



The Visitor

Volume 46 No. 1

January 2006

Special Dates

- **Winter schedule:** beginning Jan. 1 we will hold one morning service at 9 a.m., which will continue until Easter Sunday.
- **Sunday School** will be held at 10:15 a.m. during from Jan. 1 to April 9.
- **Communion** will be held Sunday, Jan. 1, at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- **Souper Bowl** of Caring will begin Jan. 15 until Feb. 5.

Inside this issue:

Birthdays	4
Calendar	5
Choir Notes	3
Council Notes	6
Military News	8
Nursery Schedule	3
Pastor's Page	2
Prayer List	4
Thank You	7
Worship Helpers	10
Youth News	9

How to Reach Us:
 Church: (814) 267-4795
 Church Office: (814) 267-5014
 Parsonage: (814) 267-6255

Offerings requested for new Boiler Project

At Holy Trinity's Annual Meeting on Nov. 20, it was approved by the congregation that the church will begin raising funds to replace the church's current heating system.

The new system, which would be made up of three smaller, separate boilers, would be much more efficient and cost-effective than our current boiler.

The motion approved



by the congregation was to allow for a new system that would not exceed \$30,000. Holy Trinity hopes to raise

these funds through member contributions and through various fundraisers.

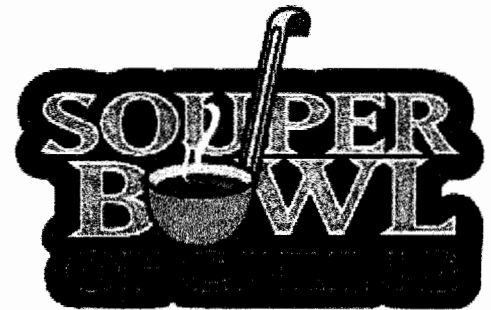
To make an offering to the Boiler Project, either mark your weekly envelope at the Building Box, or use a Special Offering Envelope and write "Boiler Project" on it.

For any questions regarding the project, call the Church Office at 267-5014.

Souper Bowl of Caring begins Jan. 15

Holy Trinity will again be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring, a joint project and friendly competition with our church partners in Berlin to combat hunger.

For four Sundays, beginning Jan. 15 and ending on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5, Holy Trinity will collect non-perishable food items (no #10 cans please). Cash offerings or checks may also be made as we join



in this national effort to help feed the hungry.

Holiday hours and deadlines for the Church Office

The Church Office will be closed Dec. 23, 26, 29, 30, 2005, and Jan. 2, 2006, for the Christmas

and New Year's holidays.

Bulletin deadlines will be **Wednesday, Dec.**

21, for the Christmas service, and **Tuesday, Dec. 27**, for the New Year's Day service.

Sermon Series Planned for Early 2006

During January and February I will preach a sermon series based on the national religious bestseller "The Case for Faith." Based on Lee Strobel's forceful explanation of the strongest objections to Christian faith, I will give the biblically based answers to these often voiced objections.

The schedule for this sermon series is printed below:

Jan. 1: Since Guilt and Suffering Exist, God Cannot



From the Pastor

Jan. 8: Miracles Contradict Science, They Cannot Be True

Jan. 15: Evolution Explains Life

Jan. 22: So God Isn't Needed

Jan. 29: God Isn't Worthy of Worship if He Kills Innocent Children.

Feb. 5: It's Offensive to Claim Jesus is the Only Way to God

Feb. 12: A Loving God Would Never Torture People in Hell

(Continued on page 3)

ALPHA NEWS

Starting January 12 and continuing through March 16, Pastor John Harmon will introduce the new Alpha supper series, "Living Faith."

Produced by Tom Wright, a leading Orthodox Episcopal

Bishop, he will present a brief but engaging overview of Christianity. The presentation involves and intriguing presentation of the essence of the Christian faith, often dialoging with two noted Lutheran leaders. Marla Sherpe, an educator in Minneapolis, and Rev. Joel Quie, a pastor in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The format resembles a conversation on "Oprah," but the content is much deeper.

Our series will begin at 7 p.m.



