

# The Beacon

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



“I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:1-2

MAY 2014

**Deadline for March News**      Wednesday, May 21  
**Church Pick-up/Email**      Sunday, May 25  
**Postal**      Monday, May 26

*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.*



## God's Chosen People

Jacob was a cheater. Peter had a temper. David had an affair. Noah got drunk. Jonah ran from God. Paul had a handicap. Gideon was insecure. Miriam was a gossip. Martha was a worrier. Thomas was a doubter. Sara was impatient. Elijah was depressed. Moses stuttered. Zachaeus was short. Abraham was old. And Lazarus was dead. But God needed all of them. God doesn't call the qualified, God qualifies the called!



This month:

## Eat Simply So Others May Simply Eat

Most of the food we eat each day travels an average of 1,200 miles from where it was grown or raised before it reaches our plate. This uses up valuable resources like fuel oil and packaging, and pollutes the air. You can make a difference: Try to shop locally. Try to shop seasonally (do you really need fresh strawberries in December?). Eat less meat. (It takes 12 pounds of grain to produce one pound of red meat!) Buy food with less packaging. Eat at home so you know what you are eating and where the food came from. Certainly avoid take-out food with excess packaging.

(Paper or cardboard is always better than plastic and styrofoam.)



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

Stamp

## Message from Your Pastor

**“I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.”**

**Romans 12:1-2**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A few months ago, I talked about “Wikicclesia” in worship – the church that anyone can edit. (Based on the internet encyclopedia “Wikipedia” and the Greek word for church, “ekklesia.”)

The idea was that WE are the church, and the church is not limited to a building or a certain hour of the week. When we go out into our community, our homes and workplaces, we are the church.

I invited the congregation to write down what God sends them, the church, to do. These are some of the statements that were written: God sends me to...

“... Love others even when they believe in you a different way.”

“... Provide for the physical needs of those less fortunate.”

“... Be able to help those who feel lost and alone.”

“... Treat people as we would like to be treated, kind and truthful.”

“... Do community projects that will hopefully lead families to a church.”

“... Be a presence in this town, so that if someone is ‘looking for’ something, they will be aware that this church is a place they can come to and share everything that God can do for them through life.”

“... Strengthen my belief and help others.”

“... Mirror my image in Jesus Christ outside of the walls of church.”

“... Stay strong and remind people that God will lead you in the right direction if you just ask – and believe.”

“... Into the community to be a good neighbor to those who live there.”

“... Love and respect all people without judgment. Help where help is needed even if it’s an inconvenience or a sacrifice.”

“... Always have a kind word and smile for all we see and pray for all we encounter.”

“... Instill good morals and values in my children and help to teach and improve their beliefs in God, so that they can pass them on to their own children one day.”

“... Share your wealth and talents with others.”

“... Pass the word that God loves you and is always there for you.”

“... Visit the shut-ins.”

“... Be the best person I can be and live by example.”

This is just a selection of statements to represent the bounty of faith, generosity and talents that make up our church. I hope they will be an inspiration for all of us, as the church, to go outside our walls and DO what we believe.

May God’s Spirit continue to teach, renew and guide us, and send us to where we are needed.

Yours in Jesus’ Name,  
Pastor Valeria.

### St. Paul's Yard Sale

St. Paul's Yard Sale will be **Thursday, May 15, and Friday, May 16, from 8 – 5:30**. Donations of items will gladly be accepted after Sunday, May 4. We will also be selling baked goods. We will need help with pricing items in the weeks prior (or bring your items already priced), as well as on the days of the sale. Contact Donna House, Jo-Ann Sheffield or Pastor Valeria. Please let Donna know of any items that deserve special advertising.

### Trinity's Spring Festival on May 17

Trinity's Spring Festival will be on **Saturday, May 17, from 8:00 – 2:00 at the church**. We will have barbeque chicken, soups, and baked goods for sale. We are also giving yard sale vendors the opportunity to set up for \$5.00. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Rosie Shives at 369-2169. Spaces are limited.

### St. Paul's Church Women

After another busy and successful year, Church Women donated \$1000 towards St. Paul's General Fund. Thank you to all of our hard-working, dedicated ladies!



### Lions Club Dinners

This month, the Mt. Parnell Lions Club dinners will be served **Thursday, May 8 and 22**, at the Fort Loudon Community Center. Help is always needed. Please see Rosie Shives.

