The Beacon

" It is good to give thanks to the Lord" And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;"

Psalm 92:1

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

NOVEMBER 2015

TRINITY'S POINSETTIAS

Trinity UCC will be once again having poinsettias for this Christmas season. Price will be 8.25 for 4-6 bloom. Colors available are:
Red, White, Pink, Burgundy, Marble. (Pink and white)
Money (white with little bit of red)
Please let Corinna Rotz know by **November 23rd.** at 369-4804..

REMEMBER

This is the time of year to remember and be thankful and praise God for all our blessings.

It is also a time of the year some folks find hard and difficult to get through. We are called to be the face and hands and arms of Jesus to all people that are struggling and there is no better time than now to smile, hug, share. Maybe not all, but surely just ONE.

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

STAMP

Pastor's Message

It doesn't seem possible that 2015 is almost over and 2016 is around the corner. November and December are always busy months with the holidays and family gatherings. For the Church, November marks the end of this church year and beginning, with the First Sunday in Advent, of a new Church Year.

During the month of November we will celebrate a few special occasions. This Sunday, November 1, we will celebrate "All Saints Day" or "All Souls Day" as it is often called. We will remember those from our families and church families who have entered the "Church Triumphant". On November 15 we will recognize Veterans' Day also remembered by some as Armistice Day. November 22 will be Communion Sunday and November 29 will be the First Sunday of Advent. Of course November means Thanksgiving and so we will celebrate that holiday as well. All in all, November is a very busy month for our congregations.

The Church Profiles have been completed and sent onto the Pennsylvania Conference, UCC. They will be entered into the UCC Search and Call Data bank and soon will be available for interested pastors to review. With special celebrations, the search for a new full time Pastor and the ongoing Sunday School programs for youth and adults, invite a friend or neighbor to join us. As always, I ask that you continue to hold the ministries of Trinity and St. Paul's in your prayers.

Pastor Tussing

NEWS FROM CARLISLE TRUCK STOP MINISTRY

A recent letter was received from Rev. Dan Lehigh, Chaplain for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. Rev. Lehigh has visited St. Paul's and Trinity and led our services when the regular pastor was absent.

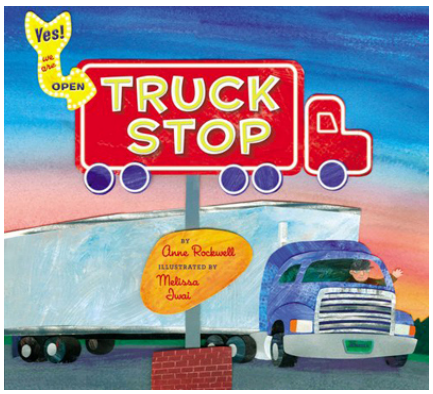
A portion of the letter…….

"Again, this fall we plan to do cookies. We will be collecting at the trailer on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14 and 21 from 10am to noon. Hope to see many of you there.

Many of you know I have been diagnosed with stomach cancer. I am being treated with chemo. There are good days and bad days. Nausea and fatigue have been significant issues. The docs say they want to do 9 weeks of treatment and then evaluate it. They haven't given any promises of success. Their words: 'It may work; it may not.' We have people praying all around in the USA and South America. We are convinced God can heal if that is His will. We are glad to leave it in His sovereign hands.

We are looking actively for an assistant chaplain who could cover some night and weekend hours I do not cover. So far I have been able to work most days. We are looking to God for direction as far as transition is concerned. If the treatments are successful, I would hope to continue as I can. If God wishes to glorify His name by taking a 74 year-old chaplain who He has allowed almost 12 years of ministry he loved surrounded by family, board and the trucking community who love him, that is His sovereign right. Contact us if you or someone you know may be interested in the position."

Blessings to all……Chaplain Dan



Trinity's Consistory Notes

The Trinity Consistory met on October 13, 2015. The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Tussing. The minutes were approved as read. The Treasurer's report included the final peach festival information. It was also noted that we collected $163.00 for Dave Mellott who is fighting cancer.

Trustees' Report- Sam Burns took some items to a bulky pick-up day. Glenn says they will try to do more work around the church as long as it doesn't get too cold.