Alpha

in the Sunday School section of the Sanctuary and conclude with coffee and dessert over discussion in the Fellowship Hall. As with other Alpha and Alpha support series, there is no

charge, but the text of the presentation may be had in book format for an modest cost of \$9.

The schedule appears below:

Jan. 12: The Story & Message of the Bible

Jan. 19: The Hebrew Scriptures

Jan. 26: The World, Life & Ministry of Jesus.

Feb. 2: The Gospel Testimonies to Jesus

Feb. 9: Paul and the Outward

(Continued on page 3)

Light in the darkness

We who claim to be children of God live in a far too violent world. Terrorism, war, random killing and sins too horrible to describe appear all too frequently in the daily news. As Christians what can we do?

In another dark time, just before the outbreak of World War II, King George VI of England went on the radio to offer a Christmas message of encouragement for his people. As part of his remarks, he read a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins entitled "God Knows."

Here's a portion of the poem:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied, "Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!"

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone east.

We may not always be able to dispel the threatening darkness, but we can walk through it with God for as long as it lasts. Let us remember these words from the popular hymn:

This is my Father's world.

O let me ne'er forget

that though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the ruler yet.

("This Is My Father's World" by Maltbie D. Babcock)

**D e a r
Members,**

Thank you to everyone who helped with all the special music during

December. It is always a treat to have extra voices join the choir. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a blessed new year.

Senior Choir practice will continue at 6:30 p.m., and Adult Bells at 8 p.m. Wednesdays.

Maria Mowry
445-6742

A Note from the Choir Director

Sermon series

(Continued from page 2)

Feb. 19: Church History is Littered with Oppression and Violence

Feb. 26: I Still Have Doubts, So I Can't Be a Christian

March 5: The Will to Believe

If any of these questions have bothered you, come and hear the Christian defense and invite a friend.

Pastor John W. Harmon, D. Min., can be reached at the Church Office at 267-5014, or at the Parsonage at 267-6255. He can also be emailed at htelc@wpia.net.

ALPHA NEWS

(Continued from page 2)

Movement

Feb. 16: A Brief History of Christianity

Feb. 23: Christian Doctrine and Beliefs

March 2: Other Religions and Beliefs

March 9: Growing in and Sharing Christ

March 16: Living Christianity in the World

If you would like to register for this series, call the Church Office at 267-5014.

Epiphany: Three Kings Day on January 6

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, the arrival of the three kings or wise men. The three kings were the Gentiles who "came from afar" to offer gifts to the Christ child. The meaning of the event is that Jesus came as Lord not only for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. Christ is the



Savior of the world — the whole world.

Three Kings Day — or Dia de los Reyes in Spanish — is celebrated in many places around the world on January 6. Last year in Phoenix alone, more than 25,000 Latinos and others celebrated Three Kings Day. During the festivities, there are parades with camels bearing the "kings," toys are given to children, food is shared and folk dancers perform. Many women bake bread with a miniature plastic Jesus inside each loaf. The person who ends up with the figurine is obliged to host a party for others on February 2, Candlemas Day.

Flowers, bulletins may be donated

Altar or chancel flowers may be donated in memory of a departed loved one, in honor of someone or to recognize a special milestone (anniversary, birthday, etc.). The suggested donation for flowers is \$22. If you are interested, please contact Louise



Ream at 267-4844.

Sunday bulletins may also be donated in someone's memory or honor. The suggested donation is \$20. If interested, please call the Church Office

at 267-5014.

Special dates

- New Year's Day, January 1
- Epiphany, January 6
- Baptism of the Lord, January 8
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 16
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25

