



The Beacon

*Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you
I put my trust.
Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.
Psalm 143:8*

JANUARY 2014

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

Trinity
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Fort Loudon

Newsletter Dates	
Deadline	Tuesday, January 21
Church Pick-up/Email	Sunday, January 26
Postal	Monday, January 27

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.
Thank You!



Lions Club Dinners

This month, the Mt. Parnell Lions Club dinners will be served **Thursday, January 9 and 23**, at the Fort Loudon Community Center. Help is always needed. Please see Rosie Shives.

This month:
Why Recycle?

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, recycling in Pennsylvania in 2005 saved over 98 trillion BTUs of energy, enough to power 941,000 houses. Thank you to everyone who contributed! If you are not an active recycler, consider this: The process of recycling paper instead of making it from new materials generates 74% less air pollution and uses 50% less water. For each ton of recycled plastic we save the equivalent of the energy used by 2 people in 1 year, and the amount of water used by 1 person over two months, and 2,000 pounds of oil.

The United States makes up only 4% of the population, yet it is the number 1 producer of garbage. It takes a glass bottle approximately 1 million years to break down in a landfill. Please help conserve valuable resources.



Recycle!

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

Stamp

Message from Your Pastor

**Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust.
Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.**
Psalm 143:8

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is a time when many people look back on the past year, wondering where the time has gone, and reflecting on everything that happened. They may think back to the beginning of the year 2013 and the hopes and wishes they had, or the goals they set for themselves.

Maybe it was a good year, maybe you were able to accomplish much and were fortunate enough to experience happiness.

Maybe it was a difficult year, with sadness and disappointments and worries.

Maybe it was busy and hectic, or maybe really slow and uneventful.

A new year is a little bit like Christmas: We have high expectations, and high hopes. And when it's over, we look back, somewhat disillusioned. It may not have turned out as wonderful as we had hoped. All of our wishes did not come true.

But here's another new year, another chance! Maybe this will be the best one yet!

I think we all need hope that things might get better. Or, if we are indeed happy and content, we need the hope that it will stay that way.

There are many things we cannot change: We cannot change certain events that happen, we cannot change our health, the way others treat us, or the things that just go wrong.

But we can change the way we deal with it. We can embrace those things we cannot change as ways for us to grow closer to God. There is a lesson in them for us. There is a message in them from God.

Please pray with me the original Serenity Prayer, written by Reinhold Niebuhr in 1943:

God, give me grace to accept with serenity
The things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things
Which should be changed,
And the Wisdom to distinguish
The one from the other.
Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did,
This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and “reasonably” happy new year 2014!

Yours in Jesus' Name,
Pastor Valeria.

Holiday Generosity

Thank you to everyone who donated money and/or items to local institutions and individuals in the last several weeks. Between Trinity and St. Paul's, we collected for the Fulton County Food Basket, for the Fulton County chapter of the Salvation Army, for Maranatha Ministries, we baked cookies for our own church members, and for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, we packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, and delivered boxes of food to local families. We sang Christmas carols at Manor Care in Chambersburg and at the long term care units of the Fulton County Medical Center.

Whether it seemed like we did not do enough, or too much – I am sure all of our gifts touched lives and brought the light of Jesus into someone's darkness. Thank you for all of your support. And please remember that even after Thanksgiving and Christmas, there will still be people struggling in our communities. Let's keep the spirit of giving going, to the glory of God, and the benefit of all his children.

McConnellsburg Christian Unity Celebration

On **Sunday, January 26**, the church communities of McConnellsburg will gather at the Fulton Theatre for their annual Christian Unity Celebration. There will be a prayer service, a meal and time of fellowship, and special music. Join us at 4:00 p.m. as we share food, faith and friendship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Annual Congregational Meetings



Trinity's Annual Congregational Meeting will be **Sunday, January 19, after a prayer service at 9:00 a.m.** Consistory nominees will be announced in January. St. Paul's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 26**, after a prayer service. Consistory nominees are: John Glazier, Trustee, Carol Mellott, Deacon, and Loy Garber, Elder.

Please plan to attend this important event in the life of our church. We need your input and support as we decide on a budget, on upcoming events, and elect new Consistory members. This is also the opportunity for you to bring up any issues that you would like to discuss.

TRINITY, PLEASE HAVE YOUR REPORTS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY JANUARY 7.

