



The Beacon

“Bring the full tith into the storehouse... and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.”

Malachi 3:10

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

JUNE 2014

Deadline for July News **Wednesday, June 25**
Church Pick-up/Email **Sunday, June 29**
Postal **Monday, June 30**

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 Peach Festival

Plans for our fourth annual Peach Festival are underway for **Saturday, August 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Community Grounds. Once again, we will have live music and entertainment for all ages.



Please plan to make lots of peach pies and cobblers! The demand has been growing from year to year.

Craft vendors and home-based businesses, please contact Eileen Hornbaker for an application (496-4409).

If you are interested in participating in the **art show**, please contact Linda Best (369-2249).

Enter your peach pie in our **pie baking contest!** Contact Corinna Rotz (369- 4804) for an application.

This month:

This month: **Repent, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rejoice!**

These 5 R's will lead to a better, simpler life for all of God's creation. **Repent:** Turn away from your destructive habits and sinful behaviors. **Reduce:** Less is more (shopping, trash, food...) **Reuse:** Choose reusable shopping bags, cups, mugs and plates over disposable ones. **Recycle:** Get informed about what can be recycled in your community, and make it a priority. **Rejoice:** God has given life to you, and to all creatures. You have been called and chosen to protect it!



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



Message from Your Pastor

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse... and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.”

Malachi 3:10

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Knowing full well that sometimes others can say it better than I can, I am sharing with you this month a reflection on tithing (that is, giving 10% of your income) by the Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson, Rector and Senior Pastor of Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ in Dallas, TX:

A Word of Hope

Through the course of my ministry I have attended many spiritual retreats, participated in many Bibles studies, and have been a part of countless church meetings. One of the questions often asked, as a “get to know you” activity, is an invitation to share one's favorite passages of scripture. That is a very hard thing for me because there are so many Bible verses that I love. However, if I were to share the one passage of scripture that has changed my life the most it may well be this passage from the book of the prophet Malachi.

I remember the first time I consciously heard this passage. It was shortly after I arrived at the Cathedral of Hope. I was participating in a New Member Class and Bill Eure was teaching the class about stewardship. He quoted the scripture from Malachi and then explained how he had begun practicing tithing and what an impact it had made in his life. The lesson was so genuine, so heart-felt, that I decided to do what Bill had done, to practice tithing.

It is now six years later and I have never regretted that decision. This one passage of scripture, and the practice of it in my daily life, has changed how I feel about money. Now, if I am honest, I often wish I had more money. I frequently have to limit the things I buy. Sometimes I have to postpone the plans to do something for my home or yard. I have to carefully plan for major purchases. Those are the realities of our living, but since beginning the discipline of tithing, I have consciously given away more of my resources than ever before in my life, much more than just ten percent. What I have discovered is that God is true to God's promises.

I am happier now than I have ever been and while there are many reasons for my happiness, I believe that one of the most important reasons is that I now spend my days in gratitude. I have shifted from being fearful of what I do not have to being grateful for what I do have. I am learning, day by day, week by week to be a generous person. I am learning the deep and profound joy of giving. In short, I have been set free. Money no longer owns me and I am grateful to God for that.

So, why not try it? What do you have to lose? After all, it is God who says, “Test me in this!” Why not try bringing God the full tithe, a full ten percent of your resources, and see what God does. I am convinced that God will do exactly as God promised and will open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings upon you.

Prayer

Holy One, you are so very generous to me. Let me be wholly yours so that I might be a blessing just as you have blessed me. Amen.



After having been away for a number of years, my family moved back to Fort Loudon several years ago. The day we moved, Trinity was having their Spring Festival, and since we live on Mill Street, and were quite close to the church, my husband and I decided to walk over to the church and get breakfast for the people who were helping us move. Everyone from the church who were helping with the Festival seemed quite friendly, and since the festival also featured barbeque chicken dinners, we decided to go back and get chicken dinners for the moving crew for lunch.

We were invited to Church and [Sunday](#) School by the Pastor and several other people that day. We attended the services, found the people to be very welcoming, and have been attending ever since. My grandchildren love it, as well, and we have been made to feel part of the church family. We enjoy the activities that the church provides, and I personally have enjoyed attending the Ladies Retreats, where I've gotten to meet some of the ladies from St. Paul's as well.

I am thankful for Trinity, and the church family, and thankful to God that we have this church in our community.

