



The Beacon

*“Jesus said: ‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.’”
Luke 12:32*

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

AUGUST 2014

Deadline for Sept. News **Wednesday, August 27**
Church Pick-up/Email **Sunday, August 31**
Postal **Tuesday, September 2**

*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.*



Women’s Retreat: “Faith Full Happiness”

Join us for a day of conversation, devotions and laughter on **Saturday, September 27**, from 9:00 to 4:00 at the Washabaughs’ farm on Breezy Point Road outside of McConnellsburg. The cost is \$10 including lunch. Please sign up at church.



Food for Thought

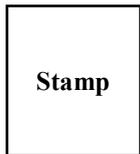
How many church members does it take to change a lightbulb? --- Change the lightbulb?!?
My late grandmother paid for that lightbulb!

This month: Air condition the green and thrifty way!

This summer has not been very hot, so this may be a chance to make some adjustments to your thermostat. Each degree that you raise the temperature will save you 3% on your electric bill. You do the math on how much money you could save! Use fans and open windows on the shaded side of the house to help keep you comfortable. Your fellow inhabitants of this planet will thank you.



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



Message from Your Pastor
“Jesus said: ‘Do not be afraid, little flock,
for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.’”
Luke 12:32

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is always fascinating to me how God’s Spirit is at work in everything that I do, read, and think about. *Trust in God* was a theme that somehow developed in my sermons throughout this year. And completely unrelated to that, I had been doing research on addiction by talking to people, visiting group meetings, and reading. In all of this, I realized how closely the two themes were connected, and how *absolute trust in God* is essential to anybody trying to live a life of faith, whether they have a history of addiction or not.

These are some of the twelve steps as published by Alcoholics Anonymous, that I am convinced we ALL need to take if we fully want to entrust our lives to God:

We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God.

Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

Continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.

Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

In her book, *Sober Mercies*, Heather Kopp (a recovering alcoholic) writes about her adult son who was struggling with addiction and depression, and how she was finally able to stop worrying or trying to save him, and to trust God fully:

“I could not trust God to keep Noah safe or alive or sober. Life had proved to me that God was not to be trusted in this sense. And for the first time ever, I wondered if He expected to be trusted for positive outcomes. If He even demanded to be.

What if God could only be trusted in a way that went far beyond simply trusting Him for any specific result? What if He could only be trusted *with* the outcomes, or despite the outcomes? What if He could only be trusted from the incomprehensible perspective of all eternity?

In which case, I knew what God was asking of me. God was asking me to hand Noah over. Give him up. Let go of him. Let him fall off the ledge. Not just for today, so God could keep him safe. Not just so that I could prove my faith or so that I could feel free from worry or doubt. But hand him over because I choose to trust God *no matter what*.

No matter what is a dagger to a mother’s heart. It means your only hope is to surrender all hope. *No matter what* is the place we don’t ever want to be forced to reach. And yet in some mysterious way I had. Either I trusted God with Noah’s entire life and death in a way that surpassed my limited understanding of what good would look like, or I didn’t trust Him at all.”

Either WE trust God with our entire lives and death in a way that surpasses our limited understanding of what good will look like, or we don’t trust God at all.

Life is a continuous lesson and exercise in trusting God. And when we get there, we will be free, and we will no longer be afraid.

God, help us to trust you fully, absolutely and completely, and take from us anything that may stand in the way.

May God bless YOU on your faith journey!

Pastor Valeria.

Pastor Valeria's Absence

From Monday, August 4 through Tuesday, August 12, Pastor Valeria will be traveling to our Native American Partner Churches on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota, with a group from Solomon's UCC in Chambersburg. Ryan Chamberlain will be preaching at both churches on August 10. Thank you as always to Loy Garber who will be available for pastoral care during this time. (Please call 485-4902).

Special Offering for the Truck Stop Ministry

The Truck Stop Ministry in Carlisle offers counseling and spiritual guidance to truckers and travelers from all over the country. Please support this ministry with your gifts on **Sunday, August 10**.

St. Paul's Kids' Summer Program

Our last summer program will be on **Thursday, August 14, at 6:00**. Thank you to Jennifer Brubaker for teaching the younger group! Sunday school will resume after Labor Day.

