auto Body will help make your auto body repairs and restoration work a breeze!

- Professional, courteous service from the office to the shop!
- Complete Auto Body and Full-Time Restoration Services
- All Major Insurance Carriers Accepted • 24-Hour Towing
- Servicing Thurmont for 20 Years • All Makes and Models
- LIFETIME WARRANTY ON ALL REPAIRS
- Car Rentals Available On-Site

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT?

Your insurance company wants your vehicle properly repaired and you to be completely satisfied with their claim service. You have specific rights and obligations you should be aware of. Review your policy. Understand your rights. You are not required by law to get more than one estimate. You may have the shop of your choice make the repairs. Only you, the owner, can authorize repairs on your vehicle. Repair estimates will vary. A lower estimate may not include necessary items to repair your vehicle back to pre-loss condition. It's your car, make sure it's repaired to your satisfaction.

CALL MIKE'S AUTO BODY TODAY!

301-271-7626

12917 Catoclin Furnace Road • Thurmont

FITNESS AND WELL BEING

The paradigm shift Health Transformation, not just Health Reform, or Healthcare Reform

Renee Lehman

Healthcare reform, oh the debate about healthcare reform! The healthcare system is definitely in need of transformation. AND, if we look at the “big picture” regarding healthcare, there needs to be a shift from disease intervention to health promotion and disease prevention. This requires a paradigm shift, because prevention goes well beyond immunizations, diagnostic screenings, etc.

Did you know that we spend 16% of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on healthcare (more than any other country in the world other than the Marshall Islands), and yet we rank only 37th in the world in relation to our health outcomes (www.who.int/whosis). We rank 19th out of 19 industrialized countries for preventable deaths, and in the world we rank 24th in healthy life expectancy (70 years of age). Healthy life expectancy is defined as the average number of years that a person can expect to live in “full health” by taking into account years lived in less than full health due to disease and/or injury. (World Health Organization, WHO statistics).

WOW! WHAT IS GOING ON?

Our current healthcare model is a “Disease care” model. You go to the doctor or seek medical advice when you are sick. It is a great system for acute illness and trauma. However, this model doesn’t meet the needs of our general wellbeing. It does not focus on health outcomes! At the center of the “Disease care model” is the use of drugs and surgery. In general, healthcare professionals “do something to or for us”. In this model, we are usually passive participants in our own health care. Eighty percent of our chronic illnesses (diabetes, heart disease, and obesity to name a few) are not effectively addressed by our current “Disease care model” of healthcare. Why, you may ask? It is because these diseases are largely preventable and even reversible by changing diet and lifestyle (more about this later). Yes, these and other chronic diseases account for 75% of our healthcare costs, and yet they are preventable or even reversible!!! (Dean Ornish, MD, the founder and president of the non-profit Preventive Medicine Research Institute in Sausalito, California; and Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco.)

There is a different model that I see our culture moving toward. This model involves health promotion and disease prevention, and encourages us

to become active in our own healing. At the center of this “new model” is SELF-CARE. I believe that health is an individual responsibility. It is up to each one of us to learn how to maintain and protect our body’s potential to heal itself. Just think, when you buy a car, it becomes your responsibility to have all of the maintenance requirements (tune-ups, oil changes, tire rotations, wheel alignments, etc.) done on a regular basis, so that you can get the most out of the life of your car. You may not know how to do all of the maintenance yourself, so you take it to a qualified service station to work on it. Along with the maintenance done to your car, you also learn things that will extend the life of your car, improve your gas mileage, and keep your car looking great.

Now, when we are born, we have this one body, mind, and spirit to live our entire life with. Why would you take care of it in any way less than you would your car? Quality in, quality out. No one else can do this for you. You must choose it.

So how can you go about creating health and wellness? First of all, existing health conditions need to be treated effectively and compassionately by your health care provider. I hope that you have that!

Think about the following categories that are considered to make up the quality of your own wellness: spirituality, diet, exercise, sleep, relationships/social support, stress management, finances, work, play, environment, self-esteem, healthcare, and life purpose. On a scale from 0 – 100%, how satisfied are you with the quality and/or quantity of these categories?

If you have a low percentage in

any of the categories, think of this as the “energy” that you put into the category as “stuck”. Energy that is “stuck or shut down” can be described as “dis – ease”. “Movement of energy” is seen as health/wellness. Where are you “stuck”? What could you do to get your satisfaction level in each of these categories toward 100%? If you don’t know what you might do to improve your level of satisfaction, begin to observe what creates “shut down” or “movement” in your life. To do this, you may need a professional to work with you (a physician, nutritionist, acupuncturist, personal trainer, massage therapist, counselor, spiritual director, and other wellness professionals).

Now, back to the statement from earlier in the article that chronic diseases are preventable or reversible. Most people tend to think of breakthroughs in healthcare as a new drug, technology, or surgical technique. You may have a hard time believing that simple choices that you make in your lifestyle (the above categories of wellness) can be as (or even more) beneficial as the drugs and surgeries. Yet, they often are!

Dean Ornish, MD has shown that lifestyle changes may stop or even reverse the progression of coronary heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, high cholesterol, and other chronic conditions. His research, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, and other medical and scientific journals, reported that 99% of people with severe coronary heart disease were able to stop or reverse it by making comprehensive lifestyle changes, without drugs or surgery. There was some reversal of coronary ath-

erosclerosis after 1 year, and even more improvement after 5 years, and there were 2.5 times fewer cardiac events.

In June 2008, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences published his newest study. This study showed, for the first time, that changing your lifestyle changes your genes in only 3 months. He found that improved nutrition, stress management techniques, walking, and psychosocial support “turned off” genes and oncogenes associated with breast cancer and prostate cancer, as well as genes that cause heart disease and inflammation. Genes that are considered protective genes for the aforementioned conditions were “turned up”. Dr. Ornish has also recently found (published in The Lancet Oncology, September 2008) that these lifestyle changes increase telomerase, the enzyme that lengthens telomeres, the ends of your chromosomes that control how long you live. “Even drugs have not been shown to do this”, Dean Ornish, MD.