Lana Pine

Picnic at Cowan's Gap

Join us for our annual picnic, sponsored by Trinity. We will meet **Sunday, June 1, at 12:30 p.m.** at Cowan's Gap. We have reserved Pavilion #1, located close to the parking lot. Hot dogs, barbeque, rolls and drinks will be provided. Please bring your place settings and a covered dish, your lawn chairs (and swimming gear and/or games, if you wish!), and join us for a day in God's beautiful creation. **St. Paul's will not have a Salad Sunday that day, to attend the picnic instead.**

Picnic at Trinity on June 22

We are all hoping for some warm summer weather and are planning to gather for a picnic at the pavilion behind church on **June 22**, after Sunday morning activities. Hot dogs and rolls will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and your own place settings.



Strawberry Festival

St. Paul's Church Women United will have a food stand again at the Strawberry Festival near the courthouse lawn on **Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14**. Country ham sandwiches, hot dogs and more will be offered. Stop by and support us! We will need some extra helpers this year. Please contact Jo-Ann Sheffield or Pastor Valeria.

Scholarship Applications at St. Paul's

Scholarship application forms are now available at St. Paul's. They are due **Monday, June 16**. Applicants must be a member of St. Paul's and be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at a four year College, two year Junior College/Community College, Vocational/Technical School/Institute, School of Nursing (LPN or RN), Business College or School of Cosmetology. Please contact Pastor Valeria for more information.

Holy Humor

With thanks to Bill Alexander

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."



THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible: Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

UNANSWERED PRAYER

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. "Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.

ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY SUMMARY OF MAY MEETING

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

All consistory members present except Jonna Baker and Hillary Alexander.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: CHURCH WOMEN UNITED: The yard Sale held on Thursday and Friday, May 15 and 16 was quite successful showing a profit of \$1,666.00. The country ham sandwich fund raiser for Strawberry Festival scheduled for June 13 & 14 is still being planned, but there is a concern because several of the ladies who help with this activity will not be available this year. JoAnn and Sally Cover will be meeting to finalize some planning, and a volunteer signup sheet will be available to hopefully get some new volunteers to help with this event.

MEMORIAL FUND REPORT: Balance of \$180.00. No action taken.

OLD BUSINESS: NEW HEATING SYSTEM: Kirk Cover reported on the recommendations that John Albright, an engineer with Aircon Inc. prepared for replacing the current heating and air conditioning for the church. The proposal included two quotes; one for replacing the furnace for the main sanctuary, and one for installing a heat pump for the downstairs and Sunday School/Office area. Kirk had also met with Shearer Plumbing and Heating to go over the recommendations and provide an estimate of cost. A Mitsubishi ductless electric heating and cooling system is recommended for the upstairs Sunday School Room and office and the basement. It would provide heat and air conditioning as well as a dehumidifier for the basement to eliminate a mold problem. There would be two outside heat pump units and 5 indoor units. The total cost estimate for this system is \$17,000.00 installed. It was noted that this system would not replace the air conditioning for the main sanctuary of the church, and it would still operate under the old air conditioning system. The other recommendation would replace the 34 year old oil furnace for the sanctuary of the church. The total estimate to install a new more efficient oil furnace is \$4,800.00 for a total cost of \$21,800.00 for both replacements.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to go ahead with this replacement now instead of waiting until there is a situation where we have a shutdown of the old system and would be without heat or air. It was also noted that the cost of replacement would only get higher with costs escalating each year. A motion was made by Carol Mellott, seconded by Nancy Barmont to approve the installation of the Mitsubishi Ductless Heating and Air system for the upstairs Sunday School room, office and basement, and to replace the oil furnace for the church sanctuary for a total cost of \$21,800.00. All voted in favor.

John Glazier asked about making an appeal to the congregation to help cover the cost of this installation. He also spoke about having a fund raising event to help cover the costs. This suggestion was approved by members present on general consensus. The cost of this installation and the cost of replacing the roof on the church parsonage will almost completely deplete the church building fund.

PARSONAGE ROOF: Contractor stated this project is "next on his list".

CHURCH STEEPLE LIGHTING: The installation of this project is still pending and should in a few weeks.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Pastor Valeria prepared a detailed outline of suggestions for a Stewardship Committee at St. Paul's. Consistory members went over her recommendations and expressed positive comments of the content. This subject will be on the June agenda for the Consistory for further discussion when Pastor Valeria returns from her vacation.

CHURCH ADVERTISING: Decided not to participate in the offer to pay for our church's advertisement on prescription bags at McLaughlin's Drug Store. Consistory members felt that an advertisement on paper placemats at local eating establishments would be a better means of advertising. John Glazier will look into getting some placemats printed, and JoAnn offered to help with the wording for the ad.

CHURCH SECRETARY VACATION: Pam Carmack will be away the month of June. Help is needed for printing the bulletins and newsletter. JoAnn offered to do the printing, and Mary Haubrick offered to put the paper copies of newsletter together with address labels. Pam also serves as Adult Class Sunday School teacher, and Loy was asked if he could help with teaching the class. He will contact Pam to talk about this.

ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY CONTINUED...

DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM: A problem has developed with the commode in the downstairs bathroom not flushing properly. Kirk reported that he talked with Jeff Shearer of Shearing Plumbing about this and the problem is the low water conserving level of the newer commode and not sufficient drop in the sewer line to the curb. Measures will be taken to correct this.

St. Paul's Financial Information Treasurer's Report

Income for April	\$ 9,056.63
Expenses for April	\$ 5,898.08
Interest on Account	.90
Gain for month	+ \$ 3,158.55
Deficit for year to date	- \$ 4,632.20

Consistory members were encouraged to see a gain for the month with an increase in the giving income for April. **The year to date is still reflecting a negative balance of \$4,632.20.** Hopefully this will work out to the plus side over the next few months.

**“Financial Sanity” Seminar at Trinity**

Do you have a handle on your finances? Do you worry how to make ends meet? Do you wonder how to teach your kids about money?

We will be offering a 4-session “Financial Sanity” Seminar at Trinity on Sunday evenings in June at **7:00 p.m.: June 1, 8, 15 and 22.**

Childcare will be provided. Please spread the word to families and individuals who might benefit from this event!

**Special Offering for Church World Service**

On **June 8**, we will be taking a special offering for Church World Service (formerly known as “The Blanket Fund”). With your donations, you will support various projects nationally and worldwide that help give a future to those in dire need. Your money will go towards providing blankets, clean water, tents, garden tools, seeds, education, and much more. For more information, go to www.churchworldservice.org

**We had to make some changes in our fall schedule.****Please mark your calendars!**

Sunday, July 13 – Friday, July 18

Fort Loudon Community Vacation Bible school at Freedom Lighthouse

Saturday, August 9

Fort Loudon Back to School Rally at Freedom Lighthouse, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 16

Peach Festival at the Fort Loudon Community Grounds

Sunday, September 14

Joint Worship and Picnic at the Garbers'

Saturday, September 27

Women's Retreat

Sunday, September 28

Trinity's picnic at the pavilion behind church after Sunday morning activities

Sunday, October 5

CROP Walk

Saturday, November 8

Trinity's Pork and Sauerkraut Supper

Saturday, November 22

Tea at Trinity

Trinity's Financial Update

Month	Received	Budget to Date	Expended to Date
January - April	\$16,367.36	\$24,447.32	\$21,245.73
May 1-18	\$4,294.06	\$3,761.08	\$2,198.12
TOTAL	\$20,661.42	\$28,208.40	\$23,443.85

Thank you to members of Trinity for helping to narrow our budget gap this month with the festival. The festivals and your weekly offering are both needed to pay for the programs and operation of the church in our community. While finances in May look good, we had a rough winter. Your financial support of the church throughout the summer is essential to keeping doors open and programs in operation. At this moment we have more children in worship and **Sunday** School than we have in years. They are the future of discipleship in Fort Loudon.



*Dear Church Family,
Come and help us celebrate Ruth Brubaker's 50th birthday!*

DATE June 21, 2014

TIME 12:30 p.m.

PLACE St. Paul's United Church of Christ
228 North Second Street
McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Please R.S.V.P. by May 30th. Phone 717-372-6270
We look forward to seeing you!

Love Always,
Jennifer Brubaker

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
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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

trinityuccftloudon.webs.com

www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)

www.ucc.org

Thelma Miller

The members and friends of Trinity had to say goodbye to our oldest and beloved member, Thelma Miller, who was called to her eternal home on April 30, at age 98. Our thoughts and prayers are with Thelma's family. Thelma was the organist and choir director at Trinity for over 60 years. She was the first woman to serve on Consistory. She taught Sunday school and was the Sunday school superintendent. She also worked hard to support the church's programs and fundraisers. She will be sorely missed, but we are confident that she has found peace and joy in our Savior Jesus Christ.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ... Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. ... Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23)



TRINITY CONSISTORY NOTES

Our meeting was held on May 13, 2014 and opened with prayer by Pastor Valeria.

Treasurer's Report: We received \$62.70 for metal scrap. In May, the cost of oil from Rotz Oil will be \$330.00 a month.

Evangelism Committee Report: The Women's Retreat has been moved to September 27th. The Pork and Sauerkraut Supper will be November 8th and the Church Tea will be November 22nd.

Old Business:

The Pastor's salary will remain as is. There has been no decision made on the Stewardship Committee. There is water coming in the basement. Jerry made a motion to put a new heater in the basement. We need pricing on outdoor carpet. We checked with Ernie Gish about our pine trees. John Hornbaker placed outdoor spigot.

