



# The Beacon

**“Jesus said: I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”  
John 10:10**

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

**Trinity  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
Fort Loudon**

## APRIL 2013

### Newsletter Dates

*Deadline* Tuesday, April 23  
*Church Pick-up/Email* Sunday, April 28  
*Postal* Monday, April 29

*If you would like to get your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email with your name to: [mcbucc@embarqmail.com](mailto:mcbucc@embarqmail.com) and help us save paper and postage. Thank You!*

### Recycle and Benefit St. Paul's!

Bring your recyclables to R & D Recycling, 27438 Great Cove Road, and ask them to donate the proceeds to St. Paul's. They will add a premium of 2% to each donation. Business hours are Monday and Wednesday, 9:00 – 4:00, Friday, 9:00 – 5:00, and Saturday, 9:00 – 1:00. Items accepted include aluminum, wheels, car batteries, copper, brass, lead, electric motors, radiators, stainless steel, and more. Call Roy and Dixie Hess at 987-3884 for more information or refer to the list posted at St. Paul's.

### Pot Pie Supper

Trinity will offer its chicken, ham and beef pot pie supper on **Saturday, April 20, 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 \$7.50, meals for children ages 7 to 12 are \$5.00 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.

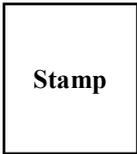


### Used Furniture

Christian Social Services of Fulton County are always grateful for donations of used furniture to be given out to local families in times of need. Please call 485-5796 for more information.

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



## Message from Your Pastor

**“Jesus said: I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”  
John 10:10**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have just celebrated Easter, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior from death. Easter is the promise of new life and new hope, where there was death and sadness and despair.

With this Easter being so early in the year and so cold, we are reminded that we cannot control everything. We cannot control the weather, and the seasons. We are dependent on our creator, and on his creation, as it works wonderfully and miraculously together to provide abundant life for all of his creatures.

We are also reminded every day how fragile life is. From one day to the next, everything can change, and life as you know it could be over. Death is all around us: in our own aging bodies, in the many who are ailing and ill, and in all of creation. As Christians, we believe in LIFE: life after death, but also life before death. We believe that God can raise us from suffering and weakness to new life and new strength.

With Easter just behind us and the impression of the risen Christ still strong in our hearts, I would like to invite you to join an Easter movement of the United Church of Christ: Mission 4/1 Earth, a movement for LIFE:

“Scripture compels us to act on our faith, one that is grounded in wonder, reverence, love, and respect for all of God’s creation. Genesis 1 says that when God created the heavens and the earth, God saw that everything was “very good.” We learn in Genesis 2 that as humankind has the freedom to make moral choices, we also must take responsibility for the consequences of our personal actions and inactions. With the freedom of God’s gift, the prophet Micah guides us towards moral and responsible lifestyle choices: we are to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8).

“But clearly, God’s creation is groaning under the burden of injustice, greed, and arrogance. Our choices have resulted in vanishing and degraded farmland, air unfit to breathe and water unfit to drink, unsustainable energy processes and consumption, and the perilous immediate and long-term worldwide consequences of global warming and climate change. Poor communities are disproportionately suffering the unjust consequences of our choices. And now, we realize more every day that our choices threaten the voiceless natural systems that sustain all of life itself.

“When confronted with environmental responsibility, people of faith face a choice: to live in despair or to live with hope. We in the United Church of Christ are called to live with hope. We are called to spiritual and lifestyle transformation based on justice and reverence for all of God’s creatures and creation. We are called by Jesus to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.

“Mission 4/1 Earth is an opportunity to examine and change our patterns of behavior and to deepen our understanding and engagement of earth care and environmental justice in the process.” (Quoted from the Mission 4/1 Earth Campaign Manual)

Read more about what you can do in this newsletter.

May God bless you in everything you do, so that ALL MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY.

In Jesus’ Name,  
Pastor Valeria.



