



# The Beacon

Jesus says: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21

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

**July, 2011**

## AUGUST Newsletter Dates

*Deadline* Monday, July 25th  
*Church Pick-up/Email* Sunday, July 31st  
*Postal* Monday, August 1st

*If you would like to get your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email with your name to [mcbucc@embarqmail.com](mailto:mcbucc@embarqmail.com), and help us save paper and postage. Thank you!*

## Fort Loudon Community Vacation Bible School

This year's Vacation Bible School will be held at Freedom Lighthouse Ministries from Sunday, July 10, through Friday, July 15, from 6:30 – 8:45 p.m. The theme is "Inside out & Upside Down on Main Street. Where Jesus makes a difference every day!"

## New Members' Class at St. Paul's

Anyone who has recently joined our church, is considering it, or is just interested in learning more about our denomination, the United Church of Christ, is invited to join our New Members' Class on **Sunday evenings: July 17, 24, and 31**, at 6:30 p.m.

## Food for Thought

Change is inevitable. Growth is optional.

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

Stamp

## Message from Your Pastor

**“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”  
Matthew 6:21**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Summer is traditionally a time of low church attendance. There are so many more exciting things going on than church services! Camping, weekend outings, games, family picnics... Nobody can really blame anybody for wanting to be outside and enjoying the summer. We all deserve a break.

On the other hand, going to church *is* a break – a break from work or family related stress, a break from the world and all its pressures and worries, a break from our own negative thinking. Sunday worship – ideally – is a time to replenish with vitality and hope.

A few weeks ago, on Pentecost Sunday, I asked the worshiping congregation to write down things they were enthusiastic about at church, and the gifts that they can contribute. It turns out, we have quite a few things to be enthusiastic about! Singing and music, caring and helping others, fellowship, and teaching children were only some of the things that were named. Those are all gifts of the Spirit, and if we share them, we will feel more energized and encouraged to do what God has called us to do.

Jesus says, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” In other words, if you invest something - your “treasure” -, then your heart will follow. Your care and concern will grow with the gifts you give, whether they are gifts of time, of talent, or of finances. Your treasure is the most valuable thing that you have. Jesus is asking you to give it to him.

Giving is a spiritual exercise. As a church, we are always asking you to give! Yes, we need your help in doing what Jesus called us to do, in the various forms of ministry that our church offers. And yes, we need your help in paying the bills. But giving is a spiritual exercise not because the church is asking you to give, but because YOU need that way of setting God as a priority in your life, setting him above material wealth, by giving your treasure and your heart to him.

To say it with the words of a well-known and loved hymn by Frances Ridley Havergal:

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days – let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
(Verses 2 – 4 are well worth reading and praying as well!  
Find them in our hymnal under #597.)  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour, at Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee, ever, only, all for Thee.  
Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart - it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne, it shall be Thy royal throne.

If this is your prayer from the bottom of your heart – and I believe it is – how will your actions and the use of your gifts reflect it?

Enjoy the summer, and put your treasures where your hearts are – with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours in His Name,  
Pastor Valeria

### **It Is Easy Being Green**

This month: **Air conditioning.** Cooling the hot outside air uses a lot of energy, which will be reflected in your utility bill. Save money and carbon dioxide emissions by turning the thermostat up a few degrees. Or on days that are less hot, try turning the AC off and just using the fan, a much more energy efficient and healthy way to stay comfortable. Can you make adjustments at your workplace?

### ***Strengthen the Church* Special Mission Offering on July 24**

Your gift to *Strengthen the Church* builds the UCC's future by funding the Stillspeaking Ministry, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation. Please support these various forms of ministry with your offering on July 24. Thank you!

### **Trinity's Peach Festival August 20**

On Saturday, August 20, Trinity will hold its First Annual Peach Festival at the Community grounds from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. In case of rain, the festival will be held inside the building of Freedom Lighthouse Ministries. There will be an art show, craft vendors, a food stand with Chicken barbeque and baked goods (peach pie, peach cobbler, peach sundaes...), musical entertainment, games for children, a pie eating contest and pie baking contest, pie auction, quiz, and much more. Save the date and watch for further announcements! For more information, please contact Anna Rotz. Our next meeting is Monday, July 18, at 6:30 p.m.