Birthdays - January

- 1 Marie Bender, Jim Black, McKenna Broderick, Missy Miller
- 2 George Walker Robert Bittner
- 4 Burton Baker, Joseph Bonus, Colleen Maust
- 5 Cameron Bell, Ray Engleka, Lee Hoffman
- 6 Sheree Blubaugh, Dwight Maust
- 7 Joy Gardner
- 8 Krista Long, Rebecca Woida
- 10 Dave Countryman, Mildred Countryman
- 11 Betsy Stern
- 12 Lauren Lapinski, Edie Shipley
- 13 Bryan Schrock
- 14 Linda Leverknight, Carline Mitchell
- 15 Breanna Fisher, Korina Kralik
- 16 William Baker, Carolyn LaBute, Violet Zorn
- 17 Chelsea Amert, Leanne Heiple, Judy Little
- 18 Adam Barton, Max Dull, Winona Farber, Katie Fisher
- 19 Debbie Custer, Melissa Suder
- 20 Troy Glotfelty, Don Noakes, Rocky Ohler
- 21 Emily Farber, Natoli Farber, Tracy Schrock, Scott Woida
- 22 Robert Glessner, Cliff Horner
- 23 Scott Marker, Pastor John



Our Church Family

- Harmon, Wendy Morgan, Bill Shipley
- 24 Brett Bittner
 - 25 Mary Borg, Wesley Coleman, Patricia Smiley, Zack Vena
 - 26 Jackie Bowman
 - 27 Lindsay Ohler, Gerald Johnson
 - 28 Bonnie Beeman, Landon Hoppert, Turner Paul
 - 29 Eric Berkey, Rodney Crites, Brentson Harding
 - 30 Josana Baraniak
 - 31 Jennifer Gardner

Anniversaries - January

- 1 Dave & Trudy Baker
- 21 Dave & Linda Countryman
- 25 Jim & Lynn Suder
- 26 Gerald & Ethel Walker
- 28 Norman & Carol Croner

Additions/Corrections

If you have any additions or corrections, please call the Church Office at 267-5014.

News in our Congregation

BIRTHS: Michael Andreas Slope, the son of Steven and Arica Slope, was born Dec. 1, 2005.

BAPTISM: Jennifer Countryman, the daughter of Michael & Carol Countryman, was baptized Dec. 11, 2005.

NEW MEMBER: We welcome Jack Weighley, who transferred his membership to Holy Trinity in November.

DEATH: Our sympathy goes to the family and friends of Nancy Froehlich, who passed away Dec. 10.

Prayer List

As of December 14, 2005

HOSPITALIZED: Ray Adams, Somerset; Dorothy Bittner, Genesaught; Lillie Bracht, Somerset; Scott Miller, UPMC, Pittsburgh; Bill Ringler, Somerset

RECOVERING AT HOME: Burton Baker, Douglas Blubaugh, Eleanor Brck, Don Cober, Joyce Cober, Rich Cook, Marie Countryman, Betty Croner, Natoli Farber, Ronald Fisher, Susan Ferguson, Faye Glessner, Joyce Hummel, Gerald Johnson, Bob Landis, Mary Nicklow, Paul Pritts, John Ream, Kaye Ann Shuek, Lois Smith

RESIDING IN NURSING/PERSONAL CARE HOMES: Trudy Baker, Ferné Brant, Emma Carver, Phyllis Cober, Paul Glass, Romayne Harkcom, Cary Harmon, Ella Hittie Lee Hoppert, Jane Schrock, Betty Smith, Wayne Suder, Mary Zorn

PRAYERS REQUESTED: Pastor Walter Brandau, SPC Ryan Brant, Charlotte Chonko, SFC Tim Chonko & Family, SPC Elmer Contreras, David Dupstadt (Sr.), Bob Egolf, Randy N. Engle, Bill Farber, Cpt. Brian Fisher, AIC Kyle Fochtman, Cyndi Frankel, Justin, Hannah, Hunter and Nicholas Gerber, Gordon C. Gladden, Alexandra Gonzales, Staff Sgt. Ron Helm, Alec Hillegass, Carolyn Hittie, AIC Travis Hummel, John, Emily Kalaha, Brandon Lape, Kedrick Lapp, Joan Lowery, Constance Makin, R. J. Maust, Sgt. Benjamin Meese, Bobbie Jo Miller, Maryssa Nicklow, Cliff Pile, Jesse Pritts, SPC Nathan Richards, Pat Saylor, Rose Shumaker, Tracy Stahl, PFC Aaron Stockwell, Ethel Thomas, Dan Weighley

PRAYER LIST POLICY

If you or a member of your family are admitted to any hospital, please notify Pastor John or call the Church Office at 267-5014. Please also let us know when a family member or friend wishes to be removed from the prayer list.

