

# The Beacon

“May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 3:5

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

Trinity  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
Fort Loudon



## DECEMBER 2012

### Dec. Newsletter Dates

<i>Deadline</i>	Friday, December 21
<i>Church Pick-up/Email</i>	Sunday, December 30
<i>Postal</i>	Monday, December 31

*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! \*\*\*\*\*

**IF YOU RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE COPY BY EMAIL, JUST PRINT OFF THE FIRST.**

### Christmas Services

The Sunday school kids at both churches will be preparing a **Christmas program** for Sunday, December 23.



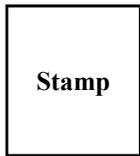
### *Come share the joy!*

Candlelight services on **Christmas Eve** will be at 6:00 p.m. at Trinity, and 8:00 p.m. at St. Paul's, with Holy Communion.

This month: **Wrap your gifts green.** Think about how quickly presents will be unwrapped, with the paper, bows, ribbons and bags ending up in the trash. Try reusing wrapping paper. Avoid paper that is coated or made out of foil. Put your paper in the recycling bin instead of the trash. Or, be creative and use decorated newspaper and magazines to wrap your gifts in!



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



## Message from Your Pastor

**“May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.”  
2 Thessalonians 3:5**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this day and age, Christmas is more about buying and giving gifts, than anything else.

I read a story about a little boy who went into a church one Sunday morning to get out of the cold. He had been trying to sell newspapers, but not a single customer had passed by. He entered the church, hoping to pass an hour unnoticed in the back row. The preacher delivered a powerful sermon about Jesus and his love for us. At the end of the service, they took an offering.

The ushers went from row to row until, finally, one came near to the little newspaper boy. He stopped right in front of the little boy and held out the offering plate. The boy stared at the offering plate, and after a long pause, he asked the usher to place the offering plate on the floor. Then the little boy did something very unusual: He stepped into the offering plate -- first one foot and then the other. He slowly looked up with tears streaming down his cheeks and said, “Mister, I don’t have any money; I haven’t sold a single newspaper today, but if Jesus did all that preacher said he did just for me, I will gladly give my life to him.”

I don't know if that story is true, but I do know that God wants us to give him our all -- our hands, our feet, our hearts, our voices, our entire lives.

At Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus gave us EVERYTHING by giving up his godliness and becoming a poor little boy, just like us. So this year, instead of worrying what you might buy for this or that family member or friend, I invite you to consider what you might give to Jesus. I hope that you will find some ideas as to how when you read this newsletter.

Maybe this prayer by Vincent Magro-Attard will inspire you:

God, give me eyes that I might see the work that can be done by me.

God, give me ears that I might hear the cry of those who need me near.

God, give me lips that I might speak comfort and peace to all who seek.

God, give me a mind that I might know how to help those who need you so.

God, give me hands that I might do some large or simple task for you.

God, give me a prayer that I might pray your help and guidance every day.

And this one thing, all else above, God, give me a heart that I may LOVE!

May God help us all discover the true meaning and true joy of Christmas.

I wish you and your loved ones a blessed and merry Christmas season.

In His Name,  
Pastor Valeria.



## Getting Ready for Christmas

At **Trinity**, we will be decorating the church on Saturday, December 1, starting at 10:00 a.m. At **St. Paul's**, we will have lunch after worship on December 2 and then do the Hanging of the Greens. Helping hands will be needed and appreciated at both churches.



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You can help make this happen. We are asking you to purchase either a sports ball (soccer ball, football, etc.) or stuffed animal. Gifts should be less than \$15, and may be dropped off at Salem United Brethren Church, 4349 Letterkenny Road in Chambersburg, on December 10 – 14, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Do not wrap these gifts. If you have questions, contact Chaplain Burkholder at 264-9513, ext. 21663.