## Trinity Participating in Ezekiel Project

We are participating in Penn Central Conference's Ezekiel Project, to assess whether and how our church might be able to grow. Please see Pastor Valeria if you are interested in going.

This month's meeting will be on **April 21** (Cultural Assessment: Does our church reflect the culture of the 2000's or is it stuck in the culture of the 1960's?) and next month's, on **May 5** (Faithful Alternatives to a Turnaround: closing, merger, legacy, etc.).

### Notes from the March Meeting: Adaptation to Change Assessment

The congregation should develop a common vision that they feel God is calling them to attain. The only way to discern a vision is through prayer and conversations. Once the vision is found, it will shape the congregation's identity and purpose. Then, develop short-term goals that will bring you closer to your church's vision. "Growing our membership" is not a vision. It may be the positive side effect of having a strong vision.

"Bringing Jesus' love to our immediate neighbors" is an example for a vision.

Once a common vision is formulated, it will lead to changes in the congregation's programs and ministry, and quite possibly, also in worship. Change will always foster resistance among some who worry that they are losing control over "their" church. That resistance must be re-directed as energy for productive change. If the majority of the congregation is in favor of a change, they will not fear the (silent or outspoken) protests and threats of a few who are against it.

**The pastor is not the one who will grow the church. The pastor can do nothing without strong support in the congregation. The pastor can help to develop a vision. It is up to the members to desire and implement change, if that is what God is calling them to do in order to realize their vision.**

If you are interested in reading more about this, contact Pastor Valeria for an email with the slide show.

### Mission Project at Trinity

As God's church, we are called to reach out to our community and serve those in need. We will be giving out free food and clothing on two Saturdays this year: **April 13 and October 12**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We will be taking donations of food (canned goods, cereal, pasta, etc. No candy and chips, please) and clean clothing (adults and children's), bed linens and towels, in good condition. We also need boxes and grocery bags. Items may be brought to Trinity on **Sunday morning, April 7, or Wednesday, April 10, between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.** Please contact Pastor Valeria with any questions, or if you are able to help set up Friday, April 12, help serving people on April 13, or help with cleaning up. **If you know of a local family or individuals in need, please invite them to this event!** Flyers are available at the church.

### Pastor Valeria on Vacation

Pastor Valeria will be on vacation from Thursday, April 25, through Wednesday, May 1. Loy Garber will preach at both churches on April 28 and will be available for pastoral care during the week (call 485-4902).



### Organ for Sale

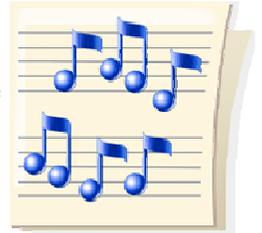
St. Paul's has purchased a new organ and is looking to sell their (functioning) pipe organ: Rodgers Model 200, SN 46027, two manuals, built around 1980. Photos can be found on our website at <http://uccmccbg.weebly.com/pictures-2012.html>. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Denise Grissing for more information.



## St. Paul's New Organ

St. Paul's Consistory has decided to purchase the new organ that was available for a try-out on March 15 – 17. Everyone who experienced it agreed it will greatly enhance our worship experience. With the designated funds available for the purchase from the Fay Koontz Organ Fund and the bequest of Jean Barton, there was a remaining balance of \$3,128 to be paid. At the time of printing, we have already received \$3,000 in donations from a few very generous members of our congregation. Their gifts were given to the glory of God in memory of faithful members of the church and in honor of the future music ministry at St. Paul's.

**Thank you, and praise the Lord with music!**



## St. Paul's New Sponsored Child: Adrianus Fandi

Child Fund International has informed us that our sponsored child, Yonatan Lewotan, has been removed from their program. Their family is now able to support him on their own. Our new sponsored child is Adrianus Fandi, also from Indonesia. Adrianus is nine years old. His father is a manual laborer with uncertain income, his mother is unemployed. They live in a very simple house with an earthen floor, bad sanitation and no electricity. Please pray that our sponsorship may be a blessing to him and his family.