New Business:

There was a motion to renew membership to the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Organ needs to be serviced annually. More information will be coming about honoring of graduates. Pastor Valeria's vacation was approved from October 25th-November 7th.

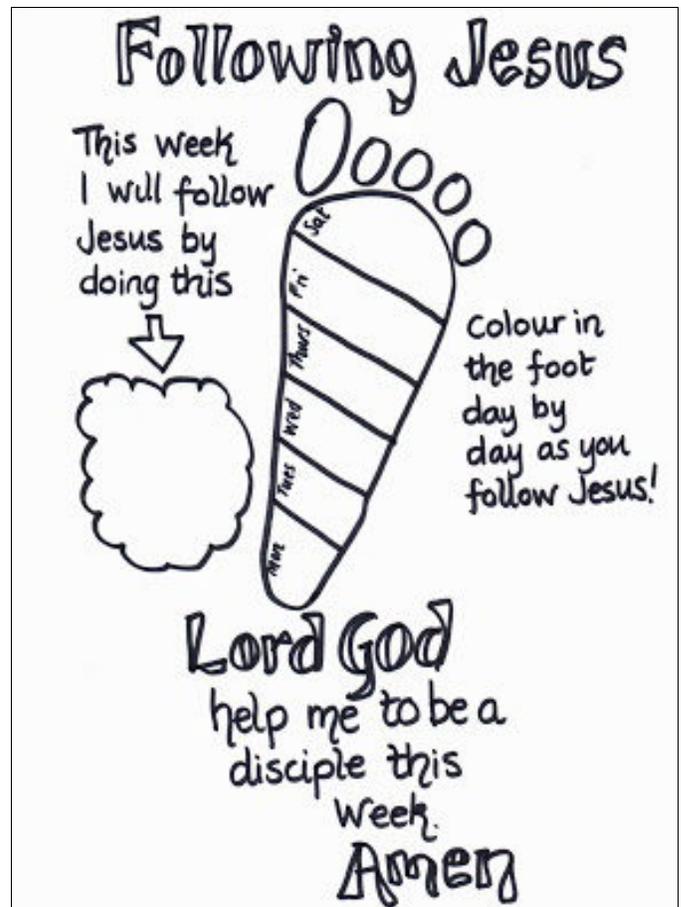
Other Business:

June 1st will be our picnic at Cowan's Gap. The Senior Center will be using our pavilion on June 2nd. The meeting was adjourned with the praying of our Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Anna Hays, Assistant Secretary

“Tell me
and I forget.
Teach me
and I remember.
Involve me
and I learn.”

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY

- 4 Daniel Barley
 6 Lory Mester
 9 Dorothy Stevens
 11 Andy Barley
 14 Chase Buterbaugh
 Mason Buterbaugh
 Tony Shives
 15 Ross Weller
 Elsie Bricker
 16 Sharyn Zeis
 19 Justin and Blaze Hege
 20 Roy Hornbaker
 23 Blaire Shives
 24 Ruth Brubaker
 28 Jody Buterbaugh
 Amy Headley
 30 Cathy Buterbaugh



PRAYER LIST

Family of Thelma Miller
 Bob Carmack
 Family of Warren Daniels
 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
 Sponsored Children: Adrianus, Marc
 Philip, Thierry, Marcela
 Zeis family
 Jean McLucas
 Diane Baxter
 Janis Cutchall
 Sarah Gordon
 Kylene McLucas Arwood
 All individuals and families affected by
 cancer
 All Sunday school classes
 Family of Susan Ott
 Family of Arnetta Mellott
 Family of Roger Byers

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



St. Paul's Flowers

Linda Garber (485-4902)

Nancy Barmont

*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

Cheryl and Gary Shives

Thank You for Serving!

JUNE 2014

Wednesdays	Trinity's Prayer and Praise, 7:00 p.m.
Thursdays	<i>Joyful Noise</i> Band practice at St. Paul's, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 1	St. Paul's Contemporary Worship Picnic at Cowan's Gap, Pavilion #1, 12:30 p.m. Financial Seminar at Trinity, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 8	Pentecost Special Offering for Church World Service Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center Financial Seminar at Trinity, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 10	Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 11	St. Paul's Church Women United meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14	Strawberry Festival in McConnellsburg
Sunday, June 15	Trinity's Special Offering for the Building Fund Financial Seminar at Trinity, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 16	Trinity's Peach Festival meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 17	St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 22	Holy Communion Trinity's Change collection for Hartman Center Trinity's picnic at the pavilion behind church Financial Seminar at Trinity, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 6	St. Paul's Contemporary Worship and Salad/Sandwich Sunday

Flag Day

June 14th