Boy, think about the hope for better health that comes from making positive lifestyle choices! Just with this focus on self-care, our healthcare costs could potentially decrease!

Finally, I would like you to think about viewing your symptoms that “show up” for you as opportunities for taking better care of your-

self (view them as your “teachers”). I am sure that each of you has symptoms like headaches, stomach upset, neck tension, etc. that come and go for you. View them as an “engine light” going off in your car. You wouldn’t continue to drive around with the light on (hopefully). So, why continue to walk around with these symptoms? Learn from them. What is going on before they show up? When do they tend to show up? What did you eat? How much sleep have you had? What works to decrease the intensity of the symptom? Deal with your symptoms when they are “small”. Do not wait until they become bigger and constant! Here, again you may need to seek out the help of a professional to guide you as you begin to focus on self-care for your own wellness.

Prevent trouble before it arises. Put things in order before they exist. The giant pine tree grows from a tiny sprout. The journey of a thousand miles starts from beneath your feet. (from chapter 64 of the Tao Te Ching, written by Lao-tzu, from a translation by S. Mitchell)

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist, physical therapist, and Reiki Master with over 20 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.

FAMILY DENTISTRY TIMOTHY B. BRINGARDNER, D.D.S.


Serving Emmitsburg for over 25 years



101 South Seton Avenue
P.O. Box 538
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

(301) 447-6662

New Patients Welcome



www.gosportphysicaltherapy.com

SPECIALIZING IN ALL ORTHOPAEDIC CONDITIONS AND INJURIES

Two offices to provide you with excellent care close to home!

<p>WORK RELATED INJURIES TOTAL JOINT REPLACEMENT THERAPY FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY EVALUATIONS CERTIFIED ATHLETIC TRAINING SERVICES SPORTS AND ORTHOPAEDIC INJURIES WELLNESS CENTER UNDERWATER TREADMILL VESTIBULAR REHAB SILVERSNEAKERS FITNESS PROGRAM®</p>	<p>GETTYSBURG 16C Deatrick Drive Gettysburg, PA 17325 (717) 337-3300</p>	<p>BIGLERVILLE 3101 Biglerville Road Biglerville, PA 17307 (717) 677-0300</p>
---	--	---

Mon-Fri 7:30 AM - 7:00 PM & Sat 8:00 AM - 12 Noon



amber hill
PHYSICAL THERAPY, INC.
where patients come first — since 1985

Patients Come First at Amber Hill Physical Therapy

We have built our reputation as one of the area’s most respected practices by giving patients quality, compassionate care in a friendly, comfortable setting.

- Orthopedic, sports, neurological
- Auto injuries & worker’s comp
- Pediatric Speech Therapy*
- A Pediatric PT/OT Clinic
- We accept & are in-network with most insurances to save you money

“Recently I received physical therapy at your Thurmont location. I wish to commend your staff for their professionalism, care and help. I hope that Amber Hill stays in Thurmont for many years to come.” —M Rice, Thurmont

*Speech Therapy Services offered through Frederick Pediatric Therapy LLC at the Frederick Pediatric Clinic.

THURMONT
301.271.9230

FREDERICK
301.663.1157

DAMASCUS
301.253.0896

JEFFERSON
301.473.5900

www.amberhillpt.com

New patients usually seen in 24 hours in private rooms
Early a.m., eve. and Sat. hrs.
Donald J. Novak, P.T., D.P.T., owner

• Our Knowledge & Experience Get You Back to Enjoying Life! •

FITNESS & HEALTH

Holiday fitness

Linda Stultz

Christmas is just around the corner. The menu for this meal usually remains the same from year to year. How about making a few little changes to make the meal healthier. Of course, the turkey or ham is the main attraction. Make sure you get a lean turkey or ham that is low in fat. Most of the fat in poultry is in the skin. You need the skin while roasting for a juicy, tender bird, but before you slice it, remove the skin. That will take the temptation away from those folks who tend to tear off a piece when they slip into the kitchen to see how things are going.

Dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, warm bread and desert are also part of the traditional meal. I'm not saying take these away, just alter the way they are prepared. Use fat free milk and low fat butter in your mashed potatoes. Even better, try mashed sweet potatoes. Try whole grain bread for the dressing. Whole grains are much healthier than processed white bread. Gravy is one of the most important parts of

this meal. Let your broth set for a while till it forms a solid skim on top. Remove this and you will have broth with much less in fat. The gravy still tastes the same, without the fat. The warm bread can be a variety of different whole grain buns. This way, everybody gets their favorite kind. Add a big salad to this year's menu. People usually think of salad as a summertime dish with burgers and a cookout. One half of your plate should be filled with veggies. Raw vegetables give you the most nutritional value. Supply a variety of vegetables to pick from. Hopefully, you will have a least one kind that the kids like.

DESERT! Some people live for the "Desert Table". That's OK. Give yourself a treat, just look over everything carefully, and decide what you really want. Maybe even sample a few different kinds. Try cutting the slices in half. That way you can try a bigger variety. Preparing a small plate of desert for your guests to take home is also a thoughtful way to let them sample everything. Just not all at one time. They can take a little piece of the Christmas

dinner home to remember for the rest of the holiday weekend and you will not have all that desert around that will tempt you later. Check into some small changes in the receipt that will make a big difference in the fat and sugar content of the desert. Tofu is a great way to add that creamy texture to your pies, cakes and cookies, while lowering the fat. Applesauce in place of oil is another helpful, healthy hint. SUGAR is a big ingredient that packs on the pounds. Check out your grocery store's healthy cooking aisle for alternatives to sugar.

Finally, start a new Christmas Tradition. Take a walk after your meal. I know how everybody feels after eating a big meal. All the more reason to get moving. Take the whole family for a walk in the brisk, cool air. Share this time and walk off some of those extra calories you just consumed. If you can't get the whole family involved, pick a friend or family member that you would like to spend a little extra time with. Share conversation, ideas and just time with them. These tips are not just for, they work well for any holiday gathering.