### 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.

### How This Church Changed My Life

By Betty Daniels

The positive thing that comes to my mind is how the Sunday School teachers got together and brought all the Sunday School children down to my house, one Sunday. We sang all the songs that we did at Sunday School and I think the children were as pleased as I was. They had lots and lots of kittens to keep them busy. Not only did they bring snacks along, but they had also ordered pizzas for lunch. I cried because I was so happy to see all of them. It REALLY made me feel good knowing that they would do this for me.

I asked Skip if he had anything positive that he could think of and he said that it just about blew his mind when all of the ladies brought down food for us when I was recovering from surgery. He said that he never expected them to do that much for us. And he said that it was all planned out so there were no two meals alike. He said that he never expected that they would do that for us.

Betty also mentioned how everyone at St. Paul's welcomed them with open arms when they came back after having been part of another church for several years.

We are blessed to have the Daniels family as part of our church!

*You will be reading a personal testimony about our churches each month from now on. If you have something you would like to share, please contact Pastor Valeria!*



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

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

All consistory members present except Jonna Baker and John Glazier

### **BILLS TO BE PAID:**

Approval given to pay the Real Estate Tax bill in the amount of \$1,220.40

**FUND BALANCES:** Mary Haubrick gave a report of the first quarter balances of various funds:

Scholarship Fund: \$66,199.39; Benevolent Fund: \$24,646.24; Bard/Shimer Fund: \$6,265.27.

**SCHOLARSHIP/BENEVOLENCE FUND:** Forms to transfer the name of treasurer of the Scholarship Fund and Benevolence Fund held with Wells Fargo/Alexander Financial Group from Mary Haubrick to Hillary Alexander were presented and signed by all designated. Sally Cover will remain as a secondary authorized signature for the accounts.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: CHURCH WOMEN UNITED:** In response to the deficit amount of the General Fund of the church, the Church Women United voted to give \$1,000.00 from their treasury to St. Paul's General Fund. Upcoming events include: Yard Sale on Thursday and Friday, May 15 and 16, 2014, and the Strawberry Festival scheduled for June.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** The children are planning to visit Betty Daniels, who is homebound due to health issues, during Sunday School on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor Valeria's pastoral report for the month of March was reviewed and approved by general consensus.

**MEMORIAL FUND REPORT:** Approved to give \$100.00 to Heralds of Hope.

**OLD BUSINESS: NEW HEATING SYSTEM:** Kirk Cover and Loy Garber met with John Albright, an engineer with Aircon Inc., recently to inspect and evaluate the best proposal for replacing the current heating and air conditioning for the church. Kirk had just received Mr. Albright's recommendations by mail prior to the meeting, and had not had sufficient time to read the report for discussion at the meeting. This subject will be addressed at the May meeting. Kirk also reported that there is \$27,000.00 currently in the Building Fund, noting that the replacement of the parsonage roof will be paid using this fund.

**PARSONAGE GARAGE:** The sealer paint for the back deck had been applied recently. It helped with the water leak in the garage, but there was still some moisture. Loy will check with Walter Swope about this.

**PARSONAGE ROOF:** Project for replacing the parsonage roof was approved September 2013 by low bid of Buterbaugh Construction in the amount of \$7,875.00. The replacement was scheduled to be done when the weather got warmer. JoAnn will check on the status of this.

**CHURCH STEEPLE LIGHTING:** The installation of this project should start sometime in May. The cost of this will be donated by the family of the late Arnetta Mellott, given in her memory. An appropriate plaque commemorating this memorial will be installed also.

**PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE:** Pastor Valeria will be attending the Annual Meeting of Penn Central Conference on June 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>.

**MERCERSBURG ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING** This meeting is scheduled for Sunday May 4 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Trinity UCC in Waynesboro. Consistory members are invited to attend. Registration deadline is April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**PASTOR VACATION:** Approved a week of vacation from May 19-25 for Pastor Valeria.

**MOWING:** Approval was given by general consensus to again employ Peggy Sheffield to provide mowing services for the church/cemetery at the rate of \$60 per mowing.

**CHURCH BASEMENT USE:** Approval by general consensus was given to the Brubaker Family to use the church basement for a family birthday event on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Continued on next page...

