



# The Beacon

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

*But Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter  
of my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and he answers me from His  
holy hill. Selah*

*Psalms 3:3-4*

February 2016

## Trinity Easter Flowers

Lily's, hyacinths and tulips, varied colors, \$8.99 and daffodils for \$9.99. All are potted plants and can be repotted. Contact Corinna Rotz if interested.



## Secretary - Pam Carmack

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## St. Paul's UCC

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## Trinity UCC

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

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

**The Fort Loudon-McConnellsburg Charge**

**of the**

**United Church of Christ**

**228 North 2nd Street**

**McConnellsburg, PA 17233**

**STAMP**

Pastor's Message February 2016  
St. Paul's UCC

As we begin Lent we look forward to Holy Week and Easter.

As you probably know, the children in our Sunday School have been raising money to send animals to impoverished families worldwide through Heifer International. You've seen the plastic bear up in the front of the sanctuary but you might not know that the children's goal is to raise \$1000 to purchase animals for children and their

To date, our children have raised \$550.00 and hope to reach their goal by Easter. The families receiving the animals become more self-reliant and are trained in managing and breeding the animals. Heifer International requires that the first offspring from the animals are passed onto another family – thus passing on the gift.

The success stories about families who participate in this program are inspiring. This is a wonderful way for our children to learn first hand Jesus' command to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and give generously to others as God has generously blessed us.

For over 70 years Heifer International has worked in the areas of livestock and agriculture to develop programs that alleviate hunger and poverty. Families receive a variety of animals -- cows, rabbits, chickens, goats, sheep, pigs, honeybees, geese, llamas, schools of fish, guinea pigs, donkeys, ducks, oxen, and my favorite, the water buffalo. The cost begins at \$10 and goes up to \$250 per animal depending on the type of animal.

The children and teachers are quite excited about this program and hope to reach their goal this Easter. Won't you join them in supporting this wonderful ministry that helps the poor and also allows our children to learn first hand what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Feel free to put a dollar or more in the red bear in the front of the sanctuary. Lent is a time for remembering Jesus' sacrifice and the generosity of our God. I hope you will join us during the Lenten Season as we worship and reach out to God's children throughout the world.

Pastor Tussing

## Children's Sunday School Program at St. Paul's Is Gaining Momentum

When 9:45 rolls around on a Sunday morning, there is lots of activity starting in the basement area of St. Paul's. Children gather around their little altar, Seleen Shives sits on the piano bench ready to play (or substitute Mary Haubrick), and the opening worship service gets underway.

Then it's off to their class areas to study the Bible lesson for the day, and to participate in other wholesome activities. In Hillary Alexander's class you will find youngsters from 1 to 4 years of age. In another corner of the basement is Jennifer Brubaker's class of 5 to 9 year olds. Jennifer also assumes a leadership role to help plan and carryout the Children's program with the assistance of the other teachers. In yet, another corner is JoAnn Sheffield's group of 10 and up students.

A computer center has been recently set up to provide the teachers another teaching tool to present their lesson material.

The children enjoy being with their Sunday School friends and the activities they share together. Even though their numbers are small (13 students), they are anxious to have other children join them.



## TRINTIY NEWS

### Child/Elder Sponsorship Program:

At the Trinity Congregational meeting it was agreed to sponsor an elderly person through the UCC Child/Elder Sponsorship program. Money to fund this will be collected the second Sunday of each month starting in February. This will replace the change collection currently being held the second and fourth Sunday. It is hoped that if each member of the church will donate \$1.00 per month it will be enough to fund the program which costs \$30-35 per month. If enough is not collected on the second Sunday, members will be informed so that a further collection can be taken. If you wish to know more about this program you can visit [http://www.globalministries.org/child\\_sponsorship](http://www.globalministries.org/child_sponsorship) The following are the two locations where the elderly are helped. A sheet will be placed in the hallway so that you can vote on which area to select. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile program.

#### **Elders at the Family Village Farm (India)**

The community of the Family Village Farm in Vellore, India includes elders who have no place to live and no income. The elders are part of "cottages" where three generations are a family unit. They act as grandparents providing wisdom, guidance and, most importantly, a nurturing figure in the lives of the children. The elders receive meals, medical care, shelter and a small stipend for their role in the cottage. Their spiritual needs are met by regular prayer meetings and worship time.

**Sponsorship:** \$35 per month

#### **Elders at the Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Centre (India)**

The elders at the Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Centre in Dharmasala, India have all lived and worked at the Centre as adults. The Centre is home for more than 650 Tibetan refugees, and many have lived there all of their lives. Some elders are frail or sick and have no family to care for them. Your sponsorship will provide food, shelter, care and hope to aging refugees.

