

# The Beacon

The Newsletter of  
St. Paul's  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
McConnellsburg  
Trinity  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
Fort Loudon

*"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."*

*Luke 24:46-47*

APRIL 2015

**Deadline for Feb. News**      **Wednesday, April 22**

**Church Pick-up/Email**      **Sunday, April 26**

**Postal**      **Monday, April 27**

*If you would like to get your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email with your name to:*

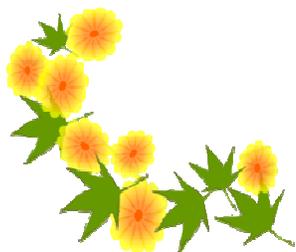
*mcbucc@embarqmail.com and help us save paper and postage.*



## NA Group Meeting at St. Paul's

A local Narcotics Anonymous group (NA) is now meeting at the church on **Saturday evenings between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.** They very much appreciate our support of their cause in helping local individuals get sober and stay sober.

In order to maintain a safe and anonymous environment for participants, church members are asked to refrain from entering the building during the time of the meeting.



## SpiriTrust Lutheran™ Home Care & Hospice

A local not-for-profit home care and hospice agency. **SpiriTrust Lutheran™ Home Care & Hospice** is in need of caring individuals interested in becoming **hospice volunteers**. Volunteers are needed to provide friendly visits, bake bereavement bread, share a special talent such as singing or playing music, and we are also in need of certified pet therapy volunteers. Free training is provided. Training classes will be held at SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice, 2700 Luther Drive, Chambersburg on **April 24th, May 1st and May 8th** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information about our volunteer opportunities or to register for upcoming training classes, please call our Volunteer Coordinator at [717-217-3520](tel:717-217-3520).

Thank you,  
Tammy Hawbaker  
Volunteer Coordinator

**The Fort Loudon-McConnellsburg Charge  
of the  
United Church of Christ  
228 North 2nd Street  
McConnellsburg, PA 17233**

Stamp

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

As we move into this interim period between Pastor Schmidt's ministry with you and our future ministry with a new pastor, I want you to know how pleased I am to be your Interim Minister.

It seems good to me that this interim period begins as we enter Holy Week. We observe special services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter, to remember the death and resurrection of our Lord on Easter. I hope you will join with us in worship as we remember how the Love of God visits us in Jesus Christ.

- Easter reminds us that in God's time there is always more to come for individuals and congregations.
- Easter is God's way of reminding us that death isn't the end—new life springs forth, new possibilities emerge, new directions open—for individuals and congregations.
- Easter reminds us that during this transition period we must take the time to look carefully and expectantly for new possibilities and new directions of serving as Jesus' disciples in the Fort Loudon/McConnellsburg area.



Wishing you and your families a most blessed Easter!

*Rev. Keith A. Tussing*

**This Month:** Let your green light shine: Consider becoming a Green Justice Congregation by completing the Green Justice checklist found on the Green Justice page of the conference website: [www.pccucc.org/resources/green-justice-team](http://www.pccucc.org/resources/green-justice-team). Submit the checklist by May 15 to the conference office to be recognized at this year's annual meeting. More importantly, shine your GREEN Light and be an encouragement to other congregations to do the same.

Here are two websites with more ideas and information for Green Justice Churches: [www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org) and [www.paipf.org](http://www.paipf.org) (PA Interfaith Power and Light).



From the February 2015 Penn Central Connection

## **EASTER**

*Then Jesus said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." Luke 24:44-47*

## What Does It Mean to Give More Than 100%

What can equal 100% in life? Let's find out. Begin by assigning numbers to the 26 letters of the alphabet. For example 'A' is number 1, and 'Z' is number 26.

### HARDWORK

$$8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$$

### KNOWLEDGE

$$11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$$

### ATTITUDE

$$1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\%$$

### LOVE OF GOD

$$12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4 = 101\%$$

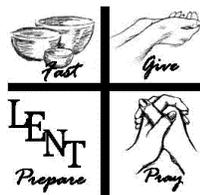
While Hard work and Knowledge will get you close to 100%. And Attitude will get you there. It's the Love of God that will put you over the top with 101%.

## Lenten Envelopes

During the season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday (**February 18**), Christians meditate on the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, to free us from our sins. This time is an opportunity for us to appreciate what Jesus has done for us, and to live more mindfully. Fasting is one way of making ourselves more aware of what we consume each day. It is an opportunity for us to sacrifice what we take for granted for the sake of others who need it much more.

At **Trinity**, the Lenten envelopes are designated to support the work of the local Salvation Army.

At **St. Paul's**, the money collected will go to Christian Social Services.



*(worthy of repeating)*

## Volunteers Will Need Clearances

Perhaps you have heard rumors that beginning July 1, 2015 an adult who is an unpaid volunteer having direct contact with children in Pennsylvania either at school, church or summer camps must have background clearances. It is not a rumor, it's true.

Since this State law (HB 435) is going to have an impact on our two congregation's Sunday School and youth programming activities, the Consistories are initiating steps to be proactive in dealing with this situation.