## ***ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY CONTINUED...***

**PASTOR SALARY:** Pastor Valeria voiced her concern about the current status of the church's General Fund deficit. She asked that the pastor's annual salary increase in the amount of \$980.00 that was approved at the annual congregation meeting, be rescinded and this money be used to pay the bills of the church. It was noted that this would affect her pension, and after a lengthy discussion and consulting with Denise concerning the Pension payments, it was decided the best way to comply with Pastor Valeria's request would be for her to give back the increase in her salary through her personal offerings to the church. The Consistory thanked Pastor Valeria for her very generous offer and her genuine concern in setting an example of Christian stewardship to the church.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:** With regard to the continuing shortfall of contributions meeting the monthly expenses of the church, Pastor Valeria asked for consideration of establishing a Stewardship Committee. A lengthy discussion followed about certain ways to approach members about their donations to the church. Several questions were raised by consistory members, and it was decided that this subject needed to have more details as to strategy and guideline plans for action. Pastor Valeria will provide this at the May meeting.

**ADJOURN:** Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. with members praying the Lord's Prayer.

### **St. Paul's Financial Information**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Income for March	\$ 5,928.65
Expenses for March.	\$ 9,315.47
Interest on Account	1.15
<b><u>Loss for month</u></b>	- \$ 3,385.67
<b><u>Deficit for year to date</u></b>	- \$ 7,790.75

### **The Gabriel Project**

The Gabriel Project is a ministry to support pregnant mothers and their unborn child. The ministry provides practical assistance to expectant mothers and during the first two years of their new baby's life. The Fulton County Catholic Mission is beginning to include this ministry in a more formal way because local needs have arisen.

Eventually, more volunteer "angels" may be needed to walk with these mothers and help to discern how the Christian community can minister to their spiritual needs and assist them and their babies in their physical needs.

During the month of May (for Mother's Day), all local churches are invited to support this ministry by donating baby supplies or cash for cribs and car seats. Because of insurance restrictions, they are unable to give away used cribs or car seats.

A collection box for donations will be at St. Paul's during the month of May.

Items most needed are: Diapers (newborn to size 3), baby wipes, onesies, sleepers and gowns (newborn, 0-3 months, 3-6 months, 6-9 months, 9-12 months), receiving blankets, fleece blankets, baby hygiene products, baby socks and hats.

### **"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.**

In order to make it possible for parents of young children to attend, we would like to offer childcare. Please see Pastor Valeria if you are willing to help.

### Trinity's Financial Update

Month	Received	Budget	Expended
Jan. - March	\$18,335.49	\$11,798.72	\$15,447.59
April 1-20	\$2,820.81	\$4,126.86	\$4,576.57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,156.30</b>	<b>\$15,92.58</b>	<b>\$20,024.16</b>

### Special Offering for Homewood Homes

On **Mother's Day, May 11**, we will take up a special offering for Homewood Retirement Homes. With your donations, residents of different facilities in the area will receive care and attendance to their special needs.

Please support this important ministry of our United Church of Christ.

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 (717)-485-3369

**Secretary - Pam Carmack**  
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**www.ucc.org**



Mother's Day @ Church for Kids

## MOTHER'S DAY WORD SEARCH

God, Thank You for my Mom

D	C	C	H	F	E	A	U	T	H	V	O	L	H	V	O	U	N	L	S	I	E	O	R	M
M	A	R	B	E	A	U	T	H	V	O	U	N	L	S	I	E	O	R	M	A	E	E	C	C
W	O	I	W	O	L	H	V	O	U	N	L	S	I	E	O	R	M	A	E	E	C	C	C	C
N	I	X	S	M	R	O	C	R	A	E	E	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
E	G	F	R	I	E	N	D	E	A	I	H	G	F	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
R	J	P	G	X	M	Y	P	E	T	N	O	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
F	K	L	N	D	A	S	C	L	O	I	P	D	X	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
U	I	Y	O	L	K	P	V	M	V	C	I	P	E	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	
L	S	N	L	L	E	E	G	I	W	L	H	U	X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	
X	S	C	R	S	R	C	G	J	O	J	O	O	P	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
D	E	B	G	K	B	I	C	H	E	L	P	E	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
O	S	U	E	C	F	A	M	I	L	Y	D	C	P	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	
Y	H	K	I	N	D	L	O	V	I	N	G	R	L	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	

- MOTHER
- WONDERFUL
- WISE
- FAMILY
- GIVING
- LOVING
- SPECIAL
- HELPER
- HOMEMAKER
- FRIEND
- CARING
- HUGS
- CHILDREN
- BEAUTIFUL
- PARENT
- PATIENT
- KISSES
- SPECIAL
- KIND
- HOLIDAY

**YOU ARE TRULY BLESSED.**  
**THE LORD IS WITH YOU**

Luke 1:28

## Trinity Consistory Minutes

Glenn Crouse provided a list of things for our review that need taken care of at some point.

