



The Beacon

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

1 John 4:18

FEBRUARY 2014

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

**Trinity
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Fort Loudon**

Deadline for March News **Tuesday, February 19**
Church Pick-up/Email **Sunday, February 23**
Postal **Monday, February 24**

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.

Trinity's Valentine Dinner and Hymn Sing

Join us for dinner on **Saturday, February 15, at 6:00 p.m.** Please bring a covered dish, your place settings, and your loved ones! After dinner, we will move to the Sanctuary at 7:00 to sing some of your favorite hymns.

This month: Why Recycle? Part 2.

Recycling one ton of paper would save enough energy to power the average American home for 6 months, save 7,000 gallons of water, save 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one metric ton of carbon equivalent, save 17 mature trees, save 2 barrels of oil, and save 4,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. We have boxes to recycle your paper at both churches. Please use them! We also encourage you to recycle all paper in your home.

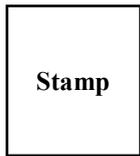


Lions Club Dinners

This month, the Mt. Parnell Lions Club dinners will be served **Thursday, February 13 and 27**, at the Fort Loudon Community Center. Help is always needed. Please see Rosie Shives.



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



Message from Your Pastor

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

1 John 4:18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the secular world, we have gone from the red and green of Christmas decorations to the red and pink of Valentine's Day.

The common theme between Christmas and Valentine's Day is LOVE: God's love for the world, and human love for each other.

There were many legends around St. Valentine before he became the patron saint of romantic love. He lived in the third century, when Christianity was illegal and Christians were persecuted for practicing their faith. One legend states that he married Christian couples and supported Christians, was then arrested and died a martyr.

A long time ago, I read somewhere that we make all of our decisions either out of fear or out of love. This has stuck with me and I believe it to be true. The motivation driving a choice are either fear: I need to protect myself and those I love, and prepare for the worst.

Or love: This (person, organization or cause) means enough to me that I am willing to give/do/sacrifice. St. Valentine clearly chose love and was not afraid to sacrifice his life for it.

I also believe that in churches, people are usually driven either by fear: How will we pay our bills and keep the doors to our church open? Or love: How can we spread the good news of Jesus to those around us? It is either one or the other. You cannot be motivated by fear *and* by love, because love drives out fear. Human love may be tainted by fear, but the love we have in Jesus is not. That's why John specifies that *perfect* love drives out fear. Human love is never perfect, but Jesus' is. In Jesus' love, there is only room for hope and for trust, and that is what enables us to give freely.

To illustrate my point, I am sharing this story told by Henri Nouwen:

Once there was a people who surveyed the resources of the world and said to each other: "How can we be sure that we will have enough in hard times? We want to survive whatever happens. Let us start collecting food, materials and knowledge so that we are safe and secure when a crisis occurs." So they started hoarding, so much and so eagerly that the other peoples protested and said: "You have so much more than you need, while we don't have enough to survive. Give us part of your wealth!" But the fearful hoarders said: "No, no, we need to keep this in case of an emergency, in case things go bad for us too, in case our lives are threatened." But the others said: "We are dying now, please give us food and materials and knowledge to survive. We can't wait ... we need it now!" Then the fearful hoarders became even more fearful, since they became afraid that the poor and hungry would attack them. So they said to one another: "Let us build walls around our wealth so that no stranger can take it from us." They started erecting walls so high that they could not even see anymore whether their enemies were outside the walls or not! As their fear increased they told each other: "Our enemies have become so numerous that they may be able to tear down our walls. Our walls are not strong enough to keep them away. We need to put bombs at the top of the walls so that nobody will dare to even come close to us." But instead of feeling safe and secure behind their armed walls they found themselves trapped in the prison they had built with their own fear. They even became afraid of their own bombs, wondering if they might harm themselves more than their enemy. And gradually they realized their fear of death had brought them closer to it.

Let us not be afraid like the hoarders in this story. Let us follow the examples of Jesus, St. Valentine, and all others who chose love over fear. And then, anything will be possible.

Yours, in the Love of Christ,
Pastor Valeria.

New Consistory Members

At this year's Annual Meetings, three new Consistory members were to be elected for each church. At Trinity, Jerry Armstrong was elected as Trustee, Ann Hays as Deacon, and Roy Hornbaker as Elder. St. Paul's nominees, to be elected at Annual Meeting on January 27, are: John Glazier, Trustee, Carol Mellott, Deacon, and Loy Garber, Elder.

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 serving on Consistory:

Linda Best, Sam Burns and Nancy Lawyer at Trinity, and Denise Grissinger and Paul Stevens at St. Paul's.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING AT TRINITY

On Sunday February 2, 2014 160 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 2. This year's donations will help fund our Free Food and Clothing Days.

