

# The Beacon

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

Trinity  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
Fort Loudon

“Let this be recorded for a generation to come,  
So that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord.”  
Psalm 102:18

## FEBRUARY 2013

### For Those of Us Getting Older:

- \* Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.
- \* You feel like the morning after the night before, and you haven't been anywhere.
- \* Your “little black book” contains only names ending in MD.
  - \* You get winded playing cards.
  - \* Your children begin to look middle-aged.
- \* A dripping faucet causes an uncomfortable bladder urge.
- \* You know all the answers but nobody asks the questions.
  - \* You look forward to a dull evening.
  - \* You need your glasses to find your glasses.
- \* You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
  - \* You knees buckle but your belt won't.
  - \* Your back goes out more than you do.
- \* You have too much room in your house and not enough in your medicine chest.
- \* You sink your teeth into a good steak and they stay there.

### Newsletter Dates

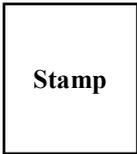
|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Deadline</i>             | Tuesday, Feb. 19 |
| <i>Church Pick-up/Email</i> | Sunday, Feb. 24  |
| <i>Postal</i>               | Monday, Feb. 25  |

If you would like to get your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email with your name to: [mc Bucc@embarqmail.com](mailto:mc Bucc@embarqmail.com) and help us save paper and postage. Thank You! \*\*\*\*\*  
**IF YOU RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE COPY BY EMAIL, JUST PRINT OFF THE FIRST.**

This month: **Dress warm.** Instead of cranking up the heat when it gets cold outside, put on an extra layer of clothing and save fuel oil and electricity!



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



## Message from Your Pastor

**“Let this be recorded for a generation to come,  
So that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord.”  
Psalm 102:18**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Do you ever get tired of being asked to do something for the church? Serve on Consistory, be an usher, teach Sunday school, help with meals, do repairs to the building... Yes, we ask a lot of you.

Do you wonder if I ever get tired of asking? Believe me, I do. It is frustrating because I know how busy you all are, and how hard you work. I know you have limits, and need time for yourself and your family. And I hate to be the one to take more of your time away from that, just as much as I am sure you hate to be asked, again, to do something for the church.

When you say yes, you wear yourself out. You look at everything you are already doing. (And you might wonder, well what about this or that person, why can't they do it?!) But if you say no, you feel bad, and you feel like you are letting the church down and are not putting Jesus first in your life.

It's a true dilemma. I found an article on this by Quinn G. Caldwell, one of the UCC's "Stillspeaking" devotional writers:

### Institutions Are a Pain

Sooner or later, every churchy person gets sick of the church. They get burned out and wonder whether this is all worth it. If you ask, you will find out that the problem is not with God or faith, but with the church as an institution. It's not God that wore them out, it's being asked to serve on another committee. It's not following the Gospel that did it, it's being the only one that ever mows the lawn. It's too many events, too much email, too many evening meetings.

Many find themselves longing for New Testament times, back when we were a movement instead of an institution. One guy said to me that he would much prefer to have lived under Roman persecution, because dying in the arena for your faith felt meaningful – unlike the church meeting he had that night. Institutions are a pain. They take lots of work and lots of maintenance. They can suck the life out of you, fast. Movements are more fun. They are exciting, engaging, enlivening. They also tend not to last.

The reason you know anything about the faith is that once upon a time, somebody in the Jesus movement realized they needed to set up a system to pass the faith on to the future. They poured themselves into the resulting institution. They did it not for their own gratification, but so that YOU would find out the truths they lived by. They measured “what was worth it” not only by their own sense of fulfillment, but by their hopes for you.

I'm not saying every committee meeting the church has ever held mattered; many of them didn't. I'm saying that all institutions are annoying (*and sinful. VS*). AND that the church is the one that brought your faith to you. So when you're feeling ground down by yours, right after you refuse to take on another task, but before you decide to quit forever, just remember this: the work you're doing is at least as much for your grandkids as it is for you.