Let's Play!

Intergenerational Game Night at Trinity

Do you enjoy board games or card games but don't have anybody to play with? Or do you have to play with your kids all the time and would like to play with adults for a change? This is your chance! An opportunity for people of all ages to come together at church JUST FOR FUN. Bring your favorite game, and a friend. **Sunday, August 3, at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity.**

Trinity Goes Swimming

Ernie Gish has graciously agreed to let us use their pool again before the summer comes to an end. ALL (kids or adults, church members, family and friends) are welcome to join us on **Wednesday, August 20**, starting at **6:00 p.m.**, for a fun time! The address is 5625 Path Valley Road. Please see Pastor Valeria if you are willing to bring hot dogs, rolls or chips, and please bring your own drink.

How This Church Changed My Life

A Conversation with Elizabeth Kerlin

I was on the cradle roll and I started going to Sunday school at St. Paul's when I was just a little girl, with a nickel in my handkerchief. I always looked forward to getting the leaflet with a story to take home. When I was older, I attended Christian Endeavor on Sunday nights. Growing up with two brothers, it was nice to spend some time with other girls!

Years later, I got married at St. Paul's, my two children were baptized there, and my husband and I got to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary there. I always enjoyed overseeing the nursery on Sunday mornings and being involved in other church activities. It is a nice group of people and I've always felt comfortable with them.

Those are a lot of wonderful memories. Now I just take it one day at a time and I'm grateful for every day!

Blessing of the Backpacks

To St. Paul's kids: Bring your backpacks to church for a special Back-to-School-Blessing on **Sunday, August 17!** We will pray for a great year for you, your teachers and friends. Trinity's blessing of the backpacks will be **Sunday, August 24**.



Trinity's Peach Festival

Our fourth annual Peach Festival will be **Saturday, August 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Fort Loudon Community Grounds. Once again, we will have live music and entertainment for all ages.

Please sign up at the church if you are able to volunteer your time, or provide baked goods.



Craft vendors and home-based businesses, please contact Eileen Hornbaker for an application (496-4409).

If you are interested in participating in the **art show**, please contact Linda Best (369-2249).

Enter your peach pie in our **pie baking contest!** Contact Corinna Rotz (369- 4804) for an application.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- 7:00 a.m.** **Vendors set-up**
- 8:00 a.m.** **Breakfast served. Arts/Crafts/Home Based Businesses open**
Children's game booth opens. Giant peach open for photos
- 9:00 a.m.** **Art Show opens in Community Center**
Barrel Train rides begin
- 10:00 a.m.** **Farm Animals**
Blessed Friends on stage (Gospel music)
- 10:00 – 2:00** **MMPW Medic/Ambulance visit (free blood pressure checks)**
- 10:30 a.m.** **Pie Eating Contest (at pavilion)**
- 11:00 a.m.** **Wacky Wizard Magic Show on stage**
Chicken Barbeque is served
- 11:00 – 2:00** **Smoky Bear and Ranger Lynn on the premises**
- 11:30 a.m.** **Summer Peach Recipes (at pavilion)**
- 12:00 - 2:00** **Shippensburg Swing Band on stage**
- 1:00 p.m.** **Pie Baking Contest (at food stand)**
Craft with Gail Sacho (front room of Community Center)
- 1:30 p.m.** **Pie Baking Contest winners announced, followed by auction**
(at pavilion)
- 2:00 p.m.** **Festival closes**



Trinity's Financial Update

Month	Received	Budget to Date	Expended to Date
January - June	\$26,400.22	\$35,260.50	\$30,337.12
July 1-20	\$4,813.71	\$4,231.26	\$4,094.212
TOTAL	\$31,213.93	\$39,491.76	\$34,431.33

St. Paul's Financial Update for June 2014

Income \$6008.02
 Expenses \$8701.85
 Loss for month: \$2693.93
 Loss for year: \$3642.77

This month's expenses include quarterly payments for Pastor's Health Insurance/Pension, OCWM, Christian Social Services and the Building Fund, totaling \$6028.27.