### **Peach Recipes Needed**

For Trinity's Peach Festival on August 20, we will prepare a booklet with peach recipes to be sold. If you have a recipe for anything made with peaches, please submit it to Anna Rotz or Pastor Valeria. Thank you!

### **Craft Workshop at St. Paul's**

In preparation for this year's Fall Folk Festival, we will meet again on **Saturday, July 9**, at 1 p.m. to work on our crafts. No skills or materials are needed – just come and join the fun! We are also gladly accepting donations of any kind of handmade crafts to be sold.

### **Summer Events for St. Paul's Kids**

While Sunday school is on its summer break, we will get together for a few fun events with our kids. On Tuesday, July 19, starting at 5:30 p.m., we'll have a **picnic at Cowans Gap**, and on Monday, August 1, a **pool party** at LouAnn Cunningham's, 2439 Peach Orchard Rd, at 5:30 p.m. Anyone, young and young at heart, is invited to join us! See Pastor Valeria for more information.

### **Trinity's Kids Go Swimming**

Ernie Gish has graciously agreed to let us use their pool again with our kids. ALL (kids or adults, church members and friends) are welcome to join us on Tuesday, July 26, starting at 5 p.m., for a fun time!

### **St. Paul's Care Team**

St. Paul's Care Team consists of a few very dedicated individuals who have been visiting some of our elderly church members. Recipients have responded very positively and appreciated us reaching out to them. They have done so much for our church in the past. Now it's time for us to do something from them. Please consider joining our Care Team in this important and rewarding ministry. Donate as much or as little time as you are able. Our next meeting will be on Monday, August 8, at 6:30 p.m.

### **Penn Central Conference at Harrisburg Senators Game**

All UCC churches are invited to watch the Harrisburg Senators play the Binghamton Mets at Metro Bank Park in Harrisburg on Saturday, July 30, at 7 p.m. Doors open at 5:30. Tickets are \$9.00, and \$1.50 from each ticket sold will be donated to Penn Central Conference's 4 Our Churches Campaign. The first 1000 kids through the gate will receive a Harrisburg Senators jersey and following the game all kids will have the chance to run the bases. Sign up at the church by July 17th or contact Pastor Valeria.

### **School Supplies**

We will put up collection boxes for school supplies at both churches to help local families in need. The churches in **Fort Loudon** will have their Back-to-School Rally on Saturday, August 13.

In **Fulton County**, the Catholic Mission will be giving out school supplies on Monday, August 22.

Any donations will be greatly appreciated. More information will follow in the bulletins.

### **Service for Coey Fritz**

On **Saturday, July 9**, a Memorial Service will be held at Trinity for Coey Fritz. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m., the service will be at 10:30, with interment to follow at Stenger Hill Cemetery.

### **St. Paul's Summer Barbeque at Ronnie and Donna House's**

On **Saturday, July 23**, there will be a barbeque picnic in Ronnie and Donna House's air conditioned shed at 585 Glenn Rock Lane, starting at 5 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages, rolls, water, plates, silverware and tables will be provided. Please bring a covered dish, your drinks, and a chair. The swimming pool will be open and a DJ will provide music. Please RSVP at 485-4732 by July 17.

### **Holy Spirit Wear at Trinity**

Trinity will be taking orders for Holy Spirit Wear which include t-shirt, crewneck sweatshirt, long-sleeved t-shirt, and tank top options. The attached design (see following page) is a rough sketch of what will be printed on the front of royal blue shirts. Bethany Crouse will be taking orders through July 10th, and Holy Spirit Wear is expected to arrive the first week of August. Payment is due at the time of order. Make checks payable to Bethany Crouse. Individual order forms will be available at Trinity starting June 26th. More information on fabric, brand, design, etc. can be found on the table outside the sanctuary at Trinity.