For more information, gift certificates or a free consultation, call me at 717-334-6009.

A get well recipe

Dr. Bonnie Portier
Emmitsburg Osteopathic
Primary Care Center

While the flu season rages on and vaccines are being sought out and received, you may have noticed there are plenty of other sinus and lung infections out there along with the flu. It is my philosophy that a comprehensive approach is needed to promote health and tame illnesses. During cold and flu season, it becomes even more urgent to tend to our health by giving our body some immune booster supplements.

Yes, we could eat pounds of shrimp and cod to get enough vitamin D, few folks do, however. We could also eat 17 fruits and vegetables daily to ensure we get enough vitamin C, zinc and other nutrients to boost our immune system. We could also learn our recipes from India to make sure we put enough Turmeric and Cinnamon in our diet. We could also enjoy hot chili peppers to get the cayenne we need.

For those who seek a quick fix and a short cut, I present to you my basic recipe:

- Vitamin D 5000 IU's daily-it is better to do this in divided doses-half in the morning and half in the afternoon.
- Vitamin C 1000 mg twice daily-

now for those with kidney stones you may want to cut this in half and wash it down with 8 ounces of water each dose.

- Turmeric 500mg daily
- Cinnamon 500mg twice daily
- Calcium/magnesium and Zinc supplement twice daily

Remember all nutrients are food and so are to be taken with food and lots of water, not just a sip. For those of advanced interest, taking the oregano spice leaves or oregano oil capsule daily will actually treat bacterial and viral infections. Whether the oregano is in chicken soup or minestrone does not matter, it will still work.

Some in town have been growing fresh oregano. These would be good people to get to know and be extra nice to as they may be a good supplier for you.

I have a personal favorite recipe, I must warn all of you it is not for the persnickety! One box of button mushrooms one teaspoon parsley Two tablespoons minced garlic ¼ teaspoon red pepper or may use one chili Two tablespoons minced onions pepper Two tablespoons oregano ½ teaspoon celery salt Sauté in olive oil to personal desired softness Eat entire portion as a main meal and enjoy with green tea with lemon and honey. This is my favorite meal after I have been exposed to some nasty germs.



Jubilee

www.ShopJubileeFoods.com

301-447-6688

is your

Holiday Headquarters

The staff of Jubilee Foods would like to wish all of our customers
Happy Holidays and a Safe and Prosperous New Year.

Remember Jubilee for all your food needs and make the holidays less hectic!

We Have
**Vegetable Trays, Fruit Baskets, Cheese Trays,
Meat Trays, Steamed Shrimp, Oysters
& Much More To Make The Holidays Festive!**





"Thursday"
Senior Citizens' Day
See Store For Details

Holiday Hours:
December 24th 6 am - 5 pm
December 25th - Closed
December 31st 6 am - 8 pm
January 1st 8 am - 5 pm



Home Of
The Original
1-Day Meat Sale

ASTRONOMY/ALMANAC

The night sky of December

Professor Wayne Wooten

For December, the Moon will be full on December 2nd, the long night moon, up for 14 hours. The winter solstice occurs at 11:47 AM CST on December 21, 2009; this is the shortest day of the year. The first two weeks of December finds the moon waning in the morning sky, passing 5 degrees south of Mars on December 6th; both rise about 9 PM in the northeast.

The Geminid Meteor shower peaks on the morning of December 14th, so the waning crescent moon will interfere little with the approximately a meteor a minute fall of cometary debris from the NE. The very slender waxing crescent moon passes just above Mercury on December 18th low in the SW. The first quarter moon is high overhead on Christmas Eve, and on New Year's Eve, the moon is again full, a "blue moon", the second full moon in a month.

Venus lies too close to the Sun to see now, and will emerge into the evening sky in early 2010. Mercury joins Jupiter in the evening at midmonth, reaching greatest eastern elongation, 20 degrees east of the setting Sun, on December 18th, then rapidly retrogrades between us and the Sun by month's end. While Jupiter is the brightest object in the SW evening skies, it too will be swallowed up by the Sun in early 2010.

Saturn rises in Leo about 11 PM, but if you use a scope to look for the

rings, you find them very thin, almost edge on. Its equinox occurred last August, and the rings will gradually open up to 27 degrees in the next seven years. But our attention should be devoted to that bright red object in the NE after sunset, Mars. The faster Earth overtakes Mars on January 29, 2010, when Mars will be at opposition, rising in the NE at sunset and closest and brightest for the next several years.

Mars starts retrograding back westward in mid December, and will be magnitude -.8 with a disk about 13" of arc across by New Years, so that amateur telescopes will reveal its rapidly melting north polar cap and larger surface details. It will not however be nearly as close and large and bright as when it made headlines in August 2003.

The square of Pegasus dominates the western sky. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus" Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye.

M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million

light years distant. To the northeast, Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth. Check it out on a clear December evening, and see if the gorgon is winking at you. If so, then instead of being as bright as Polaris, Algol fade to be only as bright as kappa Persei, the star just to its south. Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster to rise, a sure sign of bright winter stars to come; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group.

East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance.