And it will be worth it! May God continue to bless you and his church.  
Yours in His Name,

Pastor Valeria.

## Trinity Participating in Ezekiel Project

We are participating in Penn Central Conference's Ezekiel Project, to assess whether and how our church might be able to grow. To get a broader perspective, we would like to have as many different church members represent us as possible at the Sunday afternoon meetings. Please prayerfully consider whether you are able to get involved. A sign-up sheet with the different topics of each meeting is available at the church. This month's meeting will be on **February 17** (Member Assessment) and next month's, on **March 10** (Adaptation to Change Assessment).

## Notes from the January Meeting: Finances

Churches are in one of three possible modes:

**Thriving Mode:** Church is growing, a new ministry introduced every six months. Theological reasons are given when asking people for their money (rather than just saying: we need to pay this or that bill).

**Survival Mode:** Figuring out day by day how to make ends meet.

**Panic Mode:** Make changes to keep the church going.

It is better to be in Panic Mode than Survival Mode, because people realize the gravity of the situation and are willing to make any changes necessary.

Experience shows that people are willing to give their money to an organization that is *changing lives*. As a church, we need to show and testify to how we are changing lives, in Jesus' name.

If we are confident that we are changing lives, we should not be afraid to ask people to support our ministry. If **ALL MEMBERS** of a church gave 2% of their income, that would cover all of the costs.

Maybe this is an opportunity for all of Trinity's members to prayerfully consider what percentage of their income they are willing to give. Tithing (giving 10%) is recommended by the Biblical testimony, and is a high expectation. Has Trinity changed your life, or the life of someone you know? Would you like to see us change more lives? How much is that worth to you?



## New Consistory Members

At this year's Annual Meetings, three new Consistory members were elected for each church.

At Trinity, Jeff Lawyer was elected as Trustee, Kathy Hess as Deacon, and Rosie Shives as Elder. They will be installed in worship on February 3.

St. Paul's nominations, to be elected at Annual Meeting on January 27: Kirk Cover, Trustee, Nancy Barmont, Deacon, Hillary Alexander, Elder. Their installation will be February 10.

Thank you to all for your willingness to serve and take part in our church leadership.

Thank you also to those who have just completed their three-year term on Consistory: Jerry Armstrong, Barb Hurst, Jeff Zeis, and Sally Cover.

***Thank you for giving your time and dedication to Jesus, and our church.***

## Lions Club Dinners

This month, the Mt. Parnell Lions Club dinners will be served **Thursday, February 14 and 28**, at the Fort Loudon Community Center. **Help** is always needed. Please see Rosie Shives.





### Trinity's Valentine's Party

Trinity's Valentine Party will be held on Saturday, February 9, at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a covered dish, your place setting and everyone you love, and join us for food, fellowship, and fun!

### Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 3 (Super Bowl Sunday), we will take a special offering at Trinity for Souper Bowl of Caring, an organization that collects money for local charities that give out food to the underprivileged. For more information, go to [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org). The money we collect at Trinity will go to the Maranatha Center in Chambersburg to help local families and individuals in need.

### Lenten Envelopes

Lent is a special time of fasting, repentance and prayer. As we contemplate the suffering and hardships Jesus Christ went through, we try to give up some of our own luxuries or bad habits and re-focus on what really matters in our life.

Almsgiving traditionally is a part of fasting. When you spend less money on food (or any other item you consume less of), you have more to give. Our Lenten envelopes are a way of dedicating some of what we give up to those who need it more:

At **Trinity**, your donations will support the work of the Franklin County Prison Ministry.

At **St. Paul's**, they will go to Christian Social Services.

The envelopes will be given out on February 17, and we ask that you return them by Easter Sunday, March 31.

### Fort Loudon Community Ash Wednesday Service

Our Community Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 13, at 7:00 p.m. at Fort Loudon Methodist Church. Join us as we begin this special time of Lent together in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All members of St. Paul's or other churches are more than welcome to join us in Fort Loudon.