## Easter in Church

One Easter Sunday, at some church, a woman approached the usher and took a bulletin. The usher didn't recognize the woman, but then this was Easter Sunday, when there were lots of visitors. This was one of those churches where ushers actually usher, as in "showing people to their seats." The woman informed the usher she'd like to sit in the front row, right in front of the pulpit. "Ma'am," the usher said, "I don't recommend that.

Our pastor can be pretty long-winded, and truthfully he's kind of boring, so most people like to sit farther back where they can nod off without anyone noticing."

"Young man," the woman replied, "Do you know who I am?" "No," he admitted. "I'm the pastor's mother." After an awkward moment, the usher said, "Well, do you know who *I* am?" "No," the woman said. "Well," he replied, "thank goodness for that!"



## St. Paul's Getting Ready for Yard Sale

We will have our annual yard sale on **Friday, May 17, from 8:00 – 4:00, and Saturday, May 18, from 8:00 – 12:00**. Items to be donated are welcomed, and may be brought to the church on Thursday evenings or Sunday mornings, or call to schedule a time. Pick-up can also be arranged. We will be taking adult's and children's clothes (clean and in good condition), toys, electronics, household items, decorations, DVDs, VHS tapes, CDs, cassettes, and much more. Antiques and vintage items are also welcome. Please contact Donna House so she can advertise special items. Baked goods always sell well – we will appreciate any donations!



## Mission 4/1 Earth: 50 Great Days!

One united church on a shared resurrection witness for Planet Earth during 50 great days of greening up, powering down, and shouting out for the environment. "**Mission 4/1 Earth: 50 Great Days**" is about boldly living Jesus' let-your-light-shine proclamation in the Sermon on the Mount: "That they may see your good works!" It is an opportunity to live out our faith — in unity, as one church — for the sake of our fragile planet Earth.

**Launching on Easter Monday, April 1, 2013**, and continuing through the great 50 days of Eastertide, United Church of Christ congregations will join together in a shared mission campaign to:

- Collectively offer more than **ONE MILLION HOURS** of engaged earth care, including clean up, advocacy, education, and behavioral changes that will impact the environment.
- Collectively plant more than **100,000 TREES** locally and globally in partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation and the UCC's denominational partners around the world.
- Collectively write and send more than **100,000 ADVOCACY LETTERS** on environmental concerns to elected officials and local and national newspapers.

**Mission 4/1 Earth** links together four significant events — Easter (March 31), Earth Day (April 22), Arbor Day (April 26) and Pentecost (May 19) — for a sustained and collective mission opportunity for the entire United Church of Christ. Together, we will inspire and aspire to what we can accomplish as **ONE CHURCH**. For more information, go to <http://ucc.org/earth>

### Here are some examples for what you can do:

Install energy efficient light bulbs or appliances.

Recycle coffee grounds and old coffee by putting them on acid-loving plants.

Donate items to thrift shops and shop there, too.

Create a compost bin at your home.

Turn out the lights in rooms you are not in.

Weigh the amount of food you and your kids leave on your plates and set a goal to reduce the amount of food you throw away.

**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.**

Check all your faucets to make sure they don't drip.

Read the labels — use detergents that don't harm the environment, and food items that don't contain a lot of additives, artificial colorings and preservatives.

Vinegar can be used for cleaning all sorts of things instead of harsh chemicals.

Use only organic fertilizer on your lawn this spring.

Walk to the store, to church, to school, the park, the post office, the library, the cleaners — any short trips you normally use the car for.

Research shopping/buying local produce and healthy eating. Then shop healthy and eat healthy! Many people find that adopting a locally-grown diet helps both their own health and their neighbors, as well as the environment.