### **Rev. Stephen R. Robertson, Sr.**

The people of Trinity are saddened by the passing of Rev. Stephen Robertson, age 79, on November 6. He was a good neighbor and friend to many in our church, and will be greatly missed. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Steve's wife, Pat, and to their children and grandchildren. May they be comforted by their faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who said, "You have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you." (John 16:22)



### **Appreciation Dinner at St. Paul's on November 17**

Thank you to Church Women United, who provided a wonderful meal, and to Jo-Ann Sheffield for her moving words:

On behalf of St. Paul's Church Women United, welcome to our appreciation dinner. I would like to begin with a quote from the book of Job, chapter 8, verse 10. "But those who came before us will teach you. They will teach you from the wisdom of former generations."

We have gathered today to celebrate those individuals that have helped mold and strengthen this church and community. Their selfless dedication has truly inspired and humbled us all.

From Sunday School teachers, to consistory members, to Church Women and those that quietly gave when no one was looking. Each person here today has created a mark on our lives and in the life of this church.

I could not begin to stand up here and list all of the time, and contributions these men and women have given our church and our community. Warren Daniels and Paul Stevens have quietly and graciously given of themselves, their time and their money to make us who and what we are today. Elizabeth Kerlin, Jean McLucas, Sarah Gordon, Peg Gordon, Dorothy Stevens, and all the women who have built the foundation of our Church Women, we will be forever grateful.

Though you cannot participate in the manner you used to, we want you to know this: You are why we continue to do what we do. You are the reason this church still stands. You are the reason we strive to carry on the work you began. Without your dedication, hard work, and sacrifice we would not be who or where we are today. Please know that you have not only made a difference in our lives but in the lives of those to follow.

We would all like to take this opportunity to say, simply, Thank you. Thank you for the great work you have done. Thank you for the tremendous energy you have put into this church and community and thank you for loving this church, this community and our church family.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who is here today for your humble dedication to continue the work that these honorees have started. For this and more, we are eternally grateful.

## Special Offerings at Christmas

On **Christmas Eve**, we will be taking our special offering for Hoffman Homes for youth, a psychiatric residential treatment program for children located in Gettysburg. They provide therapy, physical health care, education, and a safe and comfortable home for up to 141 children ages 6-18 with mental health problems.

On **Sunday, December 30**, our special offering will go to the United Church of Christ Christmas Fund. This fund supports lower-income retired clergy and lay employees, as well as active clergy facing unforeseen financial crises. Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks were sent to approximately 900 persons in 2011. Of those who received checks, 20 are over 100 years of age. Monthly Pension Supplementation is being provided to 373 persons. Quarterly Health Premium Supplementation is being provided to 250 families. Emergency grants totaling \$27,177.62 were provided to 22 individuals and families from January 1 through June 30, 2012. None of this would be possible without your support.

*Help us spread the joy of Christmas  
as you support these important ministries with you donation. Thank you!*

## Greetings from Germany

### Thank You!

Our grey and dark November days in Germany are brightened by beautiful memories of our visit in Trinity and St. Paul's. From the 12<sup>th</sup> until the 18<sup>th</sup> of October a group of 12 people from two parishes in Duesseldorf, Germany, visited both of your parishes. Like autumn foliage our encounter turned out to be most colourful and magic in spirit. We shared excursions to an Alpaca Farm, to a dairy farm, a walk around the lake at Cowans Gap, to the historic Battlefield of Gettysburg and to the heartland of Amish culture. So we gained many impressions and learned a lot about your lives, your culture and history. It brought us closer together in mutual understanding of our values and backgrounds. We celebrated Sunday's worship service together and shared the Holy Scripture in a joint Bible study. Last but not least we had delicious food together (your dishes and pumpkin pies are just heavenly). We were always spoiled with hospitality and abundance of spiritual joy. Our face-to-face encounter was a mutual gift. Wonderful how easily Germans and Americans found interest in one another and how intensively we all shared life and faith. I am certain that our visit in Pennsylvania has taught us all a lot about God: His spirit surrounds us and sets our feet on a spacious place (Psalm 31:8). On behalf of our group, thanks to all of you for this wonderful experience. Farewell was sad, but also full of the prospect to bridge the big ocean by all kinds of modern communication.

May God bless you and be with you!