### Special Offering for Lancaster Theological Seminary on February 10

We will take up an offering for Lancaster Theological Seminary on February 10 to help educate future generations of UCC Pastors from the area. Lancaster Seminary also offers continuing education programs for pastors and interested lay persons. Please support their important work with your donation.

### Lenten Studies: "Just Eating? Practicing Our Faith at the Table"

**Just Eating?** While this phrase could mean *only* eating, the word *just* also means "being honorable and fair in one's dealings." This play on words captures a paradox that this curriculum addresses. Eating can be a mundane activity done with little thought or reflection; or it can be an opportunity to thoughtfully live our beliefs about justice — a vehicle for practicing our faith.

We will meet on **Sundays in Lent at 6:30 p.m., alternating between Trinity (February 17, March 3, March 17), and St. Paul's (February 24, March 10, and 24).**

## William D. Hays

The people of Trinity would like to express their sincere sympathy to the family of William D. Hays, who passed away in Chambersburg on January 18 at age 46. Our hearts and prayers are with his parents, Bill and Ann Hays, his siblings, Donna Keefer and Ed Hays, his nieces and nephews and friends. May God comfort and strengthen them. "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18)



### Trinity Collecting Christmas and Birthday Cards

If you are looking for a way to put old Christmas and Birthday cards to use, bring them to Trinity. Corinna Rotz has a contact who will send the cards to a native American reservation in Arizona where they will be reused. At St. Paul's, you may give them to Pastor Valeria.



### Trinity's Altar Flowers

If you would like to order flowers in honor or in memory of someone, please contact Barb Bricker, and please sign up on the sheet at the church to help her coordinate. A set of flowers costs \$25.00 and will be used for several Sundays. Thank you!



### Mission Project at Trinity

Around Christmas, the people at Trinity were very generous to help several families in need in an emergency situation. We would like this generosity to benefit our community in Fort Loudon on a regular basis. We will be giving out free food and clothing on two Saturdays this year: **April 20 and October 12, from 9 to 12 a.m.** We will be taking donations of food and clean clothing (adults and children's), bed linens and towels, **in good condition**, the week prior. Monetary donations will also be appreciated. Please mark these dates and consider if you might be able to help on those days.



### Trinity's Evangelism Committee

We are Trinity's "Mission and Outreach" Team: We plan fundraisers like the Pot Pie Suppers, but we also look for ways how we can reach out into our community. The mission project mentioned above is an example. If you have ideas and/or a passion for outreach, please join our team! We usually meet **Mondays at 6:30 p.m., our next meeting will be March 4.**

### St. Pauls' Mini Library

In the upstairs meeting room, there is a table in the corner by the stairs. Books that you want to share can be placed there for others to enjoy. If you choose to return the book when done, then someone else will be able to read it. The magazines that are shared do not have to be returned unless you think there is something of value to share with others in them.



## Trinity's Financial Update

| Month        | Received   | Budget     | Expended   |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Jan. 1-20    | \$2,259.12 | \$4,013.49 | \$3,441.37 |
|              |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | \$2,259.12 | \$4,013.49 | \$3,441.37 |

At the Jan. 20th annual congregational meeting, members approved the 2013 Budget totaling \$69,567.00, a reduction of \$275.00 from 2012. Thanks to everyone's support, 98% of our 2012 budget was achieved. Please continue to support Trinity in the new year in a similar manner so that the church can maintain its many programs which benefit the community and provide us all a place to meet our spiritual needs.

**Pastor - Rev. Valeria Schmidt**  
stpaulsparsonage@embarqmail.com  
(717)-485-3369

**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.uccmccbg.weebly.com](http://www.uccmccbg.weebly.com)

### Trinity UCC

P.O. Box 253  
13189 Main Street  
Fort Loudon, PA 17224  
(717)-369-4773

<http://trinityuccftloudon.org>

**www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)**

**www.ucc.org**

## AMERICAN CANCER DAFFODIL DAYS

The daffodil is one of the first flowers of spring, and symbolizes hope. Last year, 58 Fulton County patients and their families found help from the Society. Six volunteers drove 3 patients and made over 70 trips to get to treatment. The society also helped 18 local patients with other transportation assistance. Local patients learned how to cope with hair loss and skin changes at our Look

Good...Feel Better Class. Your contributions to the American Cancer Society Daffodil Days enable the Society to save more lives and create a world with helping people get well and stay well, by finding cures and by fighting back against cancer. Daffodil Sunday will be March 24th.