Sizes & Prices are as follows:

Adult T-Shirt (S-XL) - \$9.00

Adult Crewneck Sweatshirt (S-XL) - \$15.50

Adult Long-Sleeved T-Shirt (S-XL) - \$12.50

Adult Tank Top (S-XL) - \$10.50

Youth T-Shirt (XS-L) - \$7.25

Youth Crewneck Sweatshirt (S-XL) - \$13.00

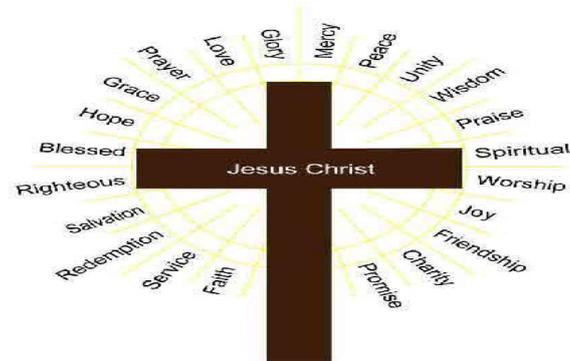
Contact Beth with any questions, orders, or additional sizes and prices.

Home: 717-369-2271

Cell: 717-360-3000

Email: [bncsnowball@yahoo.com](mailto:bncsnowball@yahoo.com)

## TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FORT LOUDON, PA



**May the Lord direct your hearts into  
God's love and Christ's perseverance.  
2 Thessalonians 3:5**

### Trinity's Finances

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Received</u>    | <u>Budget</u>      | <u>Expended</u>    |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jan-May      | \$23,918.16        | \$29,360.00        | \$23,348.75        |
| June         | \$4,344.12         | \$5,868.50         | \$6,063.70         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$28,262.28</b> | <b>\$35,228.50</b> | <b>\$29,412.45</b> |

All members are encouraged to regularly contribute to Trinity's programs over the summer months when attendance occasionally dwindles due to vacations. Your participation - both financially and physically - is crucial!

### **St. Paul's Finances for May 2011**

Total income: \$5,600.98      Total expenses: \$4,030.89      Income for month: \$1,574.89  
Total giving in May 2010: \$4,379.00      May 2011: 4,845.98

### **CONTACT US**

#### **Pastor - Rev. Valeria Schmidt**

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#### **Secretary - Pam Carmack**

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### **St. Paul's UCC**

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

## **CONTACT US**

### **Trinity UCC**

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

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

## **Happy July Birthday!**

|    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 3  | Stephanie Crouse |
| 9  | Jason Armstrong  |
| 14 | Jeff Lawyer      |
| 16 | Warren Daniels   |
| 17 | Preston Mellott  |
| 21 | Chelsi Hornbaker |
| 25 | Todd Alexander   |
| 26 | Thurman Hassler  |
| 31 | Barron Barley    |

## **Special Prayer List**

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Bertha Byers  | Diane Baxter         |
| Betty Daniels   | Janis Cutchall       |
| Betty Grissinger  | Family of Coey Fritz |
| Bob and Nancy Lawyer  | The people of Japan  |
| Dorothy and Paul Stevens                                    | The Middle East      |
| Gene and Elsie Bricker                                      | Mary Haubrick        |
| Gladys Williams   | St. Paul's Care Team |
| Joyce and Thurman Hassler                                   | Jean McLucas         |
| Liberty Crouse  |                      |
| Linda Litton  |                      |
| Linda Hoffman   |                      |
| Marie Parkinson   |                      |
| Military and families                                       |                      |
| Rev. Steve and Pat Robertson                                |                      |
| Roger and Lois Byers  |                      |
| Sponsored Children: Yonatan, Marc Philip, Thierry, Madeline |                      |
| Thelma Miller   |                      |
| Zeis family   |                      |
| Justin Hege, Justin Jr. and Blaze Hege                      |                      |
| Malcolm and Lorraine Richardson                             |                      |

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

## **St. Paul's Flowers**

Elaine Armstrong (485-5309)

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

## **Trinity's Ushers**

Leah and Tom Hamil

*Thank You for Serving!*

## **St. Paul's Ushers**

Skip Daniels and Donna House

*Thank You for Serving!*

## **Trinity Consistory Notes June 14, 2011**

By Linda Best

The flag at the front of the church has been moved to its new location thanks to Roy Hornbaker.