We will keep names on the prayer list for one (1) month, unless we know the person is still ill because they are a member of our congregation or whoever put them on the prayer list calls to keep them on.

January 2006



Office Hours 9 AM to noon, Monday – Friday

• Office 267-5014 • Church 267-4795 • Parsonage 267-6255

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

New Year's Day 9 AM - C 10:15 AM - SS 4 PM - C 1	Office Closed 2	Needlepoint, Quilters and Knotty Knotters 6 PM Brownies 7:30 Prop. Use 3	6:30 PM - SC 7 PM - Youth Planning 7 PM - YOGB 8 PM - AB 4	5	Epiphany 9 AM - Jolly Quilters 6	7
Baptism of Our Lord 9 AM - W 10:15 AM - SS 8	9 7 PM - Cub Scout Pack Committee	Needlepoint, Quilters and Knotty Knotters 7 PM Council 10	6:30 PM - SC 7 PM - YOGB 8 PM - AB 11	7PM - "Living Faith" series begins 12	9 AM - Jolly Quilters 13	14
9 AM - W 10:15 AM - SS Super Bowl Pizza & Hoagie Sale Begins 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Visitor Info Due 16	Needlepoint, Quilters and Knotty Knotters 6 PM Brownies 17	6:30 PM - SC 7 PM - YOGB 8 PM - AB 18	7PM - "Living Faith" 19	9 AM - Jolly Quilters 20	21
9 AM - W 10:15 AM - SS 22	23	Needlepoint, Quilters and Knotty Knotters 6 PM Brownies 24	6:30 PM - SC 7 PM - YOGB 8 PM - AB 25	7PM - "Living Faith" 26	9 AM - Jolly Quilters 27	28
9 AM - W 10:15 AM - SS 29	30	6 PM Brownies 31	Event Key SC = Senior Choir TOP = Tongues of Praise AB = Adult Bells YOGB = Youth of God Bells KFC = Kids for Christ Chimers Worship Key W= Worship SS = Sunday School C = Communion			

COUNCIL MINUTES

November 8, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Larry Shober. Pastor Harmon gave the prayer and devotions. A quorum was present.

The October minutes and the treasurer's report were approved as read.

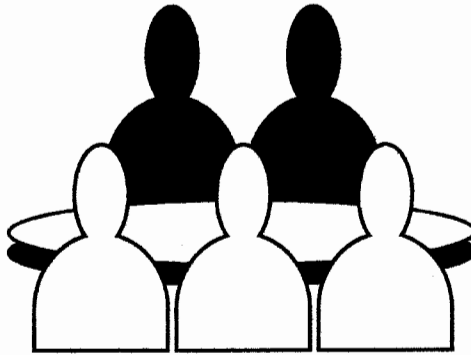
A motion by Lee Woida, seconded by Carol Leydig and passed to approve the 2006 Budget for vote by the congregation.

A motion by Doran Walker, seconded by Dave Meese and passed to present to the congregation one service for the winter months.

Nominees for council were named to be put on the annual meeting ballot.

A motion by Dave Marker, seconded by Carol Leydig and passed to support youth from our congregation and chaperones with the registration fee of \$235 for the National Youth Event in Texas.

Winter Fest event for 8th & 9th grades will be December 30, 31 and January 1. The cost per person is \$200. Council will revisit this issue at the December Council meeting to see if there is a need for support.



COUNCIL MEETING

Pastor Harmon is working on the Catechism Program and would like help from the congregation.

A motion by Dave Meese, seconded by Doran Walker and passed to approve the resignation of Bob Glessner and appoint Ron Yoder to the Board of Managers as recommended in the letter by Wayne Schrock, Board of Managers Secretary.

Pastor Harmon gave an update on ALPHA. The "Living Faith" program has arrived. Jim Burcaw is organizing the projector installation.

A motion by Dave Meese, seconded by Lee Hoffman and passed to approve the hiring of a cleaning service to maintain the basement floors and Sunday School rooms at the cost of \$50 per month if needed. This is a recommendation by the Property Use Committee. Motion opposed

by Lee Woida.