Evangelism Committee Report- The free food and clothing event was a success with 27 people signed in but around 50 people attended. These would include family members of the ones who signed in. There is a real need in the area for this event to continue. Thank you for your donations.

It has been approved for the Advent folder offerings to be designated for the next food and clothing event.

The Pastor's report was reviewed by everyone. This report was for the period of September 7 - October 12, 2015.

Old Business: We have received our new copier. There have been no updates on the Safe Church Policy or the sink hole in the cemetery. The search committee is continuing to work on the church profile. We discussed a few options about the outdoor sign in front of the church but no decision was made at the present time.

Other Business: We need to update our weather cancellation list. It currently has Anna Rotz listed at the top due to her being consistory president at the time it was created. Lana Pine has agreed to hand out candy in front of the church for Trick or Treat night in Fort Loudon on October 29th from 6-7 p.m. The kitchen needs cleaned up and organized. The 2015 membership list has about 7 changes. It will need retyped for 2016. We will begin looking for nominations for consistory soon. We have been collecting coin on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. It has been given to Hartman Center for quite some time. We discussed if we should change this to be given to some other organization for awhile. No action taken. Glenn mentioned that the Scholarship Fund certificate of deposit has come due at Susquehanna Bank with the 10 day grace period ending Saturday, October 17, 2015. It was approved to take the CD and put it into a savings account at the First Community Bank of Mercersburg until we decide what to do with it. We will watch interest rates and then decide later about putting it back into another CD.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the praying of our Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by *Kathy Hess*, Secretary

TRINITY'S FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month	Received	Budget to Date	Expended to
Jan.—Sept.	$46,733.68	$54,500.22	$43,652.26
October 1-21	$ 3,657.38	$ 2,794.82	$ 2,993.23
TOTAL YTD	$50,391.06	$57,295.04	$46,645.49

December Beacon article deadline is November 23rd.

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!

Secretary - Pam Carmack
buckpcar@embarqmail.com (717)-485-4795
St. Paul's UCC
228 N Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233
(717)-485-5554***mcbucc@embarqmail.com
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

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November

Thursdays	**Joyful Noise practice at 7:00 p.m.**
Wednesday, October 28	**Trinity's Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.**
Thursday, October 29	**Community Trick or Treat at 6:00 p.m., Costume Party at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center Ft. Loudon** **St. Paul's Candy Night 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.**
Saturday, October 31	**Women's Retreat, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., see Linda Best for details, sign up on hall table**
Wednesday, November 4	**Prayer and Praise at 6:30 p.m.**
Tuesday, November 10	**Trinity's Consistory Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**
Wednesday, November 11	**Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.**
Saturday, November 14	**Trini-Tea at Noon RESERVATIONS NEEDED $20.00 call 717-369-3318**
Tuesday, November 17	**St. Paul's Consistory, 7:00 p.m.**
Sunday, November 22	**Thank Offering**
Thursday, November 26	**Happy Thanksgiving**
Sunday, November 29	**Advent Envelopes Distributed**
Sunday, December 6	**St. Paul's Hanging of the Greens**

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Consistory Meeting Oct. 20, 2015

Members present were Loy Garber, Carol Mellott, Kirk Cover, Hillary Alexander, John Glazier, and Donna House. Nancy Barmont is unable to attend. Pastor Keith Tussing was present and opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented on a Hillary/Donna motion. Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved, as presented, on a John/Donna motion. Treasurer's report is attached to these minutes in the church office.

No new bills to be paid at this time.

Committee Reports presented. Donna House updated us that the Women's Group will hand out trick or treat bags at the church on Trick of Treat night from 5-7 pm. Hanging of the greens will be 12/6/15 after church luncheon. Hillary reported on the Christian Education children's classes: the open space as the tables were removed has been helpful: all is going very well and the children are excited to start a fund raising project for Heifer International.

Pastor Tussing presented his report. The report was accepted into the minutes.

Consistory is continuing to track fuel oil usage and kilowatt usage at the church.

Memorial Fund currently has $250.00. No current needs.

The Search Committee reports that final report was completed and sent to Penn Central Conference.

It is soon time to start preparing budget for 2016. Deacons will meet with treasurer to start this process.

