



The Beacon

"As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of people.' At once they left their nets and followed him."

Mark 1:16-18

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

Trinity
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Fort Loudon

FEBRUARY 2015

Deadline for Feb. News

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Church Pick-up/Email

Sunday, Feb. 22

Postal

Monday, Feb. 23

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.



This month: : Be a green church.

I know many of the “green” changes at our churches were made after I came. Once I leave, it will be up to you to continue washing dishes and recycling, or go back to using Styrofoam. Please remember you were not doing any of this for me. You were doing it for God’s creation, and for future generations!



The Fort Loudon-McConnellsburg Charge

of the

United Church of Christ

228 North 2nd Street

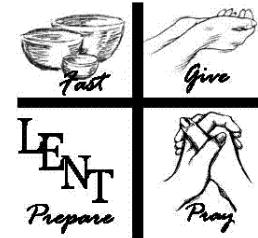
McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Lenten Envelopes

During the season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday (**February 18**), Christians meditate on the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, to free us from our sins. This time is an opportunity for us to appreciate what Jesus has done for us, and to live more mindfully. Fasting is one way of making ourselves more aware of what we consume each day. It is an opportunity for us to sacrifice what we take for granted for the sake of others who need it much more.

At **Trinity**, the Lenten envelopes are designated to support the work of the local Salvation Army.

At **St. Paul's**, the money collected will go to Christian Social Services.



Stamp

Message from Your Pastor

“As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of people.’ At once they left their nets and followed him.”

Mark 1:16-18

It is time for me to leave my nets and follow Jesus where he is calling me. So these will be my “famous last words” to you as your pastor.

Looking back on the last six years, I am thankful that I got to know each and every one of you, for the relationships that grew, for the ministry we did together, and for the many things I learned. I consider myself blessed that I could be with you during times of joy, of change, and of sorrow. I know I made mistakes, and I hope you will be able to forgive me.

I would like to share with you a poem by an unknown author that I read on the wall in someone’s home many years ago, that has stuck with me:

Some people come into our lives and quickly go.

Others stay for a while and leave

Footprints in our hearts

And we are never, ever the same.

There is so much truth and wisdom in that: We cannot always hold on to the people who have had an impact on our lives, but we can keep them with us in our hearts. I will certainly keep you in mine.

I especially wish to thank those of you who have shown your support since I announced my decision to leave my position here, and who have even told me that you are happy for me. What a kind and selfless thing to say. It touched me deeply. This is a lesson I had to learn a long time ago: Sometimes the truest way to love someone is to let them go.

Please understand that I cannot keep in touch with you individually (this includes email, facebook, texting, etc.). I need to honor the Ordained Minister's Code which states: “I will not, upon my termination and departure from a ministry position, interfere with nor intrude upon the ministry of my successor.” We need to let each other go and be open for the next chapter, and for new people to enter our lives.

This does not mean that I will not continue to think of all of you fondly, and pray for you. I will never forget any of you, and I will always cherish the memories of my time here.

Again, thank you for letting me be a part of your churches and your lives.

Since I will not be able to visit with all of you before I leave, I hope you will come to church on **Sunday, February 8**, for our ceremony of farewell during worship.

My dear friends: Be well, be brave, be faithful.

God will bless you and keep you always.

With Much Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Valeria.



New Consistory Members

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

At **Trinity**, Linda Best was elected as Trustee, Heidi Myers as Deacon, and Nancy Lawyer as Elder.

Glenn Crouse will complete Jeff Lawyer's term as Trustee.

St. Paul's nominees, to be elected at Annual Meeting on January 25, are: Donna House, Trustee, Selen Shives, Deacon, and Pam Carmack, Elder.

Thank you to all for their willingness to serve and be part of our church leadership.

Thank you also to those who have just completed their three-year term serving on Consistory:

Anna Rotz, Glenn Crouse and Sam Burns at Trinity, and Mary Haubrick, Jo-Ann Sheffield and Jonna Baker at St. Paul's.



Lions Club Dinners

The Mt Parnell Lions Club dinners will be served at the Fort Loudon Community Center on **Thursday, February 12 and 26**. Help is always needed. Please see Rosie Shives.



Souper Bowl of Caring at Trinity

On **Sunday, February 1, 2015**, 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 1. This year's donations will support Maranatha Ministries in Chambersburg.

Special Offering for Lancaster Theological Seminary on February 8

We will take up an offering for Lancaster Theological Seminary on **February 8** 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 this important ministry with your donation.