Pastor Carsten Koerber



## Trinity's Financial Update

Month	Received	Budget	Expended
JAN.- OCT.	\$50,256.44	\$58,201.70	\$50,788.55
NOV. 1-18	\$5,225.06	\$4,877.94	\$2,105.17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,481.50</b>	<b>\$63,079.64</b>	<b>\$52,893.72</b>

### A Child's Interpretation of Christmas

Little Sally was drawing the Nativity Scene. There was a little fat man in the corner of her picture. When asked who that was, Sally replied, 'That's Round John Virgin'.

### Pastor - Rev. Valeria Schmidt

stpaulsparsonage@embarqmail.com  
(717)-485-3369

### 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

Now on Facebook & [www.uccmccbg.weebly.com](http://www.uccmccbg.weebly.com)

### Trinity UCC

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street

Fort Loudon, PA 17224

(717)-369-4773

<http://trinityuccftloudon.org>

[www.pccucc.org](http://www.pccucc.org) (Penn Central Conference)

[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

### Poinsettias at Trinity

If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, please return your order form to Barb Bricker by December 9. The cost is \$7.00 for each 6" pot, with a choice of red, white, pink, or burgundy. Order forms are available at the church.

### POINSETTIA ORDERS FOR ST. PAUL'S

Pam Carmack and Mary Haubrick will be receiving orders for purchasing poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. The poinsettia may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. A donation of \$7.00 is requested per six-inch pot. Any amount over \$7.00 is gratefully accepted by Church Women to fund their church activities. Information and an order form will be included with the Sunday Bulletins.

**Give money and order form to Pam Carmack (485-4795) or Mary Haubrick (987-3604 by Sunday, December 9, 2012.**



### Annual Report Deadline

Trinity's annual meeting will be **Sunday, January 20, 2013**. Please have your reports to the church office by **January 7, 2013**. This will get them ready to be distributed by January 13, 2013, for review before the meeting.

St. Paul's annual meeting will be **Sunday, January 27, 2013**. Please have your reports to the church office by **January 14, 2013**. Packets will be ready for the Sunday before the meeting.



### SHOEBOX MINISTRY

*By Mary Haubrick*

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The members of St. Paul's Congregation opened their hearts and generously filled 42 shoeboxes with gifts for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry this year. Thank you to everyone who helped in wrapping and filling the boxes and also those who gave donations to cover the cost of shipping the boxes. "Your gift of love may be the door God uses to open a child's heart to Jesus Christ."

**Trinity United Church of Christ Fort Loudon  
Consistory Meeting Minutes**

**November 13, 2012**

**Trustees' Report:**

The damage to the steeple from Hurricane Sandy has been repaired with donations of siding and a lift. An insurance representative examined the damage but a final cost for the repair is not known at this time. There may be some money available through the conference.

The chimney has been cleaned to help with smoke which is leaking into the Sanctuary and downstairs. The consistory is getting estimates to install a chimney liner since the chimney cleaners found several bricks at the bottom of the chimney. It is thought that a liner will reinforce the chimney and prevent leaking. The chimney sweep company gave an estimate of \$2,400 for this work. Several other estimates will be solicited.

The front and rear doors of the church are sticking, making it hard to open them. They will be sanded down and the latches looked at to improve their operation.

**Old Business:**

Church Insurance: A meeting was held with our Church Insurance agent to discuss insurance options in order to reduce our costs. The only options are to increase the deductible amount or drop the flood insurance. We are already covered for surface water so we will drop flood insurance and keep our current deductible.

Someone will check with the group renting St. Luke's to see if they have any liability coverage for that church as Trinity does not carry it for St. Luke's.

Some older church records were found in the kitchen area and Valeria will check with the Church Historical Society in Lancaster about having them sent there for safekeeping.

Valeria attended the Ezekiel Project and briefly discussed the information covered. They were told that people will make a judgment regarding the church within the first two minutes upon entering the church. For our congregation it is important that people enter through the front door since you come directly into the Sanctuary rather than the dark back hallway which is more confusing for visitors. Everyone needs to take time to greet any visitors. It is also important to make the church appear full even though it is not. It would be better for people to spread out in the Sanctuary rather than have everyone sit grouped together on one side. The next meeting will be December 9, 2012.