The Consistories are in the process of gathering information in order to clarify what clearances are needed and who within each congregation's programming would be directly affected. We will be staying in contact with various groups (like the Franklin County United Way) as they are sifting through all the various questions that are being asked in search of answers.

Part of our strategy is to also obtain all the various clearance application forms to have them available in the church office. Since there will be minimal fees, the Consistories may approve payments to assist our volunteers. The following clearances will be required: Child Abuse History Form, Criminal Record Check Form, and FBI Fingerprint Check Form.

Do not panic. Many of our church volunteers have these clearances because of their present jobs (school teachers, school aids, school bus drivers, employees of the Family Partnership, sports coaches). Clearances have been required the past number of years. This however is the first time churches are now required to screen their volunteers.

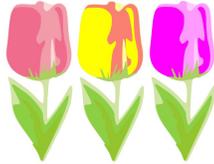
The Consistories will continue to be proactive preparing to adhere to the law, and to keep our membership informed.



## Trinity's Financial Update

Month	Received	Budget to Date	Expended to Date
January - February	\$9,806.88	\$12,111.16	\$9,097.14
Mar. 1-25	\$3,269.09	\$4,658.12	\$3,362.97
TOTAL YTD	\$13,075.97	\$16,769.28	\$12,460.11

Spring



### Secretary - Pam Carmack

buckpcar@embarqmail.com  
(717)-485-4795

### St. Paul's UCC

228 N Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233  
(717)-485-5554

mcbucc@embarqmail.com

Now on Facebook & [www.uccmccb.org](http://www.uccmccb.org).weebly.com

### Trinity UCC

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street

Fort Loudon, PA 17224

(717)-369-4773

[trinityuccftloudon.webs.com](http://trinityuccftloudon.webs.com)

[www.pccucc.org](http://www.pccucc.org) (Penn Central Conference)

[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

## It's Time to Think About 'Time'

God gives us life. God gives us time. So let's take some time to think about the time which God gives us. Here's what we know: time is simply a constant. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It moves along at the same rate. No one can convert time, or change time.

When we refer to managing time, we are really referring to managing ourselves in such a way as to optimize the time we have. It means conducting our lives and activities within the time we have available. We just cannot do everything with the time we have. Everything won't get done. So we find ourselves making choices. This means setting priorities. Focusing on the most important things first, and pushing the low priorities aside. This can require making some tough decisions. But the bottom line is that God wants us to use our time wisely.

Time is not like other resources in our lives. Time is our most important resource. You cannot buy it, rent it, steal it, borrow it, lend it, store it, or manufacture it. All we can really do is spend it.

The time God gives us is free. We do not have to buy it. We receive time by simply waking up in the morning and putting our feet on the bedroom floor. And everyone receives the same amount of time each day we are blessed to live on this earth.

Our time is our time. Other people may try to influence how we use it, but we have the final say on what we are going to do with our time. And don't forget: the way we spend our time paints a picture of who we are. So managing time means knowing how to manage ourselves.

It is important for us to use our time wisely and good planning helps. What are we going to do with our time, and who are we going to spend it with.

In the recorded ministry of Jesus, he offers many helpful suggestions on what we can do with our gift of time. He reminds us there is always enough time to do what is really important. But he also realizes that it is often difficult for us to know what is important. Even in the letters of Apostle Paul to the early churches, he shares lots of good and wholesome ways to make our time count.

I guess it's time to offer the advice that is often given to people who are celebrating their birthdays: "Don't count the years, make the years count".

*Submitted by Loy Garber*



## TRINITY CONSISTORY NOTES

Trinity's Consistory met on [March 10, 2015](#). We met with our custodian, Sharyn Zeis, to go over the updated custodial job description. A new copy of the agreement was signed by Sharyn as custodian and Rosie as Consistory President. Linda Best, as trustee, will be the correspondent with Sharyn over the year if either party has any questions or concerns.

The minutes and Treasurer's reports were both approved.

The Trustees reported that we have received a signed copy of the St. Luke's rental agreement good for the next 3 years. A list of jobs needing done around the church will be coming in April.

The Evangelism Committee reported that the following events will be taking place. [March 28th](#)- Food and clothing giveaway; [April 11th](#)- pot pie supper; [May 16th](#)- Spring Festival; [June 28th](#), [July 26th](#) and [August 23rd](#)- picnics at the pavilion after [Sunday School](#). Their next meeting will be on [April 13th](#).

Under old business, [March 22nd](#) is scheduled as our first day with the new interim minister, Keith Tus-sing. He will be available [Saturday](#) until [Tuesday](#) each week. It was decided to order 500 regular envelopes with the return address and church image on from Mercersburg Printing for any mailings for Trinity. The Memorial Fund is investigating alternative investment options.

Under new business, it was questioned what to do with our paper that we recycle since Pastor Valeria is no longer here to take it. We will look into this. The Penn Central Conference annual meeting will be [June 12-14](#) at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove. Early registration is [April 27th](#) and would save \$15 per person. Let Linda Best know if you are interested since she can register you online.