A motion by Doran Walker, seconded by Lenora Virtue and passed to approve \$50 for an ad for Christmas Eve and Easter Service.

A motion by Lee Woida, seconded by Tracey Kiesnowski and passed to donate \$250 to Meals on Wheels.

A motion by Dave Marker, seconded by Doran Walker and passed to adjourn.

Minutes submitted by Tracey Kiesnowski, Secretary

Annual Meeting Highlights

On Sunday, Nov. 20, Holy Trinity held its Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

Nominations for Council members, Board of Managers, Synod and Conference Delegates were approved and voted for unanimously. Council members are Alice Hummel, Tracey Kiesnowski and Lenora Virtue; Youth Representative will be Katlin Musser; Dave Long was voted in for Board of Managers and Lee Woida for Synod Delegate.

Pastor John Harmon presented the Ministry Review for 2005, and asked for volunteers to begin a History Committee. Doran Walker presented the 2006 budget, which was approved.

A motion was passed to approve replacing the church's current boiler with a more efficient heating system. Another motion was passed to hold one 9 a.m. service each Sunday beginning January 1, 2006. We will return to two services on Easter Sunday, April 9.

If you have questions, concerns, suggestions, or anything else regarding our church, please contact your council representatives (below). They welcome your input! Our suggestion box is located at the rear of the church, if you'd prefer that.

Alice Hummel	267-4977	Tracey Kiesnowski	267-7118
John Landis	267-5374	Carol Leydig	267-3869
Dave Marker	634-8563	Dave Meese	267-5131
Larry Shober	267-4042	Jim Suder	267-4825
Doran Walker	267-3253	Lenora Virtue	267-6486

Youth Representative: Katlin Musser

Dear Church Members,

I would like to thank you for the cards and altar flowers you sent me during my recovery from the accident. Everything is much appreciated. I could feel and hear the prayers everyone sent my way. I know this helped me during my recovery. My family members that attend the Lutheran Church certainly have a wonderful spiritual family, and you have extended that to me. Thank you again. Love, Sheri Trulick

Dear Holy Trinity,

Thank you so much for the cards, calls, Pastor John's visit and all of your warm greetings during Richard's injury. Especially thank you for all of your prayers, which we know work! Richard has a skin graft in mid-November which has been successful thus far -- and your thoughts and prayers have contributed to this miracle. Many thanks to all of you. Warmest



regards to our church family,
Deb Cook

Dear Crusaders Class,

Thank you so much for all your help and for the wonderful meal. You really did so much to make the day a very special one for our parents on their 60th anniversary. You truly are a great group of people. Family of Leon & Elmira Knepper, Amy Petenbrink

Thank you for your recent gifts to the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal, providing both immediate and long-term assistance to children, families and whole communities around the world and close to home. Your generous gifts were designated for ELCA Domestic Disaster

Response and our relief and long-term rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Katrina, and the South Asian Tsunami relief. Thank you for your commitment to bring help and hope to people and communities in great need. - Kathryn Sime, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Greetings from Seminary Ridge and hearty thanks from the Seminary family for your recent gift for the Annual Fund (Line Item) and for the Thrivent matching gift. Your support enables us to continue the traditions of leadership in theological education that are so much a part of this place and inspires us to find new ways to serve the Church. May you be richly blessed by our common ministry just as you inspire and bless us. - Emried D. Cole Jr., Vice President of Seminary Advancement, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

Thank you for your congregation's gift for counseling in Somerset. We are sincerely grateful for your generosity and support of the services we provide. Sincerely, Pat Savage, President/CEO ALSM

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of our staff team here at Sequanota, I am happy to write this letter of thanks for your recent gift. Please keep the Sequanota ministry at a special place in your daily prayer life. -- Bob Williams, Executive Director

Thank You notes may be sent to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 507 Main St., Berlin, PA 15530.