**New Business:**

Current consistory members whose term will expire this year are, Jerry Armstrong, Elder, Barb Hurst, Deacon, and Jeff Zeis, Trustee. Replacements will be sought to fill these vacancies.

Valeria would like to purchase a 24" x 36" sandwich board sidewalk sign to put in front of the church to announce church activities.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Best*

## HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

- 7 Irene Robinson  
 10 Betty Keefer  
 Tina Wood  
 12 Roger Higgins  
 14 Ronald Bricker  
 15 Paul Dietrich  
 Mary Ellen Ott  
 16 Judy Dietrich  
 20 Seleen Shives  
 21 Ethan Barclay  
 23 Betty Newman  
 30 Mark Crouse  
 John Hornbaker  
 31 John Burns



### St. Paul's Flowers

*Mary Haubrick (987-3604)*  
*Pam Carmack (485-4795)*

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

### St. Paul's Ushers

*Is it I, LORD?*

*Thank You for Serving!*

### Trinity's Ushers

*Rosie Shives*  
*Barb Bricker*

*Thank You for Serving!*

## PRAYER LIST

Bertha Byers  
 Betty Daniels  
 Betty Grissinger  
 Bob and Nancy Lawyer  
 Dorothy and Paul Stevens  
 Gene and Elsie Bricker  
 Harold and Betty Keefer  
 Joyce and Thurman Hassler  
 Military and families  
 Peg Gordon  
 Family of Rev. Steve Robertson  
 Roger and Lois Byers  
 Sponsored Children: Yonatan, Marc  
 Philip, Thierry, Marcela  
 Sandy Richards  
 Thelma Miller  
 Zeis family  
 Justin Hege  
 Justin Jr. and Blaze Hege  
 Lorraine Richardson  
 Jean McLucas  
 St. Paul's Care Team  
 Diane Baxter  
 Janis Cutchall  
 The people of Japan  
 The people in the Middle East  
 The people of Eastern Africa  
 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!*



**2012*****DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER***

<b>Wednesdays</b>	Trinity's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m. Prayer and Praise, 8:00 p.m. EXCEPT DECEMBER 26
<b>Thursdays</b>	<i>Joyful Noise</i> Band practice at St. Paul's, 6:00 p.m. Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Saturday, December 1</b>	Decorating of the church at Trinity, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Sunday, December 2</b>	St. Paul's Contemporary worship St. Paul's Soup Sunday and Hanging of the Greens Fort Loudon's Christmas in the Village, 5:45 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, December 3</b>	Community Women's Christmas Party at Trinity, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Thursday, December 6</b>	Practice for Children's Christmas Program at St. Paul's, 5:15 p.m.
<b>Saturday, December 8</b>	Trinity's Christmas Party, 6:00 p.m., and Hymn Sing, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, December 9</b>	Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center Ezekiel Project in Harrisburg, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, December 11</b>	Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, December 12</b>	St. Paul's Church Women United at the parsonage, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, December 13</b>	Practice for Children's Christmas Program at St. Paul's, 5:15 p.m.
<b>Sunday, December 16</b>	Trinity's Special offering for the Building Fund
<b>Tuesday, December 18</b>	St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, December 20</b>	Practice for Children's Christmas Program at St. Paul's, 5:15 p.m.
<b>Sunday, December 23</b>	Christmas Programs at both churches Trinity's change collection for Hartman center NO Soup Sunday at St. Paul's
<b>Monday, December 24</b>	Christmas Eve Service at Trinity, 6:00 p.m. St. Paul's, 8:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, December 30</b>	Special Offering for the Christmas Fund



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You can help make this happen. We are asking you to purchase either a sports ball (soccer ball, football, etc.) or stuffed animal. Gifts should be less than \$15, and may be dropped off at Salem United Brethren Church, 4349 Letterkenny Road in Chambersburg, on December 10 – 14, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Do not wrap these gifts. If you have questions, contact Chaplain Burkholder at 264-9513, ext. 21663.