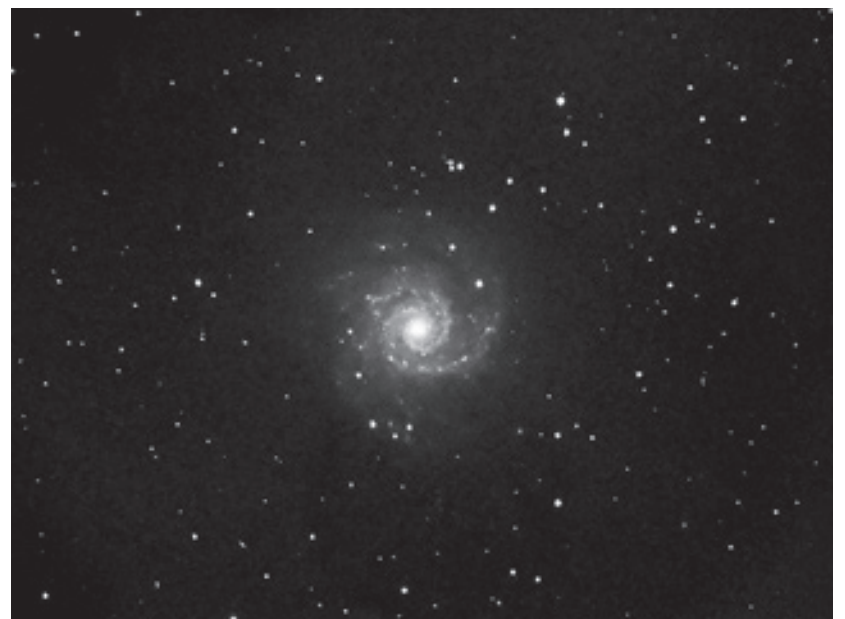
Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the NE sky until even brighter Mars rises about two

hours later. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here.

East of Auriga, the twins, Castor (closer to Capella, rising first about 7:30 PM as December begins) and Pollux highlight the Gemini. UWF alumni can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew of adventurers. As appropriate for the twins legacy, Castor is a spectacular binary star, split with good amateur telescopes at about 200X, and Pollux was recently found to have a planetary system

in orbit about it as well.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky by 8 PM. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. The three stars in a row that mark his belt have a Christmas association in Latin America. As "Los Tres Reyes", they stand for the three kings, bringing gifts to the Christ Child. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. In amateur telescopes, I rank it next of Saturn as the most beautiful thing in the sky. The bright diamond of four very hot, young stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster, visible even in 60mm refractors.



M74, the Classic Grand Design Galaxy

Farmer's almanac

Mid-Atlantic weather watch: Fair and cool (1,2,3) with rain or snow (4,5,6). Remaining fair but rather cold (7,8,9) with possibility of flurries or light rain (10,11). Fair, cold (12,13,14,15); snow in the northern region and rain in the south (16,17,18). Fair and cool again (19,20,21,22,23) with some lake effect snow, windy,

and colder temperatures (24,25). Fair and cold (26,27,28,29) and cloudy not as cold (30,31).

Full moon: December's full moon will occur on Wednesday, December 2nd.

Native Americans referred to December's full moon as the Cold Moon (for obvious reasons!) but it also has been known as the Beaver

Moon and sometimes Ice-forming Moon because beavers are quite busy trying to complete their dams and lodges before winter sets in and lakes and ponds freeze over with ice.

Holidays: Celebrate Christmas on Friday, December 25th and have a wonderful and safe New Year! Enjoy family and friend during this festive time and try to keep that joyful and giving spirit alive throughout the coming year. Enjoy some quality time with family and friends and watch a classic Christmas movie such as Miracle on 34th Street, A Christmas Carol, White Christmas, or the very funny, The Christmas Story. New Year's Eve is Thursday, December 31st. Make plans to attend a First Night Celebration and enjoy family-oriented fun, food, and entertainment on the very first night of the year. Look online at www.firstnight.com/cities and find one nearest you.

The Garden: If you can get to them, harvest any remaining root crops. Be careful not to step on the soil as that will compact it and damage its structure. Rake up all leaves and place them on a compost heap. When cutting evergreen foliage from the garden for Christmas decor, cut just above a bud. This ensures that no spurs will be left to encourage decay. Start rotating your houseplants so they get equal light on all sides.

Sewell's Farm... Creating Christmas Memories, From Our Family To Yours.

THOUSANDS OF TREES TO CHOOSE FROM ON 80 ACRES!

✦ Cut Your Own 6'-11' Fraser Fir, Douglas Fir, Concolor Fir, White & Scotch Pine
Starting at \$40⁰⁰ up to 8' - No Price Increase
Taller trees priced individually in field.

Starting Nov. 21st Open 8-5 Daily

- ✦ Fresh "Pre-Cut" Trees
We have the right size for you, including "cathedral" size up to 18'
Taller trees are priced cheaper this year
- ✦ Bring Your Christmas List
Shop at our country gift store, full of unique new gifts, collectibles, antique furniture and more
- ✦ Live Balled & Burlapped Trees
available for replanting 4'-5' tall
- ✦ Complimentary Hot Cider on weekends
- ✦ Handmade wreaths, roping and greens

SEWELL'S FARM
3400 Harney Rd., Taneytown, MD
410-756-4397
www.sewellsfarm.com

Rt. 15 N. to Rt. 140 E. Drive 7 miles to Taneytown.
Turn left onto Harney Rd. 1/2 mile on left.

David E. Little
Custom Painting
MHIC #41079

Get Your Home Ready In Time For The Holidays!

- Residential & Commercial • Interior & Exterior
- Power Washing • Free Estimates

11530 Simmons Road, Taneytown, MD 21787
(301) 447-2315

Law Office Of Andrew A. Quinn

- Business • Real Estate • Estate Planning
- Land Use/Zoning • Equine Law

P.O. Box 101, Taneytown, MD 21787
Ph: 410-259-5969 Fax: 443-927-8924
aquinn@quinn-legal.com www.Quinn-Legal.com

Quality Tire Service

17650 Creamery Rd., P.O. Box 117, Emmitsburg, MD 21727
301-447-2909
Ask For Bob

418A E. Baltimore St., Taneytown, MD 21787
410-756-4552
Ask For Dave

QUALITY TIRE SERVICE
TIRES & BATTERIES

Our Emmitsburg Location Will Be Closed From Oct. 30th to Nov. 15th. Please Contact Our Taneytown Location For Service During this Time.

PC questions & answers

Ayse Jester

Q: Is my operating system up to date?

A: For some of us we are either happy with our old computer, or a new one just isn't in the budget. But sometimes its good to ask the question, "how old is too old". Well today I am going to tell you just that. We still see computers that come into our shop that have Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows Millennium Edition, or Windows 2000. For those still running the operating systems mentioned above, read on to find out why they may be unsafe.