Successful Shoebox Donations

Mary Haubrick reported that St. Paul's UCC filled 52 shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry. Several generous donation were also made to help cover the cost of shipping the boxes. Thank you to everyone for your generous support of this outreach ministry that touches the lives of children in need worldwide.



Bus Trip to Sight and Sound

A bus trip to see "Moses" at Sight and Sound in Lancaster is scheduled for **Saturday, April 12**. Tickets are \$114. Payments need to be received by the end of March. Please contact Martha Shelly for more information (call 328-3656).



St. Paul's Church Library

The church library is located at the end of the counter in the upstairs meeting room. There are books and magazines for the taking.



Special Offering for Lancaster Theological Seminary on February 9

We will take up an offering for Lancaster Theological Seminary on February 9 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.

Free Food and Clothing at Trinity

After our two events last year showed a need in Fort Loudon, we will again be giving out free food and clothing on two Saturdays this year: **April 12 and October 11, from 10 to 12 a.m.**

We will be taking donations of food and clothing (adult's and children's), bed linens and towels, **in good, clean condition**, the week prior. Monetary donations will also be appreciated. Please mark these dates and spread the word!

ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY SUMMARY OF DECEMBER MEETING

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

All consistory members present except Jonna Baker, Hillary Alexander, Nancy Barmont and Paul Stevens.

Discussion and action was taken on the following:

MEMORIAL FUND: Balance of the Memorial Fund currently \$140.00. No action.

CHURCH WOMEN: Church Women will be preparing salads for the Christian Unity Sunday at the Fulton County Theater on January 26, 2014. Saturday, Jan 11, 2014 is the date set to take down the Christmas Decorations at the church. The Women's Group will also be planning a Yard Sale on Thursday and Friday, May 15 and 16, 2014.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: A volunteer for the Nursery Class is still needed at times.

PARSONAGE ROOF: Project still pending, to be done by Buterbaugh Construction.

NOMINATION FOR NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS: Nominations for three new Consistory Members are needed. Terms expiring at the end of this year include Loy Garber, Denise Grissinger and Paul Stevens.

Loy has agreed to serve another term and will return as Elder. John Glazier has agreed to fill the Trustee slot, and Carol Mellott agreed to serve on the Consistory as a Deacon.

BUDGET FOR 2014: Denise Grissinger presented a detailed 2014 Budget proposal and the report was reviewed by line item. The Pastor's Salary was discussed, noting that Pastor Valeria had received only one increase from St. Paul's in her salary in the five years she has served our church. It was decided to recommend that Pastor Valeria receive a 6% increase in salary rounded to \$980.00 total for the year. The proposed budget will need approval from the church membership at the annual congregational meeting in January.

COMMUNICATION: A concern about the proper pathway for people to handle church issues/concerns/grievances with the goal of resolving those issues was addressed. Pastor Valeria pointed out that she would prefer that people would talk directly to her about their concerns, or if they do not feel comfortable doing so and approach a Consistory member, that the Consistory give her an opportunity to be included in the conversation. Loy offered several suggestions that could be implemented to prevent any misunderstanding and allowing a positive two way communication to resolve issues. It was the general consensus of consistory members present, that members be made aware they can bring suggestions, questions, concerns and grievances to the monthly Consistory Meeting.

WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION: After the yearly audit, the church received a \$106.00 refund from the Hartford Insurance company.

2014 CHURCH CALENDAR: Approved the proposed church calendar for the 2014.

DONATION A \$100 donation had recently been received payable to the church and directed for "charity outreach" After a discussion it was decided to give half of the donation to the Food Basket of Fulton County and the remaining half to the Ful. Co. Salvation Army.

SNOW REMOVAL: Doug Steiner is providing the snow removal for the church, and he had done an excellent job in having the sidewalks cleared after the snowfall on Sunday Dec. 15 to allow the Sunday School and Worship service to be held.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Unanimously approved that envelopes should be made available to ALL regular attending friends of the church.

ELEVATOR: The elevator lift problem that required a second service call in the last two months had been resolved. The problem was a "Sensor" part that was not properly aligned.

JOINT CONSISTORY MEETING: The annual Joint Consistory Meeting with Trinity of Fort Loudon has been scheduled for Sunday, January 5 at St. Paul's. Decided that Trinity Consistory members be invited to join us for lunch and then have the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Pastor Valeria said she would let Trinity Consistory members know of this.

CARDS AND NOTES: Consistory members individually signed a Christmas Card and thank you note for a recent donation to the church made by Frances Alexander Shoemaker.