### **Rev. Stephen R. Robertson, Sr.**

The people of Trinity are saddened by the passing of Rev. Stephen Robertson, age 79, on November 6. He was a good neighbor and friend to many in our church, and will be greatly missed. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Steve's wife, Pat, and to their children and grandchildren. May they be comforted by their faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who said, "You have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you." (John 16:22)



### **Appreciation Dinner at St. Paul's on November 17**

Thank you to Church Women United, who provided a wonderful meal, and to Jo-Ann Sheffield for her moving words:

On behalf of St. Paul's Church Women United, welcome to our appreciation dinner. I would like to begin with a quote from the book of Job, chapter 8, verse 10. "But those who came before us will teach you. They will teach you from the wisdom of former generations."

We have gathered today to celebrate those individuals that have helped mold and strengthen this church and community. Their selfless dedication has truly inspired and humbled us all.

From Sunday School teachers, to consistory members, to Church Women and those that quietly gave when no one was looking. Each person here today has created a mark on our lives and in the life of this church.

I could not begin to stand up here and list all of the time, and contributions these men and women have given our church and our community. Warren Daniels and Paul Stevens have quietly and graciously given of themselves, their time and their money to make us who and what we are today. Elizabeth Kerlin, Jean McLucas, Sarah Gordon, Peg Gordon, Dorothy Stevens, and all the women who have built the foundation of our Church Women, we will be forever grateful.

Though you cannot participate in the manner you used to, we want you to know this: You are why we continue to do what we do. You are the reason this church still stands. You are the reason we strive to carry on the work you began. Without your dedication, hard work, and sacrifice we would not be who or where we are today. Please know that you have not only made a difference in our lives but in the lives of those to follow.

We would all like to take this opportunity to say, simply, Thank you. Thank you for the great work you have done. Thank you for the tremendous energy you have put into this church and community and thank you for loving this church, this community and our church family.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who is here today for your humble dedication to continue the work that these honorees have started. For this and more, we are eternally grateful.

## Special Offerings at Christmas

On **Christmas Eve**, we will be taking our special offering for Hoffman Homes for youth, a psychiatric residential treatment program for children located in Gettysburg. They provide therapy, physical health care, education, and a safe and comfortable home for up to 141 children ages 6-18 with mental health problems.

On **Sunday, December 30**, our special offering will go to the United Church of Christ Christmas Fund. This fund supports lower-income retired clergy and lay employees, as well as active clergy facing unforeseen financial crises. Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks were sent to approximately 900 persons in 2011. Of those who received checks, 20 are over 100 years of age. Monthly Pension Supplementation is being provided to 373 persons. Quarterly Health Premium Supplementation is being provided to 250 families. Emergency grants totaling \$27,177.62 were provided to 22 individuals and families from January 1 through June 30, 2012. None of this would be possible without your support.

*Help us spread the joy of Christmas  
as you support these important ministries with you donation. Thank you!*

## Greetings from Germany

### Thank You!

Our grey and dark November days in Germany are brightened by beautiful memories of our visit in Trinity and St. Paul's. From the 12<sup>th</sup> until the 18<sup>th</sup> of October a group of 12 people from two parishes in Duesseldorf, Germany, visited both of your parishes. Like autumn foliage our encounter turned out to be most colourful and magic in spirit. We shared excursions to an Alpaca Farm, to a dairy farm, a walk around the lake at Cowans Gap, to the historic Battlefield of Gettysburg and to the heartland of Amish culture. So we gained many impressions and learned a lot about your lives, your culture and history. It brought us closer together in mutual understanding of our values and backgrounds. We celebrated Sunday's worship service together and shared the Holy Scripture in a joint Bible study. Last but not least we had delicious food together (your dishes and pumpkin pies are just heavenly). We were always spoiled with hospitality and abundance of spiritual joy. Our face-to-face encounter was a mutual gift. Wonderful how easily Germans and Americans found interest in one another and how intensively we all shared life and faith. I am certain that our visit in Pennsylvania has taught us all a lot about God: His spirit surrounds us and sets our feet on a spacious place (Psalm 31:8). On behalf of our group, thanks to all of you for this wonderful experience. Farewell was sad, but also full of the prospect to bridge the big ocean by all kinds of modern communication.