Microsoft continues to send out periodic updates for older operating systems to patch security holes and keep the system secure. The above mentioned operating systems are no longer receiving updates from Microsoft which means that any security holes are left open and will never be patched. For the user this means that any computer that is online with an un-patched operating system is extremely vulnerable for viruses and hacking.

Q: Where did all the toolbars at the top of my Internet Explorer come from?

A: We tend to notice when we open up a customers internet explorer that we can only see half the page due to the overabundance of toolbars displayed at the top. Most of the customers that we ask say that they don't know how those toolbars got installed or how to get rid of them. One way to prevent installing unnecessary toolbars is to pay close attention when installing programs. Programs such as Java which is a legitimate program needed for most internet websites, automatically check to install toolbars unless the user unchecks the installation box.

NOTE: Some antivirus programs have toolbars that will alert you when a website is infected, It is not recommended to remove your antivirus toolbar.

There are several reasons to remove the excess toolbars you do not use.

1. **Toolbars use of system resources such as memory**
2. **The use of toolbars takes up space and limits webpage viewing space**
3. **Toolbars sometimes have built in pop-up blockers which tend to block out things that you do want. If**

you don't know how to disable them, they can become a hassle.

4. **Some toolbars are actually adware or spyware. This is especially true for smaller search engines such as "my web search". Toolbars offering special services like the ability to print out coupons is probably spyware.**

If its too late and you already find yourself over encumbered by toolbars follow the steps below to remove the toolbar.

1. Click on start
2. XP USERS: Click on control panel (usually on the right side of the menu)

Click add /remove programs (click on "category view" on the left if this icon is not visible)

VISTA USERS: type programs in the search box and then click on programs and features in the area above the search box)

3. Find the toolbar in the list and click remove

Q: What is the noise coming from my computer?

A: There are some noises that come from your computer that may be normal and some

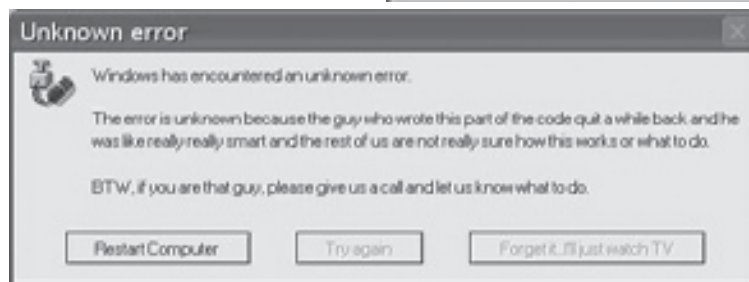
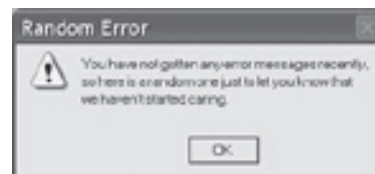
that may not be. If you are using the CD/DVD drive and notice that the drive is noise that may be normal. Some CD/DVD drives make a good bit of noise especially higher speed drives that require the motor to work harder to spin faster. If you are hearing a clicking noise (usually towards the front of the computer) that could mean that your hard drive is beginning to fail. If this occurs you should shut down your computer (this decreases the likelihood of causing more damage) and take it to a professional. If the sounds you hear sound like a rubbing noise or a high speed fan its possible that the bearings have worn on your fan. See the next question for other possibilities.

Q: Why is my computer shutting off?

A: The most common reason for computer shutting off (not re-starting) is due to overheating. Dust gets trapped inside the computer and tends to clog up the fans and heatsinks which are designed to keep the system cool. You can buy cans of air (do NOT use a vacuum) which can be use to spray out the interior of the computer. This should be done every 6 months or sooner if you notice that your system is dustier than others.

For more tips and suggestions sign up for the JCS Newsletter by sending an email to newsletter@jestercomputers.com.

If you have a computer question and would like to see your answer here send your question in to QNA@JESTERSCOMPUTER.COM.




The Majestic Theater is proud to present ...

THE LETTERMEN CHRISTMAS SHOW

Wednesday, December 9 - 7:30 pm

Tony Butala Donovan Tea Mark Preston

Singing the hits you grew up with and the holiday tunes you treasure!



The letter sweaters may only make a brief appearance at each Lettermen performance, but the harmony is non-stop. From their first hits in the 1960's "Put Your Head on My Shoulder", "When I Fall in Love", and "Theme from a Summer Place", through their current hits of today, the sound is undeniably Lettermen. 18 gold albums, scores of top singles, and more than 10,000 sold out shows attest to their popularity which has endured through several generations!

Tickets: \$42, \$38, \$35 Available & On Sale Now!

MICHAEL LONDRA A CELTIC YULETIDE

**Wednesday,
December 16 - 7:30 pm**

One of Ireland's best-known tenors & famous vocalist of "Riverdance on Broadway"!



Join Michael for a magical evening of heart-warming stories, beautiful songs and breathtaking dances from some of Ireland's finest performers. The glow of the Emerald Isle is guaranteed to send you into the winter's night, warmed by the spirit of a Celtic Christmas!

Tickets: \$42, \$38, \$35 Available & On Sale Now!

BUZZ JONES BIG BAND BIG BAND NEW YEAR'S EVE

**Thursday,
December 31 - 7:00 pm**

Ring in the New Year with one of Pennsylvania's premiere jazz orchestras!

Featuring the immortal music from The Great American Songbook and vocalist, Cathy Chemi. A special set of tunes from Pennsylvania luminaries Tommy Dorsey, Bobby Troup and Henry Mancini will add sparkle to an evening of entertainment. The dance floor will be open!

Tickets: \$40, \$36, \$33 Available & On Sale Now!