## Trinity's Financial Update

Month	Received	Budget	Expended
Jan.- Feb.	\$9,276.57	\$11,594.50	\$8,619.37
Mar. 1-24	\$3,838.58	\$4,459.46	\$5,901.81
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,115.15</b>	<b>\$16,053.96</b>	<b>\$14,521.18</b>

Trinity's Scholarship Committee is currently accepting applications for financial aid from members who will be attending college on a full-time basis during the 2013-14 academic year. Forms are available at the church. These must be completed and returned by April 30. If you have questions, call Glenn at 369-2271.

**Pastor - Rev. Valeria Schmidt**  
stpaulsparsonage@embarqmail.com  
(717)-485-3369

**Secretary - Pam Carmack**  
buckpcar@embarqmail.com  
(717)-485-4795

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Now on Facebook & www.uccmccbg.weebly.com

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**www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)**  
**www.ucc.org**

## Trinity United Church of Christ Fort Loudon Consistory Meeting Minutes March 12, 013

### Trustees' Report:

Jeff Rockwell at Laurich Builders in St. Thomas has been contacted to proceed with the installation of the chimney liner. He will send an estimate for the consistory to sign and take final measurements for ordering the liner material. The church will contact him when the boiler has been turned off to set up a time for the work to be done.

Topsoil is needed for the area at the back of the church where the wall was repaired.

### Evangelism Committee report:

A Pot Pie dinner will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup>. A flyer will be made out to pass out that evening which will list upcoming dinners for the year.

The Free Food and Clothing Event will be held at the church April 13 from 10:00-12:00 am.

### Old Business:

The topic for the next Ezekiel Project is a cultural assessment. Valeria passed out a survey for consistory members to fill out. She will take the answers to the next Ezekiel Project meeting.

### New Business:

John Hornbaker will call Hartford Steam to set up an appointment to have the boiler inspected.

The consistory agreed to have the church join the Historical Society at Lancaster Seminary. Valeria will be taking some old church documents there for storage.

The picnic at the Garber's will be held on August 25 this year.

The church has received \$250 from the Mercersburg Association for a mission project. It will be used to purchase items for the Free Food and Clothing event.

**It was agreed to hold the next consistory meeting on Monday April 8.**

### Other Business:

The consistory is trying to find out the least expensive cost for the collection of church garbage.

A fire extinguisher company will be contacted to re-fill the fire extinguishers if possible.

The deadline for submitting an application for Scholarship Funds is April 30<sup>th</sup>. An application will be posted on the bulletin board.

*Linda Best, Secretary*

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

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

Discussion and action was taken on the following:

**MEMORIAL FUND REPORT:** Balance of the Memorial Fund is currently \$100.00. No action taken.

**CHURCH ORGAN:** Music Emporium Inc. of Altoona set up an Allen organ Model L-122 with four channels for a trial in our church on Friday, March 15. A few members of the congregation were present for the demonstration of the organ and a question session. After discussion, with looking forward to future growth in attendance and the comments made by those who attended the demonstration, a unanimous approval was given to purchase the Allen Organ, as demonstrated, for \$35,740.00, with terms of 50% (\$17,870.00) due upon receipt of agreement and the remaining 50% due in 30 days. .

Mary Haubrick reported that the Organ Fund currently has a balance of \$31,493.16. She also reported there was a remaining balance of \$1,118.66 in the Ray Koontz Unitrust Fund that was used for the Lift Project. Mary asked for consideration to transfer this remaining balance to the Organ Fund, and approval was given for this transfer. This would bring the balance of the Organ Fund to \$32,611.82. That would leave a balance of \$3,128.18 still needed for full payment for the organ. An appeal to the congregation for donations toward the organ purchase will be made in the Newsletter, and bulletins/worship announcements.

Selling the old Pipe Organ was discussed. Denise reported that the gentleman who services the pipe organ estimated the value of the organ between \$2,000 to \$3,000.00. It was decided to advertise the pipe organ at a selling price of \$2,500.00 OBO. Ads will be placed in the classified section of the Penn Central News, Craig's List, Ebay and the Franklin County Shopper Guide. Music Emporium of Altoona will also assist in this.