May God bless you and be with you!

Pastor Carsten Koerber



## Trinity's Financial Update

Month	Received	Budget	Expended
JAN.- OCT.	\$50,256.44	\$58,201.70	\$50,788.55
NOV. 1-18	\$5,225.06	\$4,877.94	\$2,105.17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,481.50</b>	<b>\$63,079.64</b>	<b>\$52,893.72</b>

### A Child's Interpretation of Christmas

Little Sally was drawing the Nativity Scene. There was a little fat man in the corner of her picture. When asked who that was, Sally replied, 'That's Round John Virgin'.

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

**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

Now on Facebook & [www.uccmccbg.weebly.com](http://www.uccmccbg.weebly.com)

### Trinity UCC

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street

Fort Loudon, PA 17224

(717)-369-4773

<http://trinityuccftloudon.org>

[www.pccucc.org](http://www.pccucc.org) (Penn Central Conference)

[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

### Poinsettias at Trinity

If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, please return your order form to Barb Bricker by December 9. The cost is \$7.00 for each 6" pot, with a choice of red, white, pink, or burgundy. Order forms are available at the church.

### POINSETTIA ORDERS FOR ST. PAUL'S

Pam Carmack and Mary Haubrick will be receiving orders for purchasing poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. The poinsettia may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. A donation of \$7.00 is requested per six-inch pot. Any amount over \$7.00 is gratefully accepted by Church Women to fund their church activities. Information and an order form will be included with the Sunday Bulletins.

**Give money and order form to Pam Carmack (485-4795) or Mary Haubrick (987-3604 by Sunday, December 9, 2012.**



### Annual Report Deadline

Trinity's annual meeting will be **Sunday, January 20, 2013**. Please have your reports to the church office by **January 7, 2013**. This will get them ready to be distributed by January 13, 2013, for review before the meeting.

St. Paul's annual meeting will be **Sunday, January 27, 2013**. Please have your reports to the church office by **January 14, 2013**. Packets will be ready for the Sunday before the meeting.



### SHOEBOX MINISTRY

*By Mary Haubrick*

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The members of St. Paul's Congregation opened their hearts and generously filled 42 shoeboxes with gifts for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry this year. Thank you to everyone who helped in wrapping and filling the boxes and also those who gave donations to cover the cost of shipping the boxes. "Your gift of love may be the door God uses to open a child's heart to Jesus Christ."

**Trinity United Church of Christ Fort Loudon  
Consistory Meeting Minutes**

**November 13, 2012**

**Trustees' Report:**

The damage to the steeple from Hurricane Sandy has been repaired with donations of siding and a lift. An insurance representative examined the damage but a final cost for the repair is not known at this time. There may be some money available through the conference.

The chimney has been cleaned to help with smoke which is leaking into the Sanctuary and downstairs. The consistory is getting estimates to install a chimney liner since the chimney cleaners found several bricks at the bottom of the chimney. It is thought that a liner will reinforce the chimney and prevent leaking. The chimney sweep company gave an estimate of \$2,400 for this work. Several other estimates will be solicited.

The front and rear doors of the church are sticking, making it hard to open them. They will be sanded down and the latches looked at to improve their operation.

**Old Business:**

Church Insurance: A meeting was held with our Church Insurance agent to discuss insurance options in order to reduce our costs. The only options are to increase the deductible amount or drop the flood insurance. We are already covered for surface water so we will drop flood insurance and keep our current deductible.

Someone will check with the group renting St. Luke's to see if they have any liability coverage for that church as Trinity does not carry it for St. Luke's.

Some older church records were found in the kitchen area and Valeria will check with the Church Historical Society in Lancaster about having them sent there for safekeeping.