You may order daffodils by contacting Mary Haubrick at St. Paul's or call 987-3604. Orders must be received by **February 19**. Contributions can be made for the following:

**Bunch of 10 fresh cut daffodil flowers.....\$10.00**  
**Potted Mini Daffodil Bulbs..... \$12.00**  
**Daffodil Bunch plus a 7" vase..... \$15.00**  
**Boyd's Bear and Bunch of Daffodils.....\$25.00**

Contributions may be made in memory or in honor of someone. Bulletin inserts for ordering will be available beginning Feb. 3.



**Trinity will have their inserts in the bulletins on February 10 and 17. For additional details, see Rosie Shives.**

## ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY SUMMARY OF JANUARY MEETING

Submitted by: M. Haubrick, Secretary St. Paul's Consistory

Discussion and action was taken on the following:

- ✦ **MEMORIAL FUND:** \$40.00 available..no action taken.
- ✦ **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Hillary Alexander reported that classes are going well. New computer curriculum is very helpful. Additional volunteers requested as a substitute teacher when needed.
- ✦ **CHURCH WOMEN:** Upcoming events: Sunday Jan. 27 - Christian Unity Gathering @ Fulton Theater and our church is responsible for providing salads. Sunday, Feb. 3 - Soup Sunday following Contemporary Worship Service Annual church yard sale date set for May 17 and 18th.
- ✦ **2013 BUDGET:** Approved proposed 2013 budget to be presented to congregation at annual meeting on Jan. 27
- ✦ **LENTEN/EASTER:** Decided to order Lenten Calendar sheets to distribute to church members and activity sheets for the children. Designated the special Lenten Offering to be given to Fulton County Christian Services.
- ✦ **PASTOR VACATION DATES:** Approved vacation time for Pastor Valeria April 25 - May 1; and Sept. 16-29.
- ✦ **THAD AND ELSIE SHIMER TRUST:** Reviewed 2012 year report on the Thad Shimer Trust Account held with F & M. Trust. Questions and concerns were expressed about this account, and Mary Haubrick will contact attorney, Stanley Kerlin to seek advice concerning this.
- ✦ **DOWNSTAIRS HEAT:** Electric wall heaters are not working in basement, and the furnace is not supplying adequate heat due to thermostat being controlled upstairs in main sanctuary. Suggestions for an improved system were made by Kirk Cover. Estimates and feasibility will be presented along with input from Brian Mellott, electrician. Jonna Baker offered the loan of a ceramic electric heater in the meantime.
- ✦ **CHURCH ORGAN:** Music Emporium Inc. of Altoona has offered to set up an Allen Organ for a trial basis at the church on March 15.

### St. Paul's Financial Information:

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Income for December   | \$ 9,129.00   |
| Expenses for December | \$ 7,059.45   |
| Interest on Account   | 2.11          |
| Increase for Month    | + \$ 2,071.56 |

### Treasurer's Report

Think Warm



**Trinity United Church of Christ Fort Loudon  
Consistory Meeting Minutes  
January, 8, 2012**

**Trustees' Report:**

Glenn spoke with Ed Hamilton at Hamilton Mechanical about the possibility of installing a chimney from the boiler through the outside wall. In his opinion this would not work well with the boiler the church has due to its size. He gave an estimate of \$2,089.00 to install a chimney liner. This is higher than an estimate received from Jeff Rockwell from Laurich Builders. The consistory will recommend to the congregation at the congregational meeting that they contract with Jeff Rockwell to install the chimney liner for a cost of approximately \$1,800.00.

**Evangelism Committee Report:**

Pot pie suppers will be held January 26 and April 13.