NA Group Meeting at St. Paul's

A local Narcotics Anonymous group (NA) is now meeting at the church on **Saturday evenings between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.** They very much appreciate our support of their cause in helping local individuals get sober and stay sober.

In order to maintain a safe and anonymous environment for participants, church members are asked to refrain from entering the building during the time of the meeting.

CROP Walk

Patty Hall, coordinator of the Fulton County CROP Walk, writes:

We had a total of 64 participants for the 2014 CROP Walk, for which I am very thankful. We were very blessed to receive a \$500 grant from Thrivent Lutheran and an anonymous \$1000 online contribution in December, bringing our total amount raised to \$3,770. God is great!

This success could not have been achieved without your support, and I thank God for each of you. It has been a great joy to serve as the coordinator of the CROP Hunger Walk for the last eight years, and a blessing to work with each of you. I believe the 2015 CROP Hunger Walk could be even more successful if we form a CROP Hunger Walk Committee, with several people to share the tasks of treasurer, recruitment and publicity/education. Please prayerfully consider serving on the committee. If you know someone in your congregation who would be interested in serving, please contact me.

Trinity's Financial Update

Month	Received	Budget to Date	Expended to Date
January	\$4,651.64	\$4,192.32	\$5,356.40
TOTAL YTD			

I will try to get all the information needed to insert in the newsletter. Anything that you want included or anything that you need taken care of at the church office, please send via email to mcbucc@embarqmail.com, you may also cc to buckpcar@embarqmail.com. *Pam C.*

Pastor - Rev. Valeria Schmidt

stpaulsparsonage@embarqmail.com
(717)-485-3369

Secretary - Pam Carmack

buckpcar@embarqmail.com

St. Paul's UCC

228 N Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

(717)-485-5554

mcbucc@embarqmail.com

Now on Facebook & www.uccmccbg.weebly.com

Trinity UCC

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street

Fort Loudon, PA 17224

(717)-369-4773

trinityuccfloudon.webs.com

www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)

www.ucc.org

Ten Commandments for Welcoming a New Pastor

I. Thou shalt not compare the old Pastor and the new Pastor, for the Lord thy God has made each person unique and wishes you to appreciate each original creation.

II. Thou shalt not expect everything to stay the same when the new Pastor arrives. Nor shalt thou resist change, nor assume that change is bad, but thou shalt trust that the Lord thy God isn't finished with your church yet and is bringing change for your good and the good of your mission.

III. Thou shalt not make graven images of thine old grudges, nor shalt thou keep stale disappointments in the temple of thine heart, but thou shalt forgive and move on in the grace of the Lord thy God, for how can thou ask God for mercy unless thou give mercy from thine heart?

IV. Thou shalt not commit gossip, nor shalt thou fearfully complain, nor shalt thou listen to those who do, but instead thou shalt entreat them to adjust their attitudes and lighten up, for everything shall be alright, and in fact, shall turn out very well indeed – better than you can even imagine.

V. Thou shalt not commit nostalgia or say that the old days were better, for in so doing thou shalt make thy judgment come true. Be assured that the Lord thy God is not falling asleep at the wheel, but will be with thee and surprise thee with abundant blessings, more than thou canst contain or count.

VI. Thou shalt not factionalize nor create "us-them" divisions, but thou shalt unify with thy brothers and sisters even when they annoy or confuse you.

VII. Thou shalt not come to the new pastor with your demands, pressure, complaints, bad reports, manipulations, threats, agendas, unsolicited advice, or snide comments. But thou shalt say, "Welcome! How can we help you? We love you! We would like to increase our giving significantly. We're praying for you! Welcome to our community! We baked you some cookies!" And each week, thou shalt do so again and again until the new pastor begs you to stop.

VIII. Thou shalt increase thy giving, and not withhold thy tithe, but invest thy money and thine heart in the future of thy community of faith and mission.

IX. Thou shalt not come to thine old and former pastor with anything but praise for the new pastor, but thou mayest bring thy concerns to God in humble prayer, and if thou must, thou may also share concerns with the duly appointed leaders of the church.

X. Most important, thou shalt trust God, and stay connected to God, and draw strength from God, staying deeply rooted in the message of God's grace. For God is good, and God will never leave you nor forsake you. You can count on that for sure!

Trinity Consistory Minutes

Trinity Consistory met on **January 13, 2015**. Opening prayer was given by Pastor Valeria. The minutes and Treasurer's Reports were both approved. The Trustees reported that the pine trees between our church and the neighboring property have been removed at a cost of \$800.00. We will receive a check for \$165.00 from Kevin Black who took the lumber away.