Information is still being gathered for a new sign for the front of the church. It is hoped that this project can move forward this summer.

The church sign on the corner of Route 30 and Main Street is ready to be installed.

A estimate to patch and seal the parking lot was solicited but more information will be gathered before a final decision is made on this project.

The Peach Festival will be held August 20 at the Community Grounds. Forms are available for set up of arts and crafts. In case of rain it will be held at the Freedom Lighthouse Ministries building.

The pavilion at Cowan's Gap will be reserved for June 10, 2012 for the church picnic.

Pastor Valeria has approval to purchase access to a Webinar about help for struggling small churches. The Webinar will be available for viewing the evenings of August 22-24 at the home of Anna Rotz for anyone interested.

Information will be solicited in order to determine whether the church should switch electric providers in order to save money.

There will be no meeting in July.

## **Stewardship Message: Christmas... in July???**

*"How can this be?" Luke 1:34*

In our congregation we often celebrate "Christmas in July," this year on the date five months away from Christmas Eve! We have fun singing carols in the summer and remembering that the birth of Jesus is about more than that one night and the secular celebrations that clutter December. We also encourage people to bring boxes of diapers for our local Diaper Bank to support those, like Mary and Joseph, who have babies and need some help.

Christmas in July is also a good opportunity to reflect on the meaning of this story apart from the Christmas crazies of December. When Gabriel told Mary she would bear this holy child, her first response was "How can this be?" On so many levels, this event seemed impossible. I love Mary's honesty, because we often have that same response, even in the church, to what we are sure God cannot do, or what we are sure *we* cannot do. Yet, as Mary discovered, if she was a willing partner with God, together they could change the world. That's still true. This July, whether or not your congregation celebrates Christmas, consider all that your church might be and do for its members and in its community. Don't ask Mary's question with disbelief or sarcasm, but with renewed commitment and energy. "How can this be? Let's find out!"

*Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.*

**July 2011**

God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

# JULY 2011

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday                         | Friday                           | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
|  |   |  |   |                                  | <b>1</b>                         | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b> Happy Fourth of July!                                  | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b> Prayer and Praise at the Lawyers', 7 p.m.  | <b>7</b>                         | <b>8</b>                         | <b>9</b> Memorial Service for Coey Fritz at Trinity, 10 a.m.<br>St. Paul's Craft workshop, 1 p.m. |
| <b>10</b> Trinity's Change Collection. Fort Loudon VBS at Freedom Lighthouse   | <b>11</b> Fort Loudon VBS at FLM                                | <b>12</b> Fort Loudon VBS at FLM                   | <b>13</b> Fort Loudon VBS at FLM                    | <b>14</b> Fort Loudon VBS at FLM | <b>15</b> Fort Loudon VBS at FLM | <b>16</b>   |
| <b>17</b> Trinity's Building Fund Offering. St. Paul's New Members' Class, 6:30 p.m.                                   | <b>18</b> Trinity Peach Festival mtg, 6:30p.m.                  | <b>19</b> St. Paul's picnic at Cowans Gap, 5:30p.m | <b>20</b> Prayer and Praise at the Lawyers', 7 p.m. | <b>21</b>                        | <b>22</b>                        | <b>23</b> Barbeque at Ronnie and Donna House's, 5 p.m.  |
| <b>24</b> Trinity's Change Collection. <i>Strengthen the Church</i> Offering. St. Paul's New Members' Class, 6:30 p.m. | <b>25</b> August news-letter deadline                           | <b>26</b> Trinity swim at Ernie Gish's, 5 p.m.     | <b>27</b> Prayer and Praise at the Lawyers', 7 p.m. | <b>28</b>                        | <b>29</b>                        | <b>30</b> Harrisburg Senators game, 7 p.m.  |
| <b>31</b> St. Paul's Salad Sunday. St. Paul's New Members' Class, 6:30 p.m.  | <b>1</b> St. Paul's Pool Party at LouAnn Cunningham's, 5:30p.m. |  |   |                                  |                                  |   |