On April 20 and October 12 there will be a Free Food and Clothing event held at the church.

Chicken Bar-b-que and baked goods will be sold at the church May 18.

**Old Business:**

Current nominations for consistory positions are: Rosie Shives, Elder; Jeff Lawyer, Trustee. The position of Deacon has not yet been filled.

Church Insurance: Glenn wrote the insurance company informing them that we no longer want flood insurance.

The next meeting for the Ezekiel Project will be held January 13 covering Stewardship/Financial Assistance.

**New Business:**

Lenten Envelope donations will go to the Franklin County Prison Ministry.

The Souper Bowl of Caring special offering will be held February 3. Proceeds will go to the Maranatha Center.

Pastor Valeria requested vacation between April 25 and May 1 and Sept 16-29, 2013.

**Other Business:**

Consistory members whose terms are ending, Jeff Zeis, Jerry Armstrong and Barb Hurst, were thanked for their service on the consistory.

There was some discussion about the cancellation of services because of snow. With Anna Rotz away it was decided that Linda Best would initiate the call for cancellation. The parking lot is currently not being cleared in a timely manner leaving it icy for church events. Other possibilities for snow removal will be pursued.

Valeria will have an updated membership list available at the Congregational Meeting.

Consistory members were asked to look for a cabinet on wheels to hold the new TV donated to the church at Christmas. It was thought to be impractical to attach it to a wall.

Glenn informed the consistory that the Ruritan Club will be holding a Pork and Sauerkraut supper in March.

Linda Best, Secretary

## HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

- 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  
 18 Joyce Washabaugh  
 19 Amy Gress  
 22 Morgan Barclay  
 Corinna Rotz  
 23 Jason Fox  
 25 Linda Best  
 26 Renee Baker Early  
 Floyd Peck



### St. Paul's Flowers

***Jonna Baker (485-5737)***

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

### St. Paul's Ushers

***Kirk & Sally Cover***

*Thank You for Serving!*

### Trinity's Ushers

***Roy & Eileen Hornbaker***

*Thank You for Serving!*

## PRAYER LIST

Bertha Byers  
 Betty Daniels  
 Betty Grissinger  
 Bob and Nancy Lawyer  
 Betty Fleck  
 Dorothy and Paul Stevens  
 Gene and Elsie Bricker  
 Harold and Betty Keefer  
 Joyce and Thurman Hassler  
 Military and families  
 Peg Gordon  
 Family of Rev. Steve Robertson  
 Roger and Lois Byers  
 Sponsored Children: Yonatan, Marc  
 Philip, Thierry, Marcela  
 Sandy Richards  
 Thelma Miller  
 Zeis family  
 Justin Hege  
 Justin Jr. and Blaze Hege  
 Lorraine Richardson  
 Jean McLucas  
 St. Paul's Care Team  
 Diane Baxter  
 Janis Cutchall  
 The people of Japan  
 The people in the Middle East  
 The people of Eastern Africa  
 All individuals and families affected  
 by cancer  
 All Sunday school classes  
 Those affected by Hurricane Sandy

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



# FEBRUARY 2013



- Wednesdays** Trinity's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer and Praise, 8:00 p.m.
- Thursdays** *Joyful Noise* Band practice at St. Paul's, 6:00 p.m.  
Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 3** St. Paul's Contemporary worship and Soup Sunday  
Souper Bowl of Caring at Trinity
- Saturday, February 9** Trinity's Valentine Party, 6:00 p.m. 
- Sunday, February 10** Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center  
Special offering for Lancaster Seminary
- Tuesday, February 12** Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 13** Fort Loudon Community Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m.  
St. Paul's Church Women United, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 14** Happy Valentine's Day! 
- Sunday, February 17** Holy Communion  
Trinity's special offering for the Building Fund  
Ezekiel Project in Harrisburg, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Lenten study at Trinity, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 19** St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 24** Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center  
Lenten Study at St. Paul's, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 3** St. Paul's Contemporary worship and Soup Sunday  
Lenten study at Trinity, 6:30 p.m.