St. Luke's church wants to extend their rental agreement with us for another 3 years. This was approved. Our 2015 budget should be less than last year.

Souper Bowl of Caring is **February 1st** with the monies being given to Maranatha. Our Lenten envelopes collection will be given to the Salvation Army.

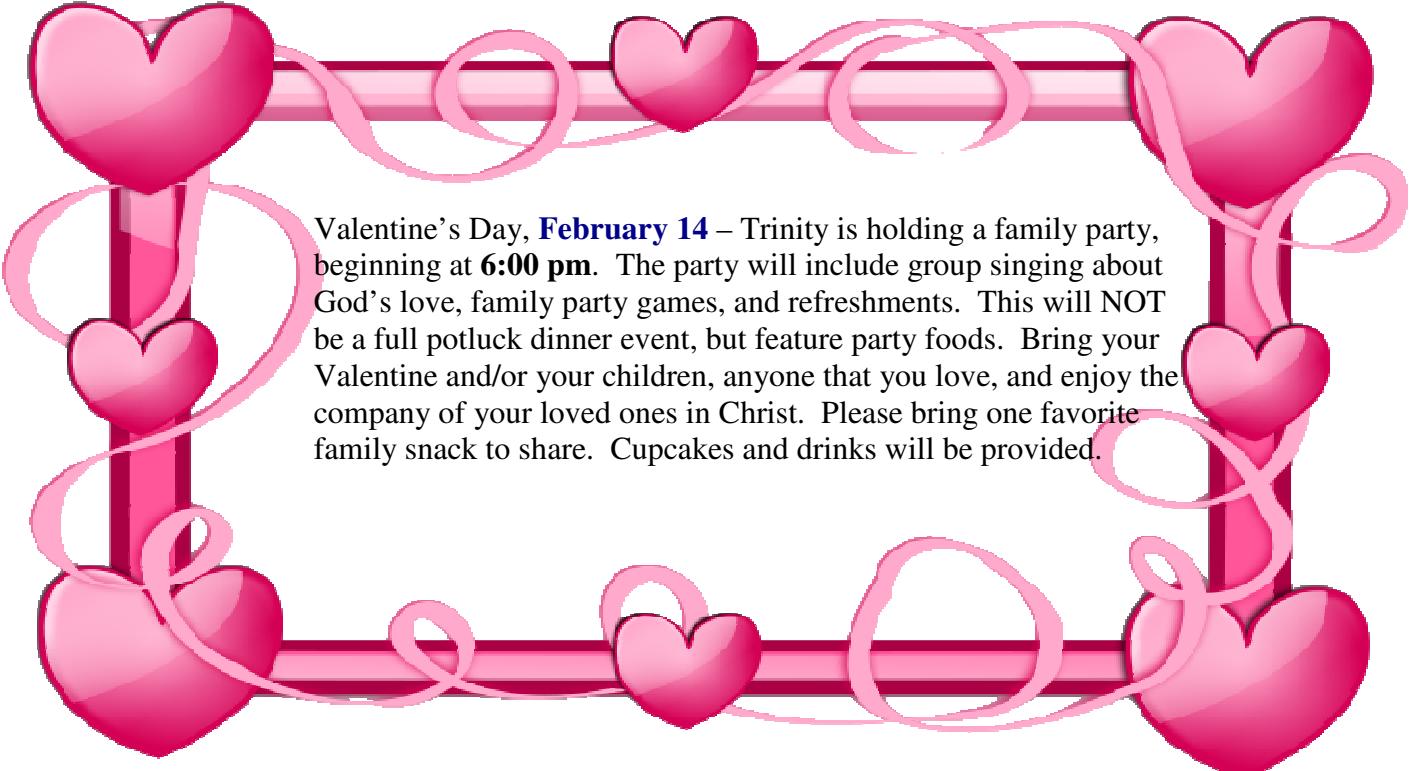
Our custodian job description will be redone with a few deletions. The exit interview with Pastor Valeria was held on **January 21st**. Pastor Valeria will update our membership list before she leaves.

We are getting prices on new church envelopes for Trinity so we can decide if we should order those or just use plain envelopes.

We discussed what to do with leftover pot pie from our suppers. It could be used to serve the Ruritan if their meeting was the week right after the supper. It could also be given to needy families in the area, possibly some who got **Christmas** gift boxes from us.