**DOWNSTAIRS HEAT:** It was decided to put this project on a short hold until the parsonage roof inspection and possible replacement is presented to consistory.

**PARSONAGE WALL REPAIR:** Loy and Kirk had met with Walter Swope concerning the crack in the garage wall at the parsonage. Mr. Swope assured them that these cracks in the concrete blocks are not endangering the foundation structure of the building. Cracks between the concrete deck and the garage were also noticed that allow water to run down the inside garage wall. Mr. Swope suggested for repairs:

- Point and seal the cracks in the concrete blocks
- Seal the cracks between the concrete slab deck and the block wall
- Install a French-drain along the base of the outside garage wall
- Put a concrete sealer on the concrete deck floor.

After a discussion, a motion was made to contract Mr. Swope to do these repairs.

**NEW BUSINESS: SPONSORED CHILD:** Our sponsored child, Yonatan had reached the age of 14, and he and his family were no longer in need of the monthly assistance from our church. Another child from Indonesia, Adrianus Fandi, a ten year old boy is in need at the present time. By general consensus, it was agreed to send the monthly sponsorship of \$33.00 for Adrianus.

## St. Paul's Financial Information

### Treasurer's Report

Income for Feb.	\$5,802.56
Expenses for Feb.	\$8,729.33
Interest on Account	1.31
<b><u>Loss for month</u></b>	<b>- \$3,302.49 *</b>

**\*NOTE:** The total deficit of expenses over income for January and February is \$6,895.33



## HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY

- 2 Paul Stevens  
Mark Washabaugh  
5 Janis Cutchall  
6 Cindy Armstrong  
Jenna Armstrong  
8 Lori Rotz  
10 Amanda Daniels Neal  
12 Jo-Ann Sheffield  
14 Gene Bricker  
17 Dody Hopkins  
19 Pastor Valeria  
20 Dennis Carmack  
21 Tamela Mellott Bard  
Jillian Lassen  
23 Heidi Myers  
26 Reanna Jo Richards  
27 Meril Fetters  
28 Hayes Alexander  
29 Glenn Crouse



### 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

***Jonna Baker  
Donna House***

*Thank You for Serving!*

### Trinity's Ushers

***Zereau Higgins  
Corinna Rotz***

*Thank You for Serving!*

## PRAYER LIST

Bertha Byers  
Betty Daniels  
Betty Grissinger  
Bob and Nancy Lawyer  
Dorothy and Paul Stevens  
Gene, Elsie and Barb Bricker  
Harold and Betty Keefer and family  
Joyce and Thurman Hassler  
Military and families  
Arlene Carmack  
Peg Gordon  
Roger and Lois Byers  
Sponsored Children: Adrianus, Marc  
Philip, Thierry, Marcela  
Sandy Richards  
Thelma Miller  
Zeis family  
Justin Jr. and Blaze Hege  
Lorraine Richardson  
Jean McLucas  
St. Paul's Care Team  
Diane Baxter  
Janis Cutchall  
Sarah Gordon  
All individuals and families affected  
by cancer  
All Sunday school classes  
Those affected by Hurricane Sandy

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





Wednesdays	Trinity's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m. Prayer and Praise, 8:00 p.m.
Thursdays	<i>Joyful Noise</i> Band practice at St. Paul's, 6:00 p.m. Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 7	St. Paul's Contemporary worship and Soup Sunday
Monday, April 8	Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	St. Paul's Church Women United, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 13	Free food and clothing at Trinity, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 14	Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center
Tuesday, April 16	St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 20	Trinity's Pot pie supper at the Fort Loudon Community Center, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 21	Trinity's special offering for the Building Fund Ezekiel Project in Harrisburg, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Monday, April 22	Earth Day
Thursday, April 25 – Wednesday, May 1	Pastor Valeria on vacation. Contact Loy Garber for pastoral care.
Sunday, April 28	Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center
Sunday, May 5	St. Paul's Contemporary worship and Soup Sunday

# 2013