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Secretary - Pam Carmack

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www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)

www.ucc.org

Secret Giving

Martin B. Copenhaver, from the UCC's Stillspeaking Daily Devotional

When you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so that you may give in secret." - Matthew 6:3-4

While a friend and I were waiting at the counter for our coffee, he asked, "Do you wait to put something in the tip jar until the barista can see you doing it?"

He went on to explain that he always makes sure that the person serving him sees that he is leaving a tip. But he questions his own motives. "On the one hand, it could be that I am just trying to get credit for leaving a tip (and I usually do get a nice 'thank you' in return). But on the other hand, the tip is also a way of expressing appreciation—and that is an interaction between two individuals. How can that interaction take place if she doesn't see me put my tip in the tip jar?"

To be sure, this is not one of the most pressing ethical issues of our time, but it is another example of our ambivalence about giving and secrecy. In church I have heard (and have probably said myself on occasion), "Your giving is only between you and your God." Really? Is giving an entirely private matter? What is the role of community and covenant? At the very least, we have to confess that there is a great distance between "having all things in common," as the early church did, and the affirmation that "giving is a private matter." That sheer distance should give us pause.

Most of us are quite good at justifying our approach to money. So if you are inclined to seek privacy in giving, consider that you may be trying to avoid accountability. And if you are public in giving, consider that you may be looking for praise. Hard to get it right? Of course. We are talking about money here.

Prayer

God, help me to think clearly about money—clearly enough that I know that it is most appropriate to begin with confession.

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY

- 2 John Glazier
 4 Fredrica Laxson
 Diana Rotz
 6 Sarah Gordon
 9 Mary Haubrick
 Nancy Walker
 11 Jeff Best
 Mike Best
 Tara Will
 13 Jody Shimer
 14 Jessica Long
 15 Carl Mellott
 19 Mahlon Shimer
 20 Laura Burns
 21 Angie Wood
 24 Edgar Hess
 27 Molly Fox
 28 Anna Rotz
 30 Michelle Baker
 Misty Strait
 31 Sally Cover



St. Paul's Flowers

Betty Daniels (485-4508)

Call the above person(s) if you wish to order flowers in memory/ honor of someone.

St. Paul's Ushers

Dave and Ruth Brubaker

Thank You for Serving!

Trinity's Ushers

Leah and Tom Hamil

Thank You for Serving!

PRAYER LIST

Family of Thelma Miller
 Bob Carmack
 Family of Warren Daniels
 Bertha Byers
 Betty Daniels
 Bob and Nancy Lawyer and family
 Dorothy and Paul Stevens
 Gary Stevens
 Gene, Elsie and Barb Bricker
 Harold and Betty Keefer and family
 Joyce and Thurman Hassler
 Military and families
 Sponsored Children: Adrianus, Marc
 Philip, Thierry, Marcela
 Zeis family
 Jean McLucas
 Diane Baxter
 Janis Cutchall
 Sarah Gordon
 Kylene McLucas Arwood
 All individuals and families affected by cancer
 All Sunday school classes
 Family of Susan Ott
 Family of Arnetta Mellott
 Family of Roger Byers

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



AUGUST 2014

Wednesdays	Trinity's Prayer and Praise, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 3	Game night at Trinity, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, August 4 – Tuesday, August 12	Pastor Valeria in South Dakota. Contact Loy Garber for pastoral care (485-4902).
Monday, August 4	Trinity's Peach Festival Committee meeting at the Community Grounds, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 10	Special Offering for the Truck Stop Ministry Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center
Tuesday, August 12	Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 14	St. Paul's Kids' Program, 6:00 p.m. <i>Joyful Noise</i> Band practice at St. Paul's, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 16	Trinity's Peach Festival at the Fort Loudon Community Grounds, 8:00 – 2:00
Sunday, August 17	Holy Communion Blessing of the Backpacks at St. Paul's Trinity's Special Offering for the Building Fund
Tuesday, August 19	St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 20	Trinity's Pool Party at 5625 Path Valley Rd, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 24	Blessing of the Backpacks at Trinity Trinity's Change collection for Hartman Center
Wednesday, September 3	Trinity's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m. Prayer and Praise, 7:45 p.m.
Sunday, September 7	St. Paul's Contemporary Worship. NO Salad/Sandwich Sunday
Sunday, September 14	Joint Worship and Picnic at the Garbers', 11:00 a.m.