Valeria attended the Ezekiel Project and briefly discussed the information covered. They were told that people will make a judgment regarding the church within the first two minutes upon entering the church. For our congregation it is important that people enter through the front door since you come directly into the Sanctuary rather than the dark back hallway which is more confusing for visitors. Everyone needs to take time to greet any visitors. It is also important to make the church appear full even though it is not. It would be better for people to spread out in the Sanctuary rather than have everyone sit grouped together on one side. The next meeting will be December 9, 2012.

**New Business:**

Current consistory members whose term will expire this year are, Jerry Armstrong, Elder, Barb Hurst, Deacon, and Jeff Zeis, Trustee. Replacements will be sought to fill these vacancies.

Valeria would like to purchase a 24" x 36" sandwich board sidewalk sign to put in front of the church to announce church activities.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Best*

## HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

- 7 Irene Robinson  
 10 Betty Keefer  
 Tina Wood  
 12 Roger Higgins  
 14 Ronald Bricker  
 15 Paul Dietrich  
 Mary Ellen Ott  
 16 Judy Dietrich  
 20 Seleen Shives  
 21 Ethan Barclay  
 23 Betty Newman  
 30 Mark Crouse  
 John Hornbaker  
 31 John Burns



### St. Paul's Flowers

*Mary Haubrick (987-3604)*  
*Pam Carmack (485-4795)*

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

### St. Paul's Ushers

*Is it I, LORD?*

*Thank You for Serving!*

### Trinity's Ushers

*Rosie Shives*  
*Barb Bricker*

*Thank You for Serving!*

## PRAYER LIST

Bertha Byers  
 Betty Daniels  
 Betty Grissinger  
 Bob and Nancy Lawyer  
 Dorothy and Paul Stevens  
 Gene and Elsie Bricker  
 Harold and Betty Keefer  
 Joyce and Thurman Hassler  
 Military and families  
 Peg Gordon  
 Family of Rev. Steve Robertson  
 Roger and Lois Byers  
 Sponsored Children: Yonatan, Marc  
 Philip, Thierry, Marcela  
 Sandy Richards  
 Thelma Miller  
 Zeis family  
 Justin Hege  
 Justin Jr. and Blaze Hege  
 Lorraine Richardson  
 Jean McLucas  
 St. Paul's Care Team  
 Diane Baxter  
 Janis Cutchall  
 The people of Japan  
 The people in the Middle East  
 The people of Eastern Africa  
 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!*



**2012*****DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER***

<b>Wednesdays</b>	Trinity's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m. Prayer and Praise, 8:00 p.m. EXCEPT DECEMBER 26
<b>Thursdays</b>	<i>Joyful Noise</i> Band practice at St. Paul's, 6:00 p.m. Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Saturday, December 1</b>	Decorating of the church at Trinity, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Sunday, December 2</b>	St. Paul's Contemporary worship St. Paul's Soup Sunday and Hanging of the Greens Fort Loudon's Christmas in the Village, 5:45 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, December 3</b>	Community Women's Christmas Party at Trinity, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Thursday, December 6</b>	Practice for Children's Christmas Program at St. Paul's, 5:15 p.m.
<b>Saturday, December 8</b>	Trinity's Christmas Party, 6:00 p.m., and Hymn Sing, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, December 9</b>	Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center Ezekiel Project in Harrisburg, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, December 11</b>	Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, December 12</b>	St. Paul's Church Women United at the parsonage, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, December 13</b>	Practice for Children's Christmas Program at St. Paul's, 5:15 p.m.
<b>Sunday, December 16</b>	Trinity's Special offering for the Building Fund
<b>Tuesday, December 18</b>	St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, December 20</b>	Practice for Children's Christmas Program at St. Paul's, 5:15 p.m.
<b>Sunday, December 23</b>	Christmas Programs at both churches Trinity's change collection for Hartman center NO Soup Sunday at St. Paul's
<b>Monday, December 24</b>	Christmas Eve Service at Trinity, 6:00 p.m. St. Paul's, 8:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, December 30</b>	Special Offering for the Christmas Fund