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Trinity's Financial Update

Month	Received	Budget	Expended
Jan.-Nov.	\$59,168.03	\$63,769.75	\$56,889.87
Dec. 1-24	\$4,982.98	\$4,459.42	\$4,977.67
TOTAL	\$64,151.01	\$68,229.17	\$61,867.54

No updates at this time. Stay tuned.

Pastor - Rev. Valeria Schmidt

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(717)-485-3369

Secretary - Pam Carmack

buckpcar@embarqmail.com

St. Paul's UCC

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Now on Facebook & www.uccmccb.org

Trinity UCC

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Fort Loudon, PA 17224

(717)-369-4773

trinityuccftloudon.webs.com

www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)

www.ucc.org

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St. Paul's Financial Information

Treasurer's Report

Income for Nov.	\$ 4,649.00 *
Expenses for Nov.	\$ 4,508.36
Interest on Account	1.38
Gain for month	+\$ 142.02

* - The income for November included a deposit bequest from the Estate of Betty Grissinger in the amount of \$10,000.00. The Consistory voted to transfer this bequest to St. Paul's Building Fund.

Lutheran Home Care & Hospice is in need of caring individuals interested in becoming hospice volunteers. Volunteers are currently needed to provide friendly visits, bake bereavement bread, share a special talent such as singing or playing music and we are in need of certified pet therapy volunteers. Free training is provided. Training classes will be held at Lutheran Home Care & Hospice, Inc. on **March 12th**, 19th and 26th, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information about our volunteer opportunities or to register for upcoming training classes, please call Tammy Hawbaker, Volunteer Coordinator at [717-217-3520](tel:717-217-3520) or email: thawbaker@lutheranhomecare.org.

Trinity United Church of Christ Fort Loudon
 Consistory Meeting Minutes
 January 14, 2014

Trustees' Report:

The outhouse at St. Luke's church needs to be removed. It will be picked up by the Pine family for firewood.

Old Business:

The light bulb out back has been replaced.

There was a discussion about the missing tables. It was suggested to have a system to sign out tables and other church equipment so we know who has it and to request it back in a reasonable amount of time. Pastor Valeria, Rosie and Nancy (Anna if needed) will take an initial inventory of items. Then anyone wanting to borrow something can call the secretary of the Consistory to request permission and to have item(s) logged in a notebook. This would show who has it, what date they took it, and what item it is. A Consistory member will then be at the church when the item is returned and the secretary will be notified so she can notate this in the notebook.

Gladhill Services has given us a 2nd proposal for an alternate option for the basement. It was recommended to present their 1st option to the congregation at the annual meeting. The floor is almost clean but will need sanded before painting.

Glenn shared the funding changes summary for the 2014 budget which was completed after the joint consistory meeting. A motion to recommend the 2014 budget to the congregation at the annual meeting was approved.

New Business:

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday is Feb. 2nd. The money collected will be used toward the free food and clothing drive.

Literacy Council is now tutoring on Wednesdays since the church building is heated on Wednesdays for other activities.

The annual congregational meeting is January 19th.

Trinity's Mission Statement found in the Constitution and By-Laws (1998), Article II states our purpose:

“The avowed purpose of this church shall be to worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, to baptize, to make disciples, to celebrate the Lord's Supper, to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the Church Universal, to render loving service to humanity, and to strive for righteousness, justice and peace.”

It was suggested that this be printed in Sunday's bulletin for the congregation.

Other Business:

Scott next door is shoveling our sidewalks at no cost.

Glenn will try to give a new church pen to new people attending church.

Submitted by,
Linda Best

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Cayla Rotz
- 3 Lois Byers
- 5 Barb Brown
Ricky Lake III
- 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 Barclay
Corinna Rotz
- 25 Jason Fox, SR.
- 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

Dave and Ruth Brubaker

Thank You for Serving!

Trinity's Ushers

Eileen and Roy Hornbaker

Thank You for Serving!

PRAYER LIST

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



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

FEBRUARY 2014

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Wednesdays | Trinity's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.;
Prayer and Praise, 7:45 p.m. |
| Thursdays | <i>Joyful Noise</i> Band practice at St. Paul's, 6:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, February 2 | St. Paul's Contemporary Worship and Soup Sunday
Souper Bowl of Caring at Trinity |
| Monday, February 3 | Trinity's Evangelism Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| Sunday, February 9 | Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center
Special Offering for Lancaster Seminary |
| Tuesday, February 11 | Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, February 12 | St. Paul's Church Women United meeting, 7:00 p.m. |
| Saturday, February 15 | Trinity's Valentine Dinner, 6:00 p.m., and
Hymn Sing, 7:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, February 16 | Trinity's Special Offering for the Building Fund |
| Tuesday, February 18 | St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, February 23 | Trinity's Change collection for Hartman Center |
| Sunday, March 2 | St. Paul's Contemporary Worship and Soup Sunday |