ST. PAUL'S, PLEASE HAVE YOUR REPORTS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY JANUARY 14. THANK YOU!



Pot Pie Supper

Trinity will offer its chicken, ham and beef pot pie supper on **Saturday, January 18, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.**, in the Fort Loudon Community Center (Hawbaker Drive and Mullen Street). You may eat in or order carry-outs. Adult meals are \$8.00, meals for children ages 7 to 12 are \$5.50 and children under age 7 eat free. The menu includes pepper slaw, applesauce, pickles, cake, punch, and coffee. Chopped onions and vinegar will be available. The meal is all you can eat, served buffet style.

Fort Loudon Sidelights -December 14, 2013

By Anna Rotz

Valeria Schmidt has served as pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Fort Loudon and St. Paul's UCC in McConnellsburg for the past five years. This month marks ten years since she was ordained as a minister in her homeland, Germany. The Evangelical Church of The Rhineland had a partnership with the United Church of Christ, Penn Central Conference. Believing strongly in the vision of the United Church of Christ, she accepted the call in 2009 to become pastor of the two churches.

She lives in the parsonage in McConnellsburg and really enjoys the area. She likes the mountains, Cowans Gap and the landscape in general. She walks frequently, bicycles, enjoys reading, listening to music and singing. Many of us marvel at her beautiful voice. She plays the guitar in St. Paul's Joyful Noise Band during the contemporary worship service and for the contemporary song during Trinity's regular service. She also speaks several languages.

Pastor Valeria believes "the people in Fulton and Franklin County are so down to earth, easy to get along with, interested in raising their families and being good Christians." That the ministry is her life. She believes she was "sent to minister to those who are in need, emotionally, spiritually and financially. To be there for those who need someone to talk to. To just be there for the people, to work together with them to spread the words of Jesus."

A few years ago, she led a group of us on a tour of her homeland. She did an excellent job coordinating the trip and we made many long lasting friendships as a result. Many of those friends visited us last year for a tour of this area.

Ann Hays from Trinity commented: "Our church and community are blessed to have Pastor Valeria. She is not only a great pastor, but a good friend to all."

Harold and Betty Keefer of Trinity said: "She's dedicated. She's not just a pastor. She's a good friend."

Todd Alexander from St. Paul's remarked: "She's one of the most sincere, insightful people I know. She gives us perspective on our faith and community that has benefited us all."

Betty Daniels of St. Paul's commented: "It was the best decision we made to choose her. She has been wonderful. Has done a lot to build up our congregation and to bring members of both churches together. Before we hardly knew each other unless we were at a combined consistory meeting. Now we do things together and have become friends."

Pastor Valeria was honored recently at a luncheon and presented gifts from the churches to celebrate the tenth anniversary of her ordination.

NOTE: This article appeared in The Public Opinion.

Special Offering at St. Paul's for Women in Need

In 2010, St. Paul's Consistory decided to pledge \$1000 to Women in Need to build their new shelter and advocacy center in Chambersburg, to be paid in yearly increments of \$200. Church Women have decided to meet that pledge. On **January 19**, we will be taking up a special offering to help make our pledge. Please consider contributing to this important institution in our community to protect those in danger.

Even with a new building in Chambersburg, Women in Need will still keep their local office in Fulton County.



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



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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

Trinity United Church of Christ Fort Loudon Consistory Meeting Minutes December 10, 2013

Trustees' Report:

Roger Byers is donating a dehumidifier for use in the basement.

A new dusk to dawn light will be purchased. There is currently no light bulb in the motion detector light above the rear door. This will be replaced.

Old Business:

Church Basement: Consistory members reviewed the quotation from the three firms who submitted them. There was some discussion regarding how the baseboard system would cross the doorways and also the warranty coverage on the various systems. The firms will be contacted to reply to the questions before the consistory recommends a system to the congregation.

The floor tile has been removed in the basement and now has glue residue which needs to be cleaned off before it can be painted. Glenn said Chambersburg Rental has a buffer/sander available at a cost of \$75 per day. Franklin Equipment Rental suggested a chemical cleaner be used. Various methods will be tried before renting the sander.

Candidates for consistory are being approached so nominations can be completed.

It was noted that there seem to be some tables missing from the church. Members are reminded that if church property is borrowed for family or other events it needs to be returned in a timely manner. It was suggested that an inventory of church property be completed.