Our Church By The Numbers

Treasurer's Report

	CURRENT	BUILDING
Balance 11/1	\$70,708.12	\$2,413.88
Receipts	\$8,772.67	\$2,773.00
Expenses	\$8,869.13	\$2,524.08
Balance 11/30	\$70,611.66	\$2,662.80

Attendance Average

	2005	2004
Worship	161	156
Sunday School	94	116

MEMORIALS

Endowment Fund

In Memory of Bertha Stahl:

Geneva Leydig

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Bertha Stahl:

Her Neighbors

The Engleka & Noakes Families

In Memory of David Riley:

Marie Bender

In Memory of Phyllis Broadwater:

Don & Sherry Noakes

Memorial Donations may be sent to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 507 Main Street, Berlin, PA 15530. Please include your name and address with the donation, along with the name of the person for whom you are donating and the fund in which you want it placed.

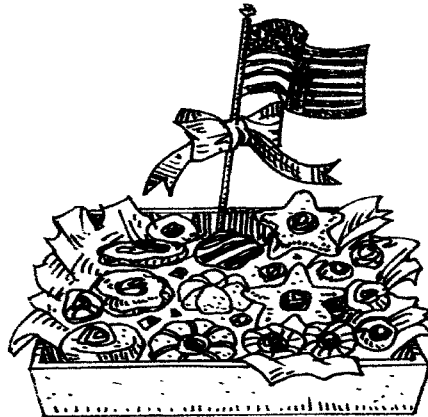
Dear members, family, friends and neighbors,

By the time everyone reads this letter, Berlin C.A.R.E.S. has been going strong for 10 months. We've had some come home from the war zone and others go over. Our son, Jason Gerber, is back at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Berlin C.A.R.E.S. will keep doing what we're doing until they all come home.

I want to thank the Pius Spring

Berlin



C.A.R.E.S.

Woman's Club for letting us sit at a table during their Home Tour and Bazaar. We sold some of our T-shirts and took orders for our cookbooks.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday.

Keep praying for our country and all of our military.

Peace,

Dorothy Gerber
Berlin C.A.R.E.S.

Our Area Soldiers Currently Overseas

PFC CHAD BOBORCHOCK
B-4320 FAR
4th BCT/101st AIRBORNE DIVISON
APO AE 09390-1504

SPC RYAN BRANT
B1-64 AR 2nd BDE 3ID
APO AE 09380

CPT. BRIAN FISHER
C CO. 1-187 IN
3RD BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION
CAMP SUMMERALL
APO AE 09393

AIC KYLE FOCHTMAN
506 ESFE ALPHA SECTOR
APO, AE 09359

SGT JOEL GUMBERT
CC 125TH FSB
TREATMENT PLATOON
3RD BDE 1ST AD 3RD ID
CAMP TAJI
APO, AE 09378

SSG RON HELM
B CO. 8-101 (96 AFB)
101 AVN BDE
CAMP SPEICHER
APO AE 09369

A1C TRAVIS HUMMEL
586 ESFS ALPHA CO. (NIGHTS)
CAMP BUCCA
APO AE 09375

SGT BENJAMIN MEESE
BRAVO TF 3-319
APO, AE 09355

SPC NATHAN RICHARDS
FOX TROOP 2-3 ACR
MORTAR PLT
CAMP SYKES
APO, AE 09379

STOCKWELL, AARON
C-1-103 AR 2-28BCT
CAMP TAQADDUM
(CAMP HABBANIYAH)
APO, AE 09381

SPC MICHELLE WILLIAMS
MNCI-259TH T-C/ M-C-T
APO, AE 09342-1400

Give a Little and Care a Lot: Items for Soldiers

FOOD STUFFS

Canned fruit — small ones with flip tops
Cereal bars, granola bars, etc.
Trail mix
Pre-sweetened powder drinks, instant coffee, tea bags
Beef jerky
Bag nuts, potato sticks, cans of chips
Snack cakes, packs of gum, bite-size chocolates
No homemade food — This is due to the concern and safety of the soldiers. Also no pork products.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

Baby wipes, small packs of tissues
Travel size toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo
Eye drops, adhesive bandages, cough lozenges,
Flip flops/shower shoes
Anti-fungal products for feet (creams, powders)
Combs, lip balm, cotton swabs, nail clippers
Writing paper, envelopes (no postage stamps)
Air fresheners
AT&T Universal Phone Cards
No aerosol products