We will begin nominations for new Consistory members for 2016

Meeting was adjourned by all praying The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Hillary Alexander

<u>FINANCIAL INFORMATION:</u>

Total Income for September, 2015	$ 4,357.03
Total Expenses for September, 2015	$10,921.98
Interest Earned for September, 2015	$ 2.19
NET **<u>LOSS</u>**	$ 6,562.76

The
Mercersburg Times

A publication of Mercersburg Association United Churches of Christ *October 2015*

Sandy Hill
Blain
Zion
Blain
First
Carlisle
St. Matthew's
Carlisle
Salem Stone
Carlisle
St. John's
Chambersburg
Solomon's
Chambersburg
Zion
Chambersburg
Christ
Duncannon
Trinity
Fort Loudon
Grace
Greencastle
Faith United
Ickesburg
New Hope
Landisburg
St. Paul's
Lemasters
St. John's
Markelsville
St. Paul's
McConnellsburg
St. Paul's
Mechanicsburg
Trinity
Mercersburg
Trinity
New Bloomfield
Zion
Newburg
Incarnation
Newport
Grace
Shippensburg
Trinity
State Line
St. Stephen's
Upton
Church of the Apostles
Waynesboro
Trinity
Waynesboro

Mercersburg Association Fall Meeting

Sunday November 8, 2015

The Mercersburg Association Fall meeting will be taking place on Sunday November 8th at 2:30pm at Trinity UCC in Mercersburg, PA. The address of the church is 129 E. Seminary St. Mercersburg, PA 17236. Parking is available on the street and in parking lot behind the white house next to the church.

The program and format for the fall meeting will be slightly different than in previous years. We will be conducting the business of the association such as approving the budget and considering some resolutions. In the process we will be talking about what we do as an association like educating and training Authorized Ministers, but the more important discussion will revolve around the "Why?" of our existence as an association. For what reason has God called together UCC churches in Franklin, Fulton, Perry, and Cumberland to be the Mercersburg Association? What are we passionate about? What can we do together that we might not be able to do as individual churches? These are just some of the questions we might consider as we discussion our purpose and passion as the Mercersburg Association. We hope to have lots of good discussion with plenty of input from laity and clergy alike. We would ask that both clergy and lay people make effort to attend this meeting and to encourage others from your church to attend as well. We value your input on these issues as well as on our budget, which for the first time ever is a balanced budget, but balancing the budget also meant that we have removed all of the outreach money from the budget as a way of beginning our discussion. If you are passionate about our ministry as an association to and with the wider church and want to see that supported financially come and voice your opinion. If you are passionate about something else and believe that God is calling us to that work as an association, then come and share that with us as well. We look forward to seeing everyone in Sunday November 8th. If you have any questions or thoughts before our fall meeting feel free to contact Association President, Rev. Matt Hoover. (mshoov@hotmail.com).

Thanks to our hosts for providing refreshments.

The schedule for the afternoon:

2:30 - 3:00 Registration, Snacks, Browse the Resource Center
3:00 - 3:15 Worship, Song, Scripture, Offering
3:15 - 5:00 Business
Presentation of OCWM Certificates and Church Assessment Certificates
Progress update from Persons in Discernment
Treasurers' Report, Budget, and Approval of Spring Meeting Minutes
Voting on the following resolutions: ***(Discussion time will be limited, so please come prepared with any questions or comments.)***

1. The Committee on Ministry recommends that the Association affirm that no clergy will be disciplined or their standing in the association questioned because he or she would or would not perform a gay marriage according to his or her conscience on the issue.
The Executive Committee and the Committee on Ministry strongly recommends to authorized ministers and their ministry settings to establish clear policies regarding marriages within the ministry of that particular ministry setting.

2. The Commission on Ministry has recommended that Boundary Training be reduced from every five years to every three years. When a pastor's training date has expired, he/she will then begin a 3-year cycle. This will take effect immediately after the 2015 Fall Meeting.