1. We would need to finish the outhouse job at St. Luke's since it has now been removed. Rocks will need to be removed underneath where it stood and top soil filled in. Then grass will need to be planted.
2. The basement would require several things such as repairs to the heating system, the water control system being installed, the storage room being constructed and the basement walls and floor being painted. We would then refurnish the large room.
3. The dusk-to-dawn light at the back door has been installed.
4. Carpets need replaced at entrances.
5. Further investigation and action on the pine trees will take place at a later time.
6. The ends of the pavilion under the point at the top are warping.
7. The front door is sticking.
8. There was more discussion about the church sign out front. Roy will get us estimates.
9. We are looking at installing a water spigot outside the back of the church.

The Evangelism Committee thanked everyone who helped with our Pot Pie supper on [April 5th](#).

The Food and Clothing event was held on [April 12th](#). Our Spring Festival will be May 17th and yard sale vendors are encouraged to sign up.

Under old business, Glenn and Sam removed a few things from the church basement that were no longer working or usable. The barrel at the BBQ pit was removed. Our membership list will have a separate section of names, addresses and phone numbers for people who have been coming to church regularly but are not members. This will be considered our "Friends" section so we have this contact information available as needed.

Under new business, Pastor Valeria will be attending the Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting [June 13th](#) and 14th. The Mercersburg Association Spring Meeting will be Sunday, [May 4th](#) from 3-5 p.m. in Waynesboro. Two delegates from the church are needed to attend. Pastor Valeria has requested vacation from [May 19th-25th](#). Loy Garber will be available for pastoral needs during this time. Pastor Valeria talked about the possibility of having a Financial Sanity Seminar here at the church on [Sunday](#) evenings in June. People could come and learn about how to budget, wants vs needs and how to teach children about finances. Child care would be provided. There was also some discussion about creating a Stewardship Committee. This will be discussed more at a later time.

Submitted by Kathy Hess, Secretary

<b>Save the Date</b>	
Sunday, June 1	Joint Picnic at Cowans Gap, 12:30 p.m.
Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14	Strawberry Festival in McConnellsburg
Sunday, June 22	Trinity's picnic at the pavilion behind church after Sunday morning activities
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'
Sunday, September 28	Trinity's picnic at the pavilion behind church after Sunday morning activities
Sunday, October 5	CROP Walk

## HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY

- 7 Eli Rotz  
 8 Charlotte Mester  
 9 Carrin McElhinny  
 11 Leighton Kulp  
 14 Carol Mellott  
 17 John Daniels  
     John Daniels, Jr.  
 20 Denny Buterbaugh  
 24 Sherry Disney  
 25 Elaine Armstrong  
 26 Susan Glazier  
 28 Kirk Cover



### St. Paul's Flowers

*Carol Mellott (485-3905)*

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

*Anna Rotz  
 Sharon Zeis*

*Thank You for Serving!*

## PRAYER LIST

Bob Carmack  
 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  
 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  
 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!*



# MAY 2014

<b>Wednesdays</b>	Trinity's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.; Prayer and Praise, 7:45 p.m.
<b>Thursdays</b>	<i>Joyful Noise</i> Band practice at St. Paul's, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, May 4</b>	St. Paul's Contemporary Worship and Soup/Salad/Sandwich Sunday Mercersburg Association Spring meeting in Waynesboro, 3 -5 p.m.
<b>Monday, May 5</b>	St. Paul's Girls' Group, 2:45 – 4:00 p.m. Trinity's Evangelism Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m. Peach Festival meeting, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, May 11</b>	Mother's Day Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center Special Offering for Homewood Homes
<b>Tuesday, May 13</b>	Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, May 14</b>	St. Paul's Church Women United meeting, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, May 15 and Friday, May 16</b>	St. Paul's Yard and Bake Sale, 8:00 – 5:30
<b>Saturday, May 17</b>	Trinity's Spring Festival, 8:00 – 2:00
<b>Sunday, May 18</b>	Holy Communion Trinity's Special Offering for the Building Fund
<b>May 19 – 25</b>	Pastor Valeria on vacation. Contact Loy Garber for pastoral care (485-4902)
<b>Tuesday, May 20</b>	St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, May 25</b>	History Celebration at St. Paul's during worship Trinity's Change collection for Hartman Center
<b>Monday, 26</b>	Memorial Day
<b>Sunday, June 1</b>	St. Paul's Contemporary Worship Picnic at Cowan's Gap, Pavilion #1, 12:30 p.m.