The Youth Fellowship checking account has been dissolved. The remaining funds were sent to Compassion International which is where we had our sponsor child for quite a few years. This will pay for his last year under this program with the remaining to be used at their discretion.

Submitted by Kathy Hess, Secretary



Valentine's Day, **February 14** – Trinity is holding a family party, beginning at **6:00 pm**. The party will include group singing about God's love, family party games, and refreshments. This will NOT be a full potluck dinner event, but feature party foods. Bring your Valentine and/or your children, anyone that you love, and enjoy the company of your loved ones in Christ. Please bring one favorite family snack to share. Cupcakes and drinks will be provided.

ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY SUMMARY OF JANUARY MEETING

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

All consistory members present except Jonna Baker, and Nancy Barmont.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: CHURCH WOMEN UNITED: They will be providing bread for the Christian Unity meal at the Fulton Theater in January. A farewell dinner for Pastor Valeria is planned for Sunday, Feb. 1 with Trinity UCC joining us for the lunch covered dish meal. Church Women "matched" the advent offering for the Salvation Army by donating \$200.00. A new kitchen floor will be installed soon and paid for by Church Women.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Sunday School is continuing to go well. The volunteers who are helping with the nursery are appreciated.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Thank you letters were enclosed with the year-end individual giving statements. Financial Recording Secretary, Seleen Shives, received an updated membership list.

MEMORIAL FUND REPORT: \$175.00 available. Approved a \$100.00 donation to a family who lost their father and their home in a fire at Harrisonville.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONSISTORY MEMBERS: Seleen Shives will be the nominee for deacon along with Donna House as Trustee and Pam Carmack as Elder for vote by the congregation at the upcoming congregational meeting for January 25.

NEW BUSINESS- OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2016:

Approval was given to order the 2016 offering envelopes now to receive a discount on price.

DESIGNATION OF LENTEN ENVELOPES: Decided to give the annual Lenten Envelope offering to Fulton County Christian Social Services

EXIT INTERVIEW FOR PASTOR VALERIA: The exit interview with Pastor Valeria is scheduled for Wed., Jan. 21 @ 6:30 at Trinity UCC with Rev. Thomas Webster of Penn Central Conference. St. Paul will be represented by Loy Garber, Denise Grissinger and Donna House. The consistory members were given a list of six questions to be considered and asked to select two. This was done by general consensus.

INTERIM PASTOR: Received information from two candidates for the position of interim pastor. More information and instructions will be obtained from Rev. Webster of Penn Central Conference concerning this.

PARSONAGE UTILITIES: Decided to contact Century Link and change the phone service to a basic package after Pastor Valeria moves out on Feb. 11. Pastor Valeria will give notice to the Post Office to forward all Name Only letters to her new address, and the other mail will be picked up by church members. Inquiry will also be made to ask if the parsonage mail can be delivered to the church.

PASTOR VALERIA'S MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT: Approval was given to pay her the full \$100 mileage reimbursement for February.

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR FEBRUARY: Loy noted that until an Interim Pastor is hired, we will need worship leaders after Feb. 8th. Loy will be able to preach on Feb. 15 and March 1, but leader will be needed for Feb 22nd.

OTHER BUSINESS: THANK YOU... Loy Garber thanked outgoing consistory members. Mary Haubrick, Jo-Ann Sheffield and Jonna Baker will each be completing six years of serving. Loy stated on behalf of the members of St. Paul's congregation the years of service and time given were appreciated very much.

Loy also noted that this would be the last consistory meeting with Pastor Valeria. He thanked Valeria for her dedicated and faithful service to the church and wished her well in her new position and home. All members joined in this appreciation.

St. Paul's Financial Information Treasurer's Report

Income for Dec.	\$ 6,602.52
Expenses for Dec.	\$ 7,468.84
Interest on Account	2.04
Loss for month	- \$ 864.28

Gain for year to date + \$ 7,076.36

Donna J. Lynch 717-294-3414



Ronald McDonald House® Hershey, PA

Wish List

♡ Food Pantry Items:

Single Serve Food Items:

Cereals, puddings, microwave foods/entrees, breakfast pastries, granola and breakfast bars, cheese/peanut butter crackers, chips, pretzels, fruit and applesauce cups, juice boxes, fresh fruit, cookies, chocolate candy, non-dairy creamer, instant decaf coffee, decaf tea, hot chocolate mix.