3. In order to be on the Supply Pastor list for the Mercersburg Association:
a. You must be current on Boundary Training.
b. You must complete the required background checks according to the current Pennsylvania Child Abuse Laws by December 31, 2015. You must email these documents to Linda Ritchey at lindasritchey@gmail.com:
a. A pdf file of your completed Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance
b. A scanned file of your Pennsylvania Criminal Record Check and Mandated Reporter Training certificate (computer course).
More information and web links to obtain these clearances can be found at www.pccucc.org/resources/childabuselaws or www.sites.google.com/site/mercersburgassociation/Home/pa-child-abuse-laws.

4. Constitution and by-law change (section III, Member Ministers, article 45)

Please contact Registrar Linda Ritchey with reservations by Wednesday, November 4.
E-mail to lindasritchey@gmail.com or call 717-762-1789.

Directions to Trinity UCC, Host Pastor Rev. Matt Hoover:
129 East Seminary Street
Mercersburg, PA

From I-81, exit at PA 16 West at the Greencastle exit. Travel west on PA 16 about 10 miles to Mercersburg. Turn right onto West Seminary Street. Trinity is straight ahead at 129 East Seminary Street.

Mercersburg Association Resource Center

Please return any previously borrowed books at the Spring Meeting.

A reminder to one and all that the Mercersburg Association Resource Center has a multitude of resources for clergy to use, as well as lay members too. It is currently located in the basement of First United Church of Christ at 30 North Pitt Street in Carlisle.

As we are nearing the Advent season, the Resource Center does have a number of materials which can help pastors and congregations through the upcoming Advent season.

Please also note the Resource Center will be acquiring books and materials in the near future on Dementia, and how to interact with people with Dementia. A number of the titles came from a recent presentation that Rev. Anna Thompson did at the October Mercersburg Association Ministerium meeting. Come and visit us and see what are on the shelves at the Resource Center.

With the use of Kit Keeper we are an extension of the Penn Central Conference Resource Center. Titles can be found online through the Penn Central Conference website at: http://www.eventkeeper.kitkeeper/index.

2015 Truck Stop Cookie Distribution

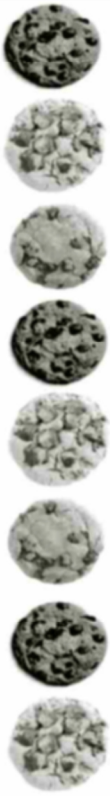
Delivery Dates:
November 30
December 7, 14 & 21

Delivery Time:
10:00 a.m. to NOON

Drop-off Location:
Ministry trailer at Petro Truck Stop
1201 Harrisburg Pike

If you require an alternate drop-off date, or if you have any questions, please call Dan Lehigh (717-385-7932)

. . . no need to call if you come on designated dates.



Come to the trailer parked
beside the ministry trailer.

Our trailer is to the right
of the Iron Skillet restaurant.

(Rt. US 11) between the PA Turnpike Exit # 226
and I-81 Exit #52.
(If traveling northbound,
it is Exit # 52B.)

Place 6 to 10 cookies in a plastic bag,
and then into a paper lunch bag,
which may be decorated.
Place the bags into a box.
We encourage messages from your congregation.
Bible verses or tracts are great.

Each bag should have either church or truck stop
ministry contact information.

Be sure you have current information
on the Chaplain.

It should be Chaplain Dan Lehigh
phone 717-385-7932.

Thank you notes and calls are received from appreciative
truckers/travelers each year.

Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.

a ministry touching lives for Christ in central Pennsylvania

carlisletruckstopministry.org

1	Bryan Rosenberry
3	Jonna Baker
	Richard Rotz
4	Eric Buterbaugh
7	Andy Washabaugh
9	Lisa Harris Skiles
	Ed Weller
10	Joey Rotz
12	Tesha Keefer
17	Richard Hurst
18	Bertha Byers
20	Robert Koontz
23	Russell McLucas, Jr.
26	Mindy Headley
28	Michael Dietrich
29	Nancy Barmont

Trinity's Ushers: ***Lana Pine and Karen Fox***

St. Paul's Ushers: ***Is it I Lord?!***

St. Paul's Flowers: ***Ruth and Jennifer Brubaker***

Family of 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
Rosie Shives and Family
Kylene McLucas Arwood
Elaine Armstrong
Nancy Barmont
All individuals and families affected by cancer
All Sunday school classes
Our Church & it's ministries

If you have any additions or corrections to the prayer list or the birthday list, please contact the church office.