For Tickets or Gift Certificates Contact The Box Office at 717-337-8200
or visit our website at www.gettysburgmajestic.org
For Pre-Show Dinner Reservations Call Susan at 717-337-8239

25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325

LIBRARY NOTES & SENIOR NEWS

Holidays among the stacks

Caroline Rock

Considering the number of columns containing advice for the season, it is my hope that the Emmitsburg reader will indulge me as I offer my own recommendations for making the holidays joyful and memorable.

1. Use different colored ink and bright paper.
2. Don't marry yourself to raisins. Try things like cherries, almonds, or even chocolate chips.
3. Why limit yourself to the car and the kitchen. Ever been caught in the bathroom when the lights go out?

Oh! You thought I was talking about THOSE holidays! The truth is that I have always rooted for the underdog, the overlooked and discounted. The limping kitten pushed aside by its healthy littermates, the neglected sweater on the "last chance" sales rack, the one-hit wonder in the bargain cd bin, those are the things I seek out. So while everyone else is celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas/Hanukah, and New Year, I am feasting over Letter Writing Day, Oatmeal Muffin Day, and National Flashlight Day.

These three holidays have been overshadowed by the biggies for

too long. Now that I have been given this column and the freedom to write whatever I want, I am taking the opportunity to let the world know about celebrations they have missed.

It makes sense that National Christmas Card Day would fall in December (December 9). But a holiday much more personal and much more genuine is Letter Writing Day, December 7. Christmas cards were created for commercial gain in 1843. Today, if you select a Christmas card from a rack and mail it to Grandma, she is receiving one of 500,000 copies of that card. Wouldn't it be nice to sit down and write a letter to her, reflect on the year past and your memories of time with her, tell her your plans for the future? And I am not talking about a computer-generated form letter that you mail to dozens of people. I mean a hand-written, personal, original letter. A hand-written letter can become an heirloom, a treasure for future generations to marvel over, as well as bringing a bit of sunshine to a winter day. It is a lost art worthy of a holiday.

So why don't we get a day off work for this? Writing letters is time-consuming, unlike jotting your signature on a mass-produced card. Who will join me in lobbying for a government holiday that would cross all religious and eth-

nic borders—December 7, Letter Writing Day, a day to stay home and correspond the old-fashioned way? We can start by writing letters to Congress!

You would expect National Cookie Day to fall in December (December 4, to be exact). Baking and exchanging cookies for Christmas has been a tradition in America since before the turn of the last century. Cookies are everywhere in December, and well into January. Most of them are the same—chocolate chip, gingerbread people, snickerdoodles, sugar cookies. You can pick them up in a round, blue tin at the local superstore. This is why I prefer to celebrate Oatmeal Muffin Day.

Frank Zappa wrote, "There is naught nor ought there be nothing so exalted on the face of God's grey Earth as that prince of foods... the muffin!"

While not a fan of Zappa's music (or his grammar), I happen to agree that the muffin is an extraordinary food. And the oatmeal muffin, if I may pun, takes the cake. It combines the sweetness of a cookie with the texture of a bread. It is food enough to spurn sacchariferous frostings, sprinkles, and other barely edible gadgets. It can be eaten as breakfast, lunch, snack, or part of a healthy dinner. Can a cookie say this? Even a Christmas cookie?

On December 19, when others are rolling dough and scrubbing out their cookie presses, I will be pouring rich, oatmeal batter into paper muffin cups and singing beloved holiday tunes. "Do you know the muffin man..."

Of course the holidays wouldn't be nearly as festive without strings of vibrant lights, glowing lawn ornaments, and colorful candles. Light seems to be a theme at this time of year, with the days growing shorter and darker. But I shun the traditional ways to brighten a December in favor of the neglected and heroic flashlight.

It is no coincidence that National Flashlight Day falls on December 21, the Winter Solstice, the shortest day and longest night of the year. And the irony is not lost on me that December 21 is also National Look on the Bright Side Day. It is easy to combine these holidays into one big party.

The flashlight, invented in 1898, was originally conceived as a way to illuminate the way for a bicycle rider, or to see into the back of a closet with safety a candle could not offer. Today's model should really be called "Steady-light" since the "flashlight" was so named because it could provide only a brief burst of light before fading out. The flashlight is really a miracle, its conception dependent on the in-

vention of other devices such as the battery and the light bulb. People don't know or appreciate these facts, and so fail to celebrate the flashlight as they should on December 21.

Many would be tempted to use this day merely to check their batteries or replace the old flashlights with new ones. I challenge you to go beyond that.

Flashlights make very appropriate gifts and come in enough varieties that matching the light with the personality of the receiver is as easy and fun as Christmas shopping. Buy flashlights in an assortment of colors to match the rooms where they are most often kept. Then use them! Have a light beam battle. Go for a walk in the dark. Make shadow puppets. Take turns standing in the "spotlight" saying optimistic things. It's a holiday!

Now you have three important and meaningful holidays to consider. (And no fair combining them into one, writing letters in the dark with a flashlight while eating muffins.) There is no need to discard the ones you already celebrate. I challenge you to be creative. Find ways to incorporate these little known and commendable festivals into your December. Maybe you can find an even more obscure holiday to introduce to the world.

And no, I don't celebrate National Wear Brown Shoes Day on December 4. That would just be silly.

SENIOR NEWS

Emmitsburg

Tell the good news abroad that Christmas time is near! Children and grown-ups alike just can't wait for that special day. The center will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Dec. 24 and 25 and on January 1, 2010 for New Year's Day. Happy holidays!

Dec. 16-Christmas Bingo; please bring a wrapped gift.

Dec. 17-Christmas dinner at noon.

Dec. 23-Christmas party with punch & cookies.

The seniors (50 years and older) can join regular program activities and special events. Our lunch program is open to those 60 and older. Programs are held in the Community Center on South Seton Avenue. For more information call Linda Umbel, 301-600-6350.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Bowling: Mondays at Taneytown bowling center. Carpool; meet at center at 12:30 p.m.

Strength Training & Conditioning: Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. Dress comfortably, wear athletic shoes. Participants will use small weights. Free.