Please--no popcorn or chewing gum ☺

♡ Household Items:

GladWare® family size (13-cup) food storage containers, zipper snack and sandwich bags, disinfectant spray, toilet bowl and bathroom cleaners, high efficiency/HE laundry detergent, dryer sheets, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, 13-gallon trash bags, Styrofoam take-out containers, plastic utensils (especially spoons), disposable bowls and plates, 13-watt compact florescent bulbs, powder-free disposable gloves

♡ Personal Care and Office Supplies:

Small/travel size - toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, hairbrushes, lip balm, toothbrushes, men & women's disposable razors, 1st class Forever Stamps, 8 ½ x 11 copy paper, Staples or OfficeMax gift cards.

♡ Restaurants, Food, and Supply Gift Cards:

Applebee's, McDonald's, Friendly's, Giant, Karns Quality Foods, Kmart, Sheetz, Turkey Hill, Walmart, Weis, prepaid long distance calling cards.

♡ Toys and Recreational Items:

New toys and books for infants, toddlers, and older children, coloring books and crayons, adult crossword and game books, family DVD's (G to PG-13 rated), video game systems and games for our playroom—PlayStation 3, Wii, Wii U, Xbox 360. Please--no Playdoh®, chalk, foam stickers or used stuffed animals/toys. ☺

♡ Meals and Baked Goods:

Families are grateful to have hot meals and baked goods provided for them. Families, groups, clubs, civic organizations, and church groups prepare meals at the House every day for our guests. All meals and baked goods must be prepared commercially or at the Ronald McDonald House®. Please call (717) 533-4001 ext. 165 to schedule a breakfast or dinner for our families.

♡ Cash Donations:

For general day-to-day operations of the Ronald McDonald House® and Ronald McDonald Family Room®.

♡ Volunteer:

Volunteers are vital in our day-to-day operations. Please consider becoming a volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House or the Ronald McDonald Family Room. Contact Patrice Stillwell at (717) 533-4001, ext. 158.

♡ Gift Registry:

www.kohls.com and www.jcpenney.com First name (Ronald) last name (McDonald). Any questions, contact Deb Stegall at (717) 533-4001 Ext 152. Gift Cards are also welcome!

♡ Tradesmen Services Needed:

Licensed plumber or electrician, or deeply discounted labor on these services.

WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT NEW/UNUSED ITEMS AND NON-EXPIRED FOOD PRODUCTS - THANK YOU!

For more information about our organization, or to donate online, please visit our website at:

www.rmhc-centralpa.org

745 West Governor Road ♡ Hershey, PA 17033-2304 ♡ Phone: (717) 533-4001

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Cayla Rottz
- 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 Barclay
- Corinna Rotz
- 25 Jason Fox, Sr.
- 25 Linda Best
- 26 Renee Baker Early
- Floyd Peck



St. Paul's Flowers

Pam Carmack

Thank You for Serving!

St. Paul's Ushers

Pam Carmack and Jennifer Brubaker

Thank You for Serving!

Trinity's Ushers

Eileen and Roy Hornbaker

Thank You for Serving!

PRAYER LIST

- Family of Harold Keefer
- Family of Bob Lawyer
- Family of Sarah Gordon
- Family of Thelma Miller
- Family of Warren Daniels
- Family of Susan Ott
- Family of Arnetta Mellott
- Family of Roger Byers
- Bob 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

Janis Cutchall

Kylene McLucas Arwood

All individuals and families affected by cancer

All Sunday school classes

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

Thank you!



Margaret "Peg" Gordon

St. Paul's church family is saddened by the passing of Peg Gordon on January 3, at age 95. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. We are thankful for the memories we have of her, and we rejoice with her as she has found eternal joy and peace with her Savior, Jesus Christ.

FEBRUARY 2015



- Thursdays** St. Paul's *Joyful Noise* Band practice, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 1** St. Paul's contemporary worship and lunch
Souper Bowl of Caring at Trinity
- Wednesday, February 4** Trinity's Prayer and Praise, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 8** Trinity's Change collection for Hartman Center
Ceremony of farewell during worship
Special offering for Lancaster Seminary
- Tuesday, February 10** Volunteers at Food Basket, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 11** Trinity's choir practice, 6:30 p.m.
St. Paul's Church Women United meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 14** Happy Valentine's Day!
Family night at Trinity @ 6:00 p.m. 
- Sunday, February 15** Trinity's special offering for the Building Fund
- Tuesday, February 17** St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 18** 
- Sunday, February 22** First Sunday in Lent
Trinity's Change collection for Hartman Center
Holy Communion
- Wednesday, February 25** Trinity's choir practice, 6:30 p.m.