New Business:

The Joint Consistory meeting will be held at St. Paul's on the Sunday January 5 at 2:00 p.m.

A preliminary budget was reviewed. The Deacons will be meeting to complete next year's budget.

The calendar for next year's events was reviewed.

There were questions about snow removal during the week since there are activities that now take place on Tuesdays and Fridays. Jeff Zeis will be asked if he is still able to clear the snow on the front sidewalks.

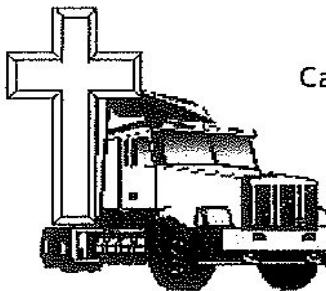
It was noted that our neighbor Scott has been shoveling it. If Jeff is unable to do it Scott will be asked if he is interested in doing it. Glenn will make some calls to find someone to clear the parking lot.

The Literacy Council will not be meeting here on the 17th and the 24th. It was noted that if groups using the church know in advance that they will not be meeting they should let us know so the heat will not be turned up.

Other Business:

Glenn has ordered pens with church information printed on them.

Linda Best



Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.

Rev. Dan Lehigh, Chaplain

P.O. Box 851

Carlisle, PA 17013-0851

717-385-7932

www.carlisletruckstopministry.org

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your generous donation of cookies for our 2013 Cookie Distribution. We have been doing this for many years now and have handed out over 13,000 bags of cookies in each of the last several years. Every year we receive calls, emails and letters telling us how much the cookies are appreciated.

"Yes, Chaplain Lehigh. My name is.... I'm an over-the-road truck driver. I'm calling to say thank you! I need for you to take this to your parishioners to let them know that their compassion and their love for total strangers exemplifies the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the Word, He healed ten lepers. One turned back to say thank you. I want to stand as that one. I hope there are others, but at least I am going to be counted as the one. Thank you again. May God richly bless you and your congregation and I tell you, you folks need to understand one thing... In today's society, what you exhibit is what Christ wants because very few people now do this today. Once again, thanks so much. God bless you and merry Christmas."

"Hello Chaplain Dan. My name is.... I'm a road driver with Yellow/Roadway, and I stay at America's Best Motel. I just wanted to touch base with you and let you know how much I appreciate, and even my family appreciates, the bags of cookies and what you do for us truckers. This is the first time I've encountered this and your ministry up here in Carlisle. I just want to let you know as the Word says whenever you give even a cup of water to one of these little ones in Jesus name, you are doing it unto Him. I just appreciate it so much. It is really a blessing. It really means so much. The little words you put on the bags, the tracts inside the bags. I'm a believer and live in Norfolk, VA. I just think it's an awesome outreach you guys have."

Again, thanks for your support! And remember, what you do for the least of these...you do for Christ.

Blessings to you,

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Lillian Buterbaugh
 4 Esty Alexander
 8 Joyce Hassler
 13 Hunter Buterbaugh
 Denise Grissinger
 14 Eric Hess
 16 Charlie Baker
 Madison Koontz
 Bodie Shives
 17 Jane Lamison
 19 Kelly Lassen
 20 Pam Carmack
 Ashley Souders
 Larry Newman
 Shaffer Eugene Early
 31 Bernice Crouse



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
 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

St. Paul's Flowers

Jo-Ann Sheffield (485-4623)
Jody Buterbaugh (485-0518)

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

St. Paul's Ushers

Thank You for Serving!

Trinity's Ushers

Cindy and Jerry Armstrong

Thank You for Serving!



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

JANUARY 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, January 5	St. Paul's Contemporary Worship and Soup Sunday Joint Consistory meeting at St. Paul's, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 11	St. Paul's takes down Christmas decorations, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, January 12	Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center
Tuesday, January 14	Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 15	St. Paul's Church Women United meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 18	Trinity's Pot Pie Supper at the Fort Loudon Community Center, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 19	Trinity's Annual Congregational meeting after a prayer service, 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, January 21	St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 26	Trinity's Change collection for Hartman Center St. Paul's Annual Congregational meeting after a prayer service, 11:00 a.m. McConnellsburg Christian Unity Celebration at the Fulton Theatre, 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 2	St. Paul's Contemporary Worship and Soup Sunday