Bingo: Dec. 2 & 16.

Cards, 500, & Bridge Group: Dec. 9.

Men's Pool: Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Pinochle: Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

Canasta: Fridays at 12:30 p.m.

Shopping at Jubilee Foods: Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

Fairfield

The Fairfield Senior Center welcomes all seniors of the Fairfield, PA/Emmitsburg MD area. The Center is at the Fairfield Fire Hall, 106 Steelman St, Fairfield. Questions about activities? Call Cheryl Kulkusky at 717-642-6170.

Dec 9 - Making fresh greens Christmas flower arrangements, 10:30am

Dec 10 - Lunch at the Moose Lodge in Gettysburg, \$2.00, 11a

Dec 16 - Holiday Cheer program at the Gettysburg Senior Center, 11am

Dec 18 - Christmas Party! Bring a wrapped gift and a covered dish. 10:30am

Dec 24 & 25 - Closed for Christmas

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Exercise: Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, 9:30a-10:30. Dress comfortably and wear athletic shoes.

Pre-exercise Blood Pressure Checks by EMTs, 9:00a Mondays

Exercise Light: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30a - 10:30

Needlework: Mondays, 10:30a - Noon. Bring your knitting, crochet or other project - beginners welcome.

Hot Lunch: Tuesdays and Fridays at Noon, except for Special Events already noted.

Card games: your choice. Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30a - 1:30.

Games and puzzles and Wii: Thursdays from 9:30a - 1:30, except for Special Events

Chat Time: Wednesdays, 10:30a.

Emmitsburg Center for Dance -

A Program and Ministry of Elias Lutheran Church

Emmitsburg Center for Dance offers dance classes for children ages 3 and up under the instruction of Amanda Smith Breon. Classes are held at Elias Lutheran Church. We hope to give your children the opportunity to experience the art form of dance in a non-competitive, nurturing setting. Students will receive the benefits of physical exercise, self expression and creativity while interacting with their peers. For more information call Amanda at 301-447-3358 or e-mail her at a-smith1999@yahoo.com



GUITAR LESSONS

- *Acoustic *Electric
- *Beginners *Advanced
- *All Ages *All Styles

Taught by an instructor with over 20 years of teaching & performing experience

brent@brentpro.com

Call Brent Progecne
301-271-0860

Est. 1999
Classic Affairs D.J.'s
Elaine & Dennis Ebaugh

Wedding, Anniversary & Birthday Parties
1930's to Top 40

39 Federal Ave.
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
301.447.6440
E-mail: ebaughsr2@comcast.net

Karaoke available

Red Maple Builders

In Business Since 1998

Specializing in All Types of Home Improvement
Licensed & Insured

Quality Work Dependable Reasonable Rates
No Job Too Small

Don Ebaugh 410-756-2195 Tom Stenley 410-756-6403

UPCOMING EVENTS

Recurring Events

Bingo at the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company's Activity Building. Doors open @ 4:30pm games start @ 7pm.

December 3, 10, 12, 16

Willow Pond Farm's Holiday Luncheons. Luncheons begin at noon and are followed by a 45-minute workshop on cooking, crafting, and decorations with the herbs of Christmas. Call (717-642-6387) or email info@willowpondherbs.com to reserve your place.

December 4

Adams County Arts Council's student-teacher art show and sale. The show will feature works by participants in the Imagination Station's 2009 classes as well as by the instructors who taught the classes. Works will include paintings in acrylic and watercolor as well as drawings, pottery, photography and more. Refreshments will be served. Show starts at 6 pm

Gettysburg College's Wind Symphony Concert - Majestic Theater, 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg. For more information call - 717-337-8200. Show starts at 8 pm.

Mount St. Mary's Faculty/Student Recital featuring music for Flute and Jazz Piano Knott Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

December 5

Chambersburg Area Kennel Club All-Breeds Dog Show: Competition in many categories for dogs of all breeds with AKC judges. Open to the public, no admission. All-Star Funland, 2638 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg. For more information call 888-497-9386 or visit www.cakc.net

Mother Seton School's Breakfast with Santa and Holiday Bazaar. A fun morning of breakfast with Santa and also a great 'one stop shop' for your holiday gift giving. For more information, please call 301-447-3161.

Annual St. Joseph's Sodality Country Christmas craft fare - St. Joseph's parish hall. Breakfast & lunch will be available

Creagerstown St. John's Lutheran Church's Christmas Bazaar/Luncheon and in-door yard sale. For more information call: 301-898-7718.

Elias Lutheran Church's Annual Ham, Turkey and Roast Beef Supper and Christmas Bazaar.

Gettysburg College's Choral Ensemble Christmas Concert. Christ Chapel, 300 N Washington Street, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-337-6390

Carriage House Inn and the Town of Emmitsburg's 'an Evening of Christmas Spirit.' Emmitsburg town square. Town Tree lighting at 6, then on to The Carriage House Inn for caroling, rides on a horse-drawn surrey and hayrides through the town.

Quarter Mania! Vigilant Hose Company, Games begin 6:00 p.m. More fun than Bingo! Don't forget your quarters. Benefitting Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County Women Build. For more information call Lisa Wease @ 301-524-2315 or lisalabanana@yahoo.com.

December 6

Gettysburg Civic Chorus' annual free holiday concert at the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary Chapel. Entitled "We Wish You Christmas", this year's vocal celebration will include a wide selection of songs, some accompanied by a string orchestra, percussion, and guitar, guaranteed to bring joy to one and all. For more information call 717-642-0176.

Annual Emmitsburg Chorus Christmas Concert - Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Mount St. Mary's Instrumental Ensemble Concert . Knott Auditorium, 3:30 p.m.

December 9

Gettysburg's Majestic Theater presents: The Lettermen Christmas Show. Tony Butala, Donovan Tea, and Mark Preston sing the hits you grew up with and the holiday tunes you treasure. Show starts at 7 pm. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.com

Mount St. Mary's Student Instrumental and Vocal Recital Knott Auditorium, 4:00 p.m.