**Sponsorship:** \$30 per month



#### **Sunday, February 7**

Souper Bowl of Caring collection for Maranatha Shelter

#### **Tuesday, February 9**

Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, February 10**

Community Ash Wednesday service, 7:00 p.m. Ft. Loudon United Methodist Church

#### **Saturday, February 13**

**NO** Church Women United meeting

Valentine's Family Night dinner, 6:00 p.m. meal provided, bring a dessert, sign up on hall table

#### **Sunday, February 14**

Joint Lenten study at Trinity, 6:30-8:00 p.m. "24 Hours That Changed the World", with refreshments,

#### **Tuesday, February 16**

Opening Collection for Senior Sponsorship through the UCC

#### **Wednesday, February 17**

St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Prayer and Praise at 6:30 p.m.

**Happy  
Valentines  
Day**

## TRINITY'S FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month	Received	Budget to Date	Expended to
Jan.- Nov.	\$58,578.71	\$66,661.38	\$52,994.00
Dec.1-20	\$ 4,902.81	\$ 4,608.06	\$ 2,645.09
Year to Date	\$63,481.52	\$71,269.44	\$55,639.09

February Beacon article deadline is  
**FEBRUARY 23, 2016.**



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## Trinity Consistory met on January 12, 2016

Due to lack of a quorum, no voting was completed.  
Opening prayer was given by Rev. Tussing.

The minutes and Treasurer's reports were both reviewed. The Deacon's report consisted of reviewing the proposed 2016 budget.

**Trustee's report:** There are two large fuses in a box in the front of the church. Jeff and Sharyn Zeis found that one had gone out and caused quite a few lights not to work. The electrical box is outdated and wiring needs to be redone. This could possibly cost as much as \$3,000 to replace. John Hornbaker could do the work. It would then need to be inspected upon completion.

The Evangelism Committee reported that our activity schedule for 2016 has been prepared to be included in the reports for the Annual Congregation meeting.

The pastor's report was reviewed by all.

**Old Business:** There was nothing new to report in reference to the Safe church policy and the search committee.

Linda presented an idea about a double sided sign for the outdoor sign in front of the church. It would be covered with plexiglass and show basic information such as the name of the church, times of services, phone number, etc. No prices have been gotten yet.

Linda has given copies of the weather cancellation list to those who are responsible for calling others when church is cancelled.

**Other business:** Linda presented information about using social media like Face book for the church. There are guidelines for best practices, what to do and what not to do. Linda forwarded this information to Bernice and a copy will be kept at the church.

Linda also mentioned that under UCC.org, there is a website about a sponsorship through global ministries. You can sponsor a child or an elderly person for \$25 - \$35 per month. All the funds go directly to the person.

We need a few more people to sign up for the 2016 trash removal.

Souper Bowl Sunday will be February 7th. We will have a special collection that day which will go to the Maranatha food pantry.

Our meeting was adjourned with the praying of our Lord's Prayer.

Kathy Hess, Secretary

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**  
**Consistory Meeting, January 19, 2016**

Members present were Loy Garber, Seleen Shives, Carol Mellott, Kirk Cover, Pam Carmack, John Glazier and Donna House, Hillary Alexander. Pastor Keith Tussing was present and opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented on a Carol and Donna motion. Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved, as presented, on a Pam and Kirk motion. Denise Grissinger was present to answer any questions, Denise stated that \$343.00 was collected on Christmas Eve in loose offering. On a Seleen and Hillary motion, it was approved to add to the amount from the general fund and donate \$200.00 to both the Christmas Fund and Hoffman Homes.

There were no new bills presented for payment at this time. Treasurer's report is attached to these minutes in the church office.

Committee reports: Pam reported that Church Women did not meet in January, they will be meeting in February. Christian Unity at the Fulton Theater will be January 31, 2016. Our church is responsible for the bread table.

Hillary reported for Christian Education, there will soon be a need for an additional class for the children, Jennifer's class has three older students that will be ready to move up. Hillary would also like to move into activity director, offering activities for the children outside of the Sunday school class.

A 32" television has been mounted on the wall in the computer area. Loy and Hillary tried it on Sunday, it is connected to one of the computers. To date the Sunday school's Heifer Project has collected \$459.28. They have set a goal of \$1000.00 by Easter, the end of March 2016.

Pastor Tussing's report was reviewed, a copy is attached to the minutes in the church office. Pastor and Kris Tussing also sent a thank you card to the consistory and congregation members for the Christmas gift.

Denise is continuing to track the fuel oil usage so that the consistory can be aware of the prices and amounts used. Denise Grissinger, treasurer, was present to discuss the 2016 budget, minor changes were made from the 2015 budget. Consistory approved the 2016 budget on a Donna and Seleen motion for recommendation to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 31, 2016. The budget committee was made up of the consistory Deacons, Carol Mellott, Seleen Shives and treasurer, Denise Grissinger.