Under other business, there was more discussion about the requirements for security clearances when working with children. People working with Bible School will need clearances. These are good for 3 years and can be used in different organizations. Heidi Myers will make blank copies of the application. Please see her or Linda Best with any questions you might have. The trustees will be getting together to discuss the sign outside the front of the church and how we are going to update or replace it. We are going to look into having the organ tuned up.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the praying of our Lord's Prayer.

*Submitted by Kathy Hess, Secretary*



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Consistory Meeting March 17, 2015

Members present were Seleen Shives, Carol Mellott, Donna House, John Glazier and Pam Carmack. Members absent were Loy Garber, Kirk Cover, Hillary Alexander and Nancy Barmont.

Seleen Shives, Vice President was in charge of the meeting.

The minutes were reviewed and a correction/deletion was made to the 13<sup>th</sup> paragraph. The minutes were approved with correction on a Donna House, Carol Mellott motion.

Treasurer's report was reviewed; there were some highlighted entries which were discussed. On a Pam Carmack and Donna House motion the Treasurer's report was approved. Attached to these minutes.

One bill was presented to be paid, a second-hand refrigerator for the parsonage was purchased for \$445.00 from Ott Brothers. Prior to this meeting, the Church Women voted to pay this bill. No motion was needed. Cleaning and items needed for the parsonage is complete, the dishwasher is on hold. Church Women completed the purchase and replacement of the kitchen linoleum.

Christian Education is working on the summer plans. Church Women suggested that a survey be in the newsletter whether to do summer activities or regular Sunday School. Results will be made known.

The arrival of Rev. Keith Tussing was discussed; Donna House stated that the parsonage is ready. The next order of business for the search committee is the Assessment document.

The electricity has been moved back to West Penn Power, Denise had compared rates and advantages and West Penn was the best choice. Efforts are still ongoing to track the amount of gallons of oil used with the new furnace compared to last year and the old furnace.

Clearance application packets will be made available to all who need/want. They are on the window ledge in the social room upstairs.

Approval was given for Peggy Sheffield to mow both the parsonage lawn and the church/cemetery. The cost will be \$90.00 per mowing all three areas.

On a Donna House, John Glazier motion it was agreed to join the Fulton County Chamber of Commerce, the cost will be \$85.00 for 2015.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with all members praying the Lord's Prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Pam Carmack*

Treasurer's Report:

Total Income for February 2015	\$4,358.56
Total Expenses for February 2015	\$6,192.36
Interest Earned for February 2015	\$ 1.92
<b>NET LOSS</b>	<b>\$1,831.88</b>

## HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY

- 2 Paul Stevens  
Mark Washabaugh  
Shaylee Kuykendall  
5 Janis Cutchall  
6 Cindy Armstrong  
Jenna Armstrong  
8 Lori Rotz  
Gary Shives  
10 Amanda Daniels Neal  
12 Jo-Ann Sheffield  
13 Wilma Heckman  
14 Gene Bricker  
17 Dody Hopkins  
20 Dennis Carmack  
21 Tamela Mellott Bard  
Jillian Lassen  
23 Heidi Myers  
26 Reanna Jo Richards  
27 Meril Fetters  
28 Hayes Alexander  
29 Glenn Crouse



### St. Paul's Flowers

*Donna House and Mary Ellen Ott  
(485-4732)  
Thank You for Serving!*

### St. Paul's Ushers

*Thank You for Serving!*

### Trinity's Ushers

Corinna and Sam Rotz  
*Thank You for Serving!*

## PRAYER LIST

Family of Roger Byers  
Bob Carmack  
Bertha Byers  
Betty Daniels  
Dorothy and Paul Stevens  
Gary Stevens  
Gene, Elsie and Barb Bricker  
Joyce and Thurman Hassler  
Military and families  
Sponsored Children: Adrianus, Marc Philip,  
Thierry, Marcela  
Zeis family  
Jean McLucas  
Janis Cutchall  
Kylene McLucas Arwood  
Nancy Lawyer  
All individuals and families affected by cancer  
All Sunday school classes

*Please let us know of any changes, additions or  
corrections to the Prayer and Birthday lists.  
Thank you!*



# APRIL 2016

**Wednesday**

Trinity's Prayer and Praise, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, April 2**

*Maundy Thursday* Service at St. Paul's at 7:00 p.m. Communion

**Friday, April 3**

*Good Friday*

St. Paul's community service at Methodist Church in McCbg. from 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service at Trinity, 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 4**

Ruritan Community Egg Hunt, 2:00 p.m.  
at Community Center Grounds

**Sunday, April 5**

*Easter, Praise the Lord* Communion at Trinity and St. Paul's  
Community Sunrise Service Freedom Lighthouse Ministries  
in Ft. Loudon 6:30 a.m.

Community Sunrise Service at St. Paul's LUTHERAN Church  
in McCbg. 6:30 a.m.

**NO LUNCH AT ST. PAUL'S**

**Wednesday, April 8**

St. Paul's Church Women United meeting 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, April 11**

Pot Pie Supper, 3:30-6:30 p.m. at the Community Center, donations  
and **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

**Tuesday, April 14**

Trinity's consistory meeting 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 21**

St. Paul's consistory meeting 7:00 p.m.

*Wishing you*



*a Blessed Good Friday*