December 11

14th Annual Gettysburg Tuba Carol Fest. Tuba players from everywhere playing Christmas Carols on "historic" Lincoln Square in Gettysburg. Show starts at 7 pm. For more information call 717 334 7719.

December 12

Museums by Candlelight. An annual event for visitors to visit Frederick Coun-

ty's historic sites. The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton opens at 12 noon. This year the Basilica will host a concert, performed by Seasons, playing Christmas music with an Irish flair beginning at 3:00 p.m. For more information call 301-447-6606

Shine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Lighting the Memory Pathway. The Lighting the Memory Pathway is a fundraiser event where anyone may sponsor a light for \$10 or a star for \$25 through either St. Catherine's or The Daughters. Christmas carols by Mother Seton School students.

December 13

Second Sunday at Strawberry Hill. Come out with the family to enjoy nature while learning something new! Strawberry Hill Nature Center, 1537 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield. For more information call 717-642-5840 or visit www.strawberryhill.org.

Mount St. Mary's Advent Chorale Concert. Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, 3:30 p.m.

December 14

Geminid Meteor. Shower peaks on the morning of December 14th, a meteor a minute fall of cometary debris from the NE.

December 15

Mother Seton School annual Christmas concert and program. For more info: 301-447-3161 or www.mothersetonschool.org

December 16

Gettysburg's Majestic Theater presents A Celtic Yuletide with Michael Londra. The glow of the Emerald Isle from this show is guaranteed to send you out into the winter's night, warmed by the spirit of a Celtic Christmas. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.com

December 17 - 24

5 pm Strawberry Hill Nature Center's Nature Comes to Light. Come walk the trails at your own pace, with your friends and family to take in the beautiful winter light displays throughout the Preserve during the crisp holiday season. For more information call 717-642-5840 or visit www.strawberryhill.org

December 17

Strawberry Hill Nature Center's Winter Forest Walk. As the year grows colder, many nocturnal animals remain very active. We'll lis-

ten and look for some of our resident Barred and Screech Owls, as well as other nocturnal creatures. Strawberry Hill Nature Center, Fairfield. For more information call 717-642-5840 or visit www.strawberryhill.org.

December 20

Music Gettysburg! Presents: 'O Little Town: A Traditional American Christmas Celebrating the music of the holiday with favorites by familiar performers. Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary Chapel, 147 Seminary Ridge. Show starts at 7 pm.

December 21

Annual Monthly meeting of the Greater Emmitsburg Area Historical Society, Emmitsburg Library. Meeting starts at 7 pm and is open to the public. Come and learn about Emmitsburg Christmas traditions of old!

Dec 24 & 25

For Christmas Eve & Day Services & Mass, visit the Emmitsburg Council of Churches' section of Emmitsburg.net.

December 26

Hauser After Hours - "Voxology" - Contemporary Folk, Americana & Bluegrass! Warm food buffet, free live music by "Voxology", a cozy fireplace and great wines. Hauser Estate Winery, 410 Cashtown Road, Biglerville. The winery is located West of Gettysburg, right off Route 30 at the blinking light at Cashtown Road. For more information, please call 717-334-4888 or visit ww.hauserestate.com.

December 31

Gettysburg's Majestic Theater presents the Big Band New Year's Eve. Ring in the new decade with the immortal music from the Great American Songbook as performed by Pennsylvania's premiere jazz orchestra, The dance floor will be open so come out and join us for a night to remember. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

Gettysburg's New Year's Eve Celebration in Lincoln Square. Entertainment at downtown venues, fireworks and party. For more information call 717-334-5006 or visit www.adamsarts.org

For more information on these and other events, visit the Upcoming Events' section of Emmitsburg.net.

For Christmas service and mass schedule visit the Counsel of Churches' section on emmitsburg.net



Luann Battersby
Georgetown Law Graduate

(717) 642-6260



HOUSE CALL:
No Extra Charge!

Luann_Battersby@comcast.net
www.battersbylawoffice.com

Battersby Law Office

Pennsylvania and Maryland Attorneys

Since 1984 we have earned the trust of people in Adams and Frederick counties.

WILLS WEALTH PLANNING TRUSTS

Simple Will.....\$100

Living Will/Medical Directive.....\$80

Financial Power of Attorney.....\$80

AARP Members 5% Discount!

Also Available: Complex Wills, Trusts, Estate and Tax Planning

Right up the road a bit!

20 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA 17320

(301) 518-0423

Member:
National Academy of
Elder Law Attorneys, Inc. (NAELA)
AARP
Maryland Bar Association



MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!

Amid the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, may we all find time to prepare our hearts in peace and stillness for the coming of the Lord. Blessings to all of the Emmitsburg community and beyond!

Thomas H. Powell

Thomas H. Powell
University President



Campus Events

Celebrate Christmas at the Mount

Faculty/Student Recital

Friday, December 4

Knott Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring music for Flute and Jazz Piano by Claude Bolling, Gary Schocker, and Franz Doppler.

Instrumental Ensemble Concert

Sunday, December 6

Knott Auditorium, 3:30 p.m.

Student Instrumental and Vocal Recital

Wednesday, December 9

Knott Auditorium, 4:00 p.m.

Advent Chorale Concert

Sunday, December 13

Chapel of the Immaculate Conception,

3:30 p.m.

Please join us for our Advent Concert with a variety of Lessons and Carols for this Holiday Season.

Social Club Christmas Party at the President and Mrs. Powell's House
Monday, December 14

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

President and Mrs. Powell sponsor this social event for the general Emmitsburg community.

Open to residents of the surrounding communities of Emmitsburg, Fairfield, and Thurmont.

For inquiries about membership, please contact Ms. Corie Matijevec at 301-447-5772.

For more information on these or other events contact the Office of Communications at 301-447-5366.



16300 Old Emmitsburg Road
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

1.800.448.4347

www.msmary.edu

FAITH ÷ DISCOVERY ÷ LEADERSHIP ÷ COMMUNITY