Nominations to the consistory are Kirk Cover for Elder, David Krebbs for Deacon and Jennifer Brubaker for Trustee, these members were approved by the consistory on a Donna, Hillary motion for recommendation to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 31, 2016.

On a motion by Carol and Donna it was approved, after discussion, to donate \$200.00 of the available Memorial Fund monies to Jason Fox, Ft. Loudon who was involved in an automobile accident.

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On a Pam and Seleen motion, it was approved to order 2017 offering envelopes before 2/29/2016 to receive the 10% discount.

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Parsonage repairs were brought up in reference to the basement room with access to the driveway. Loy stated that the tiles are cracked, the ceiling tiles falling and dingy, light fixtures poor. Loy obtained an estimate from Buterbaugh Construction, LLC for the necessary repairs, a copy is attached to the minutes in the church office. After much discussion, it was approved on a Donna and Carol motion, to accept the estimate and have the work done. Pam Carmack abstained from the vote. On a Donna and Carol motion, it was also approved, that while Jason Buterbaugh is at the parsonage, he look at the upstairs bathroom and make recommendations for remodeling, Kirk also suggested it may be less expensive to add a new bathroom, incorporated into the large bedroom on the West side, rather than remodel the existing bathroom.

On a motion by Pam and Seleen, \$6,000.00 of the 2015 net gain of \$6,034.04 was approved to be transferred to the Building Fund for the anticipated repairs to the parsonage.

The parsonage fuel tank did not leak, the leak was between the tank and the concrete wall. The tank was replaced due to age, while the needed repairs were being made. Kirk also suggested that we check into McCleary's for service on the furnaces. They will be contacted to see if they are interested in taking us as clients and their phone numbers will be available in the church office.

Lenten study with Trinity will be discussed at the Joint Consistory meeting on January 31, 2016.

Respectfully submitted, *Pam Carmack*



### **Trinity's Annual Congregational Meeting**     January 17, 2016

Barb Hurst, Jeff Lawyer, and Glenn Crouse were elected to serve three-year terms on the Consistory.

Reports from various church groups were presented.

The treasurer's report for 2015 was reviewed. Although only 90% of the \$72,667.00 budget was received during the year, actual expenses totaled \$59,350.08, thus resulting in a carryover for 2016 of \$6,261.62.

A 2016 budget of \$72,070.00 was approved -- \$597.00 less than in 2015.

Pastor Tussing provided personal positive reflections on his past ten months at Trinity.

With the completion of payments on basement waterproofing (an apparently successful project), a new challenge awaits the congregation's attention. Members voted to proceed with substantial upgrades to the church's antiquated electrical system, resulting in a potential cost of \$5,000. This work will be done when warm weather returns and involves costly exterior components. Everyone is asked to consider making a special donation to the building fund to help cover these necessary repairs.

It was noted that the special collection for Jason Fox totaled \$252.00. Jason's surgeries following his December 14 accident have been completed, and he is now recuperating at home as he engages in therapy.

Average church attendance in 2015 increased slightly over that of the preceding five years. We pray that this trend will continue in 2016. The number of young people in Sunday school has also increased.

The congregation decided to change the beneficiary of our change collection for future years (see special article).

Thanks to all who organize and participate in church fundraisers. They provided 10% of the total church funding in 2015.

- 1 Cayla Rotz
- 3 Lois Byers
- 5 Barb Brown
- 6 Philip Burns
- Mike Rosenberry
- 7 Lana Pine
- 11 Betty Daniels
- 12 Jamie Hess
- 13 James Hannon
- 14 Jordon Strait
- 16 Wade Kulp
- 18 Joyce Washabaugh
- 19 Amy Gress
- 22 Morgan Barlay
- Corinna Rotz
- 25 Jason Fox, Sr.
- 25 Linda Best
- 26 Renee Baker Early
- Floyd Peck

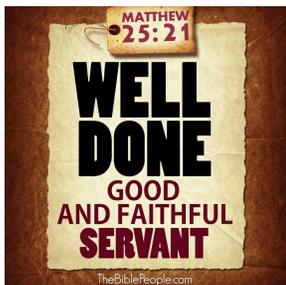


**Trinity's Ushers:**

*Eileen and Roy Hornbaker*

**St. Paul's Ushers:**

*Skip Daniels and Denny 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
- Diane Baxter
- Rosie Shives and Family
- Elaine Armstrong
- Nancy Barmont
- All individuals and families affected by cancer
- All Sunday school classes
- Our Church & it's ministries

***If you have any additions or corrections to the prayer list or the birthday list, please contact the